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1. Geographical location

Santorini: a crescent shaped island city, is part of the Cyclades Islands of Greece in the Aegean Sea. This beautiful island city is located about 200 kilometers southeast to the main-lands of Greece, Europe. It is the most active volcanic region, whose collapsed caldera is one of the world's wedding destinations. The best island voted for is also officially called the Thira islands. Santorini is spread across an area of 90.623 square kilometers, having an elevation of 400 meters from the sea level. The capital of Santorini is Fira, lying on top of the island's caldera.



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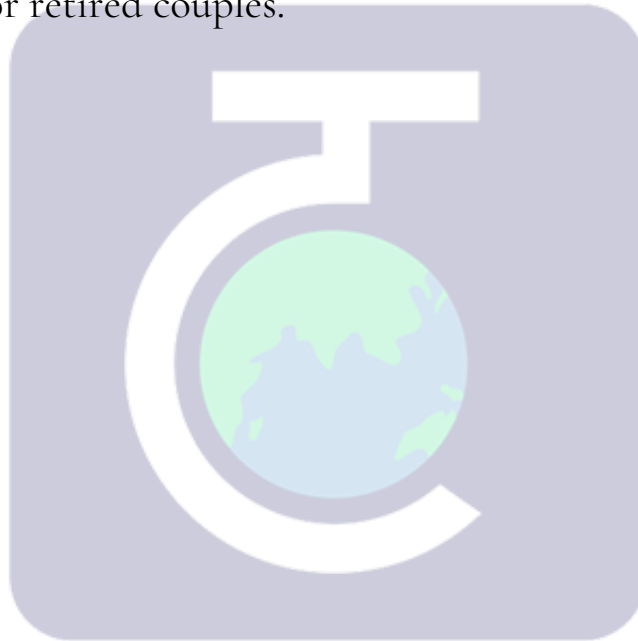
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Santorini Is An Island In The Aegean Sea, With Neighboring Islands Around And The Main Lands Of Greece To Its Northwest. Athens, The Capital Of Greece Is 300 Km Northwest To Santorini. 208.2 Km To Its South, Santorini Sees The Crete Islands. To Its North Are The Naxos (104.1km), Paros (140.2km), Mykonos (150.8), Tinos (173.81km) And Syros(190.7km) Islands.



3. Significance

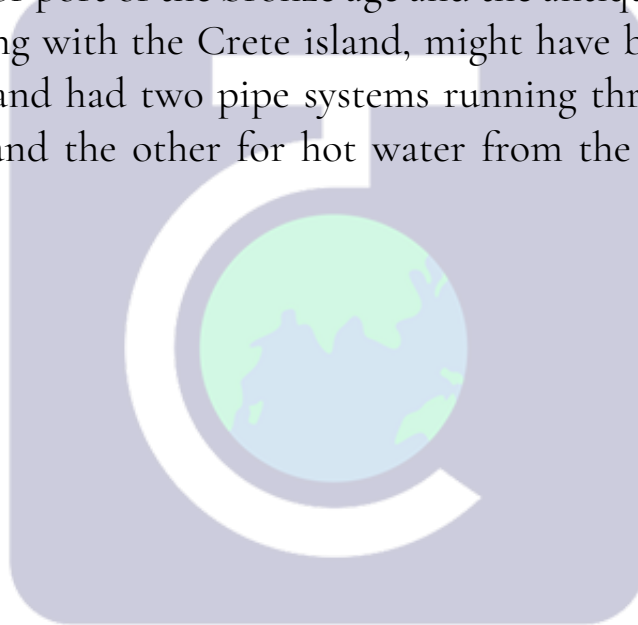
Santorini is known and visited for its romantic places, beaches and hotels, and is one of the world's most dreamt honeymoon spot, especially because of Fira's caldera which is an extremely beautiful place. The Oia Village, its picturesque buildings and the hiking tours gather a lot of tourist attraction too. The white washed spectacularly show stopping houses and buildings give a perfect satisfactory retreat for retired couples.



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4. History

The name Santorini was coined by the Vietnamese in the early 13th Century after St. Irene's name. The island had the largest and most devastating volcanic eruptions over thousands of years, leading to loss of a lot of land mass of the island into magma drowning into the sea hence framing the crescent shaped boundaries of present day Santorini. Between 2000 BC and 1650 BC Akrotiri developed as the major port of the bronze age and the antique collection still lasts here. The island, along with the Crete island, might have been inhabited by the Minoan civilization and had two pipe systems running through it; one for cold water from the sea and the other for hot water from the hot springs near the volcano.



5. Cultural identity

Greek culture is the English term for Hellenic or Romaic culture. 98% of the island's population is ethnic Greek, so the cultural practices are ethnic Greek too. Name days are a common practice over here, where all the descendants given the names of Saints generations ago, throw a wine and food reception together on their name days. This reception is called as "Panigiris". The Greeks call their carnival "Apokries", where cultural exchange, drinking, dance and party happens on a wide scale. The Greek Easter is one event the locals never miss any year.



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6. Natural resources

The volcanic soils are fertile, but are not efficient because of the dry climate. Nevertheless, the island is known for its abundant and efficient tomatino (cherry tomato) and okra crops and many vines. The soils bear fossils and the island even has a museum regarding minerals and fossils.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. The White Door Theatro

Witness the most prominent Greek cultural show on the island at the White Door Theatro where 'The Greek Wedding Show' (a typical Greek wedding) has all you are aware of and adore about Greece. You get to enjoy various local tapas with the finest taste of Greek dinner including authentic flavors like olives, tomatoes, bread, and cheese to mention a few. Groove to the music and dance like you've never danced before. What makes this experience even better is that you get the feel of being specially invited guests and not just mere spectators.

Address : Erithrou Stavrou, Santorini, 847 00 Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.419464, 25.4315239999999968

Contact : +30 2286 021770

Website : <http://www.whitedoorsantorini.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforinon Bus Station

Entry Fee : 47 EUR

Open & Close Timing : Daily 17:00hrs-23:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. The Museum of Prehistoric Thera

Situated in Fira, the Museum of Prehistoric Thera has on display extraordinary ancient finds gouged from the Akrotiri with the most noticeable one being the glowing gold ibex figure in surprising mint condition dating back to the 17th century BC. Don't forget to see the olive tree leaves from inside the caldera from 60,000 BC.

Address : Fira 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.416496, 25.432620400000002

Contact : +30 2286 022217

Website : http://www.santonet.gr/museums/prehistoric_museum.htm

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforinon Bus Station

Entry Fee : 6 EUR

Open & Close Timing : Monday, Wednesday to Sunday: 08:00hrs-15:00hrs
Tuesday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Akrotiri Archeological Site

A largely unexplored area, Akrotiri Archaeological Site contains ruins of the Minoan Civilization, buildings from hundreds of years ago, and an antique lighthouse that should not be missed. Watch 1,000s of years unfurl in front of your eyes at this location that pays a grand tribute to the archaeological treasures of Santorini. A lot of historic splendor still remains to be explored by the specialists at this famous site.

Address : Fira 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.35179520000001, 25.40344700000003

Contact : +30 2286 081939

Website : http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2410

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforinon bus station

Entry Fee : 12 EUR

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.4. Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum

A natural cave modified into a museum, Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum or the Santorini Wine Museum has everything that a wine lover will want to know about winemaking in one of the most eccentric places on the planet. Thanks to its unique location, it is 8 meters below the surface of the ground and is 300 meters long. Embark upon this tour to experience what the life of a winemaker.

Address : Bothonas, Vothonas 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.396735, 25.460069999999973

Contact : +30 2286 031322

Website : <http://www.santoriniwinemuseum.com/>
Nearest Public Transport : Koutsoyannopoulos Bus Station
Entry Fee : 9 EUR
Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-19:00hrs
Time Required : 1.5
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Santorini Arts Factory

Promoting the Greek culture and heritage being their main motto, this non-profit organization works on the growth and enhancement of the Greek ways of life and believes in involving the tourist in it too by organizing various arts and dance workshops, exhibitions and musical performances. Established recently in 2014, it is located in an old structure and always strives for participations of internationally acknowledged personalities from every field.

Address : Vlichada 847 03, Greece
Zipcode : 847 03
Location : 36.3384719, 25.432659899999976
Contact : +30 21 0685 8820
Website : <http://www.santoriniartsfactory.gr/>
Entry Fee : Adults: 5 EUR Children up to 12 years: Free admission
Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Oia

A village in northern Santorini elevated 150 meters above the sea level, Oia is one of the most photographed places in Greece due to the condensed caldera and the amazing sea view from the cliff. Pronounced as **[Ee-ah]** and not **[Oh-ah]**, it is just 11 kilometers from the center of the island city. A delight to visit or live in, you must visit this pristine destination to see the tiny colorful houses of Santorini which carry a rustic charm of their own.

Address : Oia, 847 02, Thera, Greece

Zipcode : 847 02

Location : 36.4618199, 25.37531009999998

Nearest Public Transport : Oia Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Emporio

A village in Santorini Island between Fira and Perissa, it has maze-like narrow streets and is one of the biggest villages on the island with almost 2,000 inhabitants. A trade center of the Greeks since the 17th century, Emporio itself translates to the same, and with a commercial port still present, you can buy or sell many products from here and the local markets around.

Address : Emborio, Thira 847 00

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.35734619999999, 25.445930800000042

Nearest Public Transport : Santorini airport junction (Not recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Amoudi Bay

Stunning brown cliffs, warm waters of the sea and the soothing sound of the waves; as dreamy as it feels, it is a place for real in this part of the city. Near the

Oia village, you can enjoy a swim here as the waters aren't that deep, but comfortably warm almost the whole time of the year. A favorite spot for diving, you can also catch the beautiful sunset with a chilled beer or a glass of wine and treat your partner to a perfectly romantic evening.

Address : Ammoudi Bay, Ormos Ammoudiou 847 02, Greece

Zipcode : 847 02

Location : 36.46059760000001, 25.37078980000001

Nearest Public Transport : Oia Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Ancient Thira

An antique city on an elevated surface known for preserving the history of the most happening port city of its time: Thira is a city for the history lovers and cultural seekers. It has beautiful stone structures ready to be explored. An old wonderland discovered through a long run excavation, it is a must visit by all when in Santorini.

Address : Kamari 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.3635718, 25.477847500000053

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforion (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 08:30hrs-15:00hrs; Monday Closed.

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Skaros Rock

An important fortified settlement from the medieval times, signifying the history of Thira, a walk across the place will take you to a beautiful church with riveting views of the sea. With many steps, it is recommended to take this walk in the early morning and not anytime after the sun is shining really bright as it gets humid and you may not enjoy the experience as much.

Address : Thira 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.4323346, 25.418145099999947

Nearest Public Transport : Firostefani Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Nea Kameni

The larger one of the two volcanic islands closer to Santorini, it is a stunning sight to see the whole area covered in dark cliffs. Located in the Aegean Sea, with its last eruption that happened in 1950, the island has active vents and grassy red succulents on the soil during the summers. Ferries and boats are the way you can reach this volcanic island and further hike to the top of the mountain if you wish to do so.

Address : Nea Kameni, Santorini 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.4, 25.399999999999977

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforion Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Catholic Cathedral Church of Saint John The Baptist

Baptists were always a part of the Greeks, be it in mythology or present day worship. The cathedral throws the biggest feast on the island and also resonates a real sense of peace and tranquility, making it worth a visit. There are translators provided in case you want to stay for the mass.

Address : Agiou Ioannou, Thira, 847 00 Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.420609000000001, 25.430622999999997

Contact : +30 2286 025360

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforion Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Church of Panagia Chalkeon

An 11th-century church with amazing carvings to gaze at, the Church of Panagia Chalkeon is known for its Middle-Byzantine architecture and is one of the most celebrated tourist attractions of the city. Along with its 5 entrances to the church - 2 from the north, 2 from the south and 1 main entrance, you should also have a look at the extravagant roof of the church covered in red tiles.

Address : Santorini 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 40.6367865, 22.943661600000004

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforion Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Byzantine Castle Ruins

If you wish to spot the most beautiful sunset in Santorini, head to the ruins of this 15th-century castle and get prepared to be swept off your feet with its breathtaking views. It is one of the most photographed places, thanks to its location and enchanting panoramas. The castle turned restaurant is one of the most visited places on the island, giving the tourists every opportunity to relish its delicious cuisine and enjoy its stunning architecture.

Address : Oia 847 02, Greece

Zipcode : 847 02

Location : 36.4601095, 25.3727337000000026

Nearest Public Transport : Old Port, Santorini

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Moni Profiti Iliia

Situated on the Profitis Ilias hill, meaning Prophet Elijah, this peaceful shrine of the Prophet is a spiritually relaxing stop. A tectonic wonder, this monastery was of extreme importance to the country of Greece as it helped in promulgating nationalist and intellectual influence. You can also visit the museum here and

have a look at the various books, articles, and materials signifying the importance of the place.

Address : Santorini 847 00 Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.36838210000001, 25.4636481

Contact : +30 2286 031210

Nearest Public Transport : Stathmos Leoforion Bus Station (Not Recommended)


Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Hondos Center

Situated right in the center of Santorini, Hondos Center is a renowned chain for cosmetics, accessories, clothes, and all the things that you need for care as well as the beauty of your body and face. You can also explore the sections for lingerie, clothing, swimwear, and shoes for men and women.

Address :  84700, Thira 847 00, Greece

Zipcode : 847 00

Location : 36.4184925, 25.432218899999953

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. MOV&MAY

Looking for shopping clothes in Santorini? Head to MOV&MAY to explore an exclusive collection and take home some filled bags. They have regional as well as international designs on display and frequented by many locals as well as tourists.

Address : Oia, Santorini, Cyclades 847 02, Greece

Zipcode : 847 02

Location : 36.462434, 25.381336000000033

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Being an island city, the city offers water sports activities such as scuba diving and snorkeling. Also many boats and ferry rides are available for the many tourist attractions that cannot be reached by road! One can also go for the many hiking trails around to visit the undiscovered parts of the city!

- **Hiking Trail Oia -**

Address : Oia, Santorini 847 00 Greece

Location : 36.461626,25.374938

Nearest Public Transport : Oia Bus Terminal

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 5.00

- **Scuba And Snorkeling -**

Address : Perissa Beach, Perissa 847 03, Greece

Location : 36.357602,25.476001

Contact No : 30 22860 83080

Nearest Public Transport : Oia bus station, not recommended.

Entry Fees : EUR 120-250 for 6 years and above

Open / Close Time : 09:00 hrs- 21:00 hrs

Time Required : 4.00

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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Santorini, being an island city is rich in water sports and beach volleyball on the beaches and bays of Kamari, Perissa and Perivolos. There are even clubs for football and baseball. There are no stadiums here on the island as it is still developing in sports tourism.



10. Spas and relaxation

Spas of all types are found here in Santorini because it attracts tourists from across the world and is one of the most sought out honeymoon destination by the many new age couples!

- **Lilium Santorini:**

Address : Main Street, Fira 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.394416,25.438224

Contact No : +30 2286 025333

Website : <http://www.lilium-v.gr/>

- **Santorini Princess Spa Hotel:**

Address : Imerovigli Santorini 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.446831,25.425950

Contact No : +30 2286 025870

Website : <http://www.santoriniprincess.com/>

- **Venus Beach Hotel:**

Address : Santorini Beachfront, Emporio 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.377100,25.485560

Contact No : +30 2286 031390

Website : <http://www.afroditivenushotel.gr/>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Feast of Agia

**Feast of Agia (29th) thrown by the Akrotiri Village churches.
Santorini Jazz Festival**

Jazz performers around the world gather together to entertain the crowd!

Feast of the Holy Virgin

food and wine reception by the Church of Panagia.

Ifestia Festival/The Greek Volcano Festival

**An annual event with concerts, color and dance performances and fireworks representing the eruption of the island's volcano.
38th International Music Festival of Santorini**

The annual music festival at Santorini, where Greece's top musicians come together and refresh the soul's spirit!

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12. Key local guides and tours

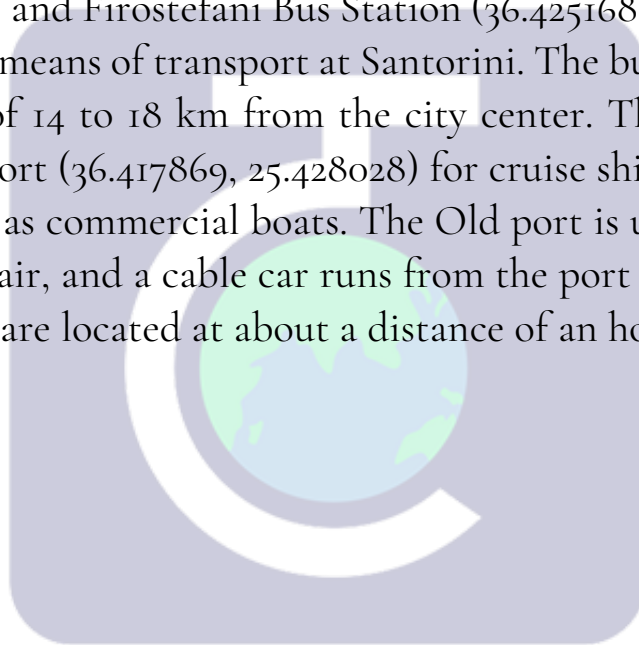
There are tours covering the volcano, cruises on the sea covering the sunset providing hot water spring bath!! Some of them are the five-hour Catamaran Sunset Cruise, a half day Santorini small group and private wine tour, seven-hour volcano adventure with cruise, helicopter tours, full day private tours, volcano cruise and sunset tour.



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13. Transportation hubs

The Santorini National Airport or the Thera National Airport (36.39966, 25.477648) is both a civil and military airport, elevated 39 meters from the sea level. Its Code is JTR. It is 7 kilometers away from the city center. Being an island, Santorini has no railway service. The major bus stations at Santorini are Oia Bus Terminal (36.463070, 25.376606), Stathmos Leoforion Bus Station (36.416496, 25.433389) and Firostefani Bus Station (36.425168, 25.429249). Buses are the most economical means of transport at Santorini. The bus stations are located at about a distance of 14 to 18 km from the city center. There are two ports at Santorini: The Old Port (36.417869, 25.428028) for cruise ships and the Anthinios Port for ferry as well as commercial boats. The Old port is used for entering into the islands if not via air, and a cable car runs from the port to Fira, the capital of the island. The ports are located at about a distance of an hour or two by a car.



Index**14. Transportation cost**

The bus fares are really good, ranging from EUR 1.6 to EUR 3.2 depending on the distance of the journey. Taxis charge EUR 13.3 from the airport to Fira, the island's capital, which are 7km apart from each other. Rental for a scooter or an ATV is EUR 20 per day. The cable car which runs from Old port to Fira(an uphill-downhill ride) charges EUR4 for adults and EUR 2 for children. There are no passes available for transportation.



Index**15. Baggage allowance**

There is an additional charge for extra luggage when travelling. Taxis charge EUR 2.50 to accept extra luggage and EUR 0.5 per bag.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

The seafood restaurants of Ammoudi Bay are their own kind of special, and are not to be missed when in the island. Oia and Thira are must visit towns to get the best traditional delicacies.



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17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Santorini is famous for its wines, luxury hotels and decent meals served with love and suggestions of romance! It is a good place to party in the evening and all through the night, not to mention the abundance in nightclub numbers.

Food -

Santorini is famous for its wines, luxury hotels and decent meals served with love and suggestions of romance! It is a good place to party in the evening and all through the night, not to mention the abundance in nightclub numbers.

- **Lotza, Oia:**

Address : Greece, Ia 847 02, Greece

Location : 36.461347,25.374356

Contact No : +30 2286 071357

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-23:30hrs

- **Cafe Hausbrandt:**

Address : Santorini, Pyrgos, Pyrgos Kallistis 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.380601,25.450129

Contact No : +30 2286 022249

Website : <http://www.selene.gr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Lucky's:**

Address : Dekigala, Thira 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.417284,25.432385

Contact No : +30 2286 022003

- **Santo Winery:**

Address : PIRGOS, Thira 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.387538,25.436735

Contact No : +30 2286 028058

Website : <http://www.santowines.gr/index.php/en/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Oia Vineyard:**

Address : Oia 847 02, Greece

Location : 36.462237,25.375556

Contact No : +30 2286 072046

Website : <http://oiavineyard.gr/homepage-en/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 10:00hrs-21:30hrs; Saturdays & Sundays 11:00hrs-21:30hrs

- **The Athenian House:**

Address : Imerovigli 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.432935,25.421669

Contact No : +30 2286 036545

Website : <http://www.andronikossantorini.gr/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 18:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Catch Bar & restaurant:**

Address : 84700, Kon/nou Paleologou Ia, Glifada 165 61, Greece

Location : 36.462551,25.377448
Contact No : +30 2286 072063
Website : <http://www.catchrestaurant.gr/en>
Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-14:00hrs

- **Kapari Wine Restaurant:**

Address : Thera 847 00, Greece
Location : 36.433834,25.421451
Contact No : +30 2286 021120
Website : <http://www.kaparisantorini.gr/>
Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

- **Koo Club:**

Address : Santorini 847 00, Greece
Location : 36.419003,25.431582
Contact No : +30 2286 022025
Website : <http://www.kooclub.gr/>
Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

- **Tango Bar Santorini:**

Address : Marinatou, Thira 847 00, Greece
Location : 36.418623,25.430932
Contact No : +30 694 541 7875
Website : <http://www.tangosantorini.gr/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 21:30hrs-05:00hrs

- **Casablanca Soul Bar:**

Address : Ypapantis 12, Fira Downtown, Thera 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.418500,25.431538

Website : <http://www.casablancasoul.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 17:00hrs-05:00hrs

- **Mamounia:**

Address : Santorini 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.419172,25.431770

Contact No : +30 698 297 0799

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

- **Groove Bar Kamari:**

Address : Kamari 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.375419,25.483740

Website : <http://groovebarkamari.com/>

Open / Close Time : Wednesday-Monday 11:30hrs-01:00hrs, Tuesday 18:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Two brothers bar:**

Address : Dekigala, Thira 847 00, Greece

Location : 36.417983,25.432007

Contact No : +30 2286 023061

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-06:00hrs


Index**18. Average meal cost**

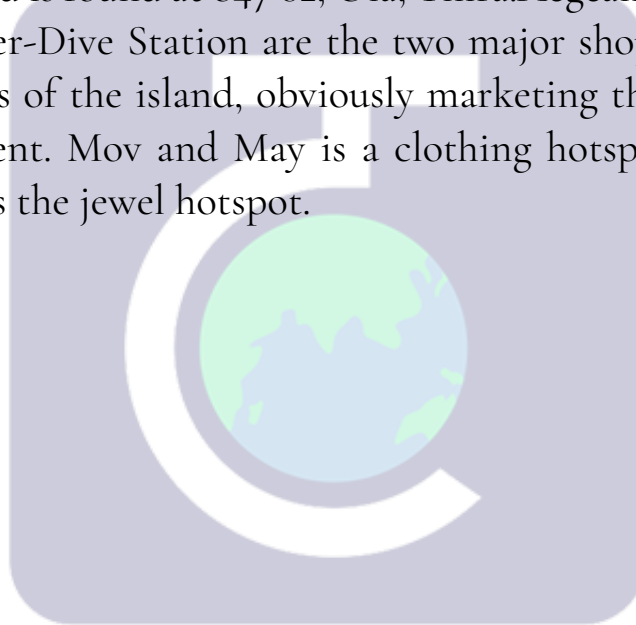
These islands have a high cost of living, so the expensive hotels can cost a meal for one around EUR 150. However, with the correct selection of restaurants, an average meal for two can cost around only EUR 5. The average meal at a medium restaurant present somewhere other than Oia, Fira or one of the tourist flocking parts of the island. A tin of soft drink costs EUR 4.2, given Santorini's standards of living!



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19. Shopping

Oia's Main Street is known for its collection of everything indigenous and local sovereigns for tourists, shops flocked together among beautiful eye-striking buildings. Santorini is famous for its jewelry and dive gear. The Hondos Center is the most popular shopper's stop for beauty retail around Greece. A branch of The Hondos Center is located at Santorini on the  lane. Atlantis Books EE is the biggest bookstore, and is found at 847 02, Oia, Thira. Aegean Divers Santorini and Santorini Dive Center-Dive Station are the two major shops that sell dive gear, each at different bays of the island, obviously marketing the best, strongest and comfortable equipment. Mov and May is a clothing hotspot around town, just like Onerio Jewelry is the jewel hotspot.



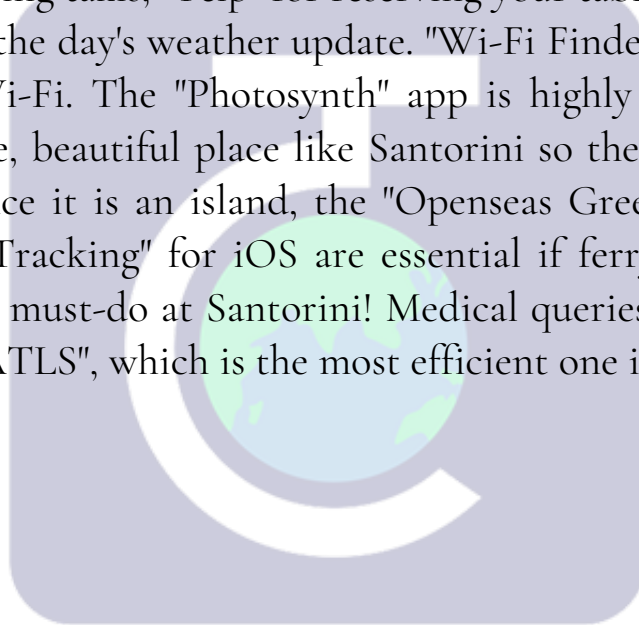
Index**20. Tourist benefits**

Given that Greece is undergoing an economic crisis, the VAT rates are increasing rapidly even on its economically stable island cities, one of which is Santorini. The rates can touch up to 23% depending on the product. Custom policies vary from country to country and the local customs office can be approached for details.



21. Essential local apps

It is always recommended to have a translation app like "Word Lens" or "Google Translate" when travelling to Santorini, not that conversations in English are uncommon, but because conversations in Greek are comfortable, especially if the other person is an elderly citizen. "Ya!-Greek Phrases" on Android and "Talking Greek Phrasebook" are the two exclusively-for-Greek apps. "Uber" is recommended for hiring taxis, "Yelp" for reserving your tables at restaurants, and "Yahoo weather" for the day's weather update. "Wi-Fi Finder" app can be used to search for nearby Wi-Fi. The "Photosynth" app is highly recommended when visiting a picturesque, beautiful place like Santorini so the 360° panorama view can be captured. Since it is an island, the "Openseas Greek Ferries Guide" for Android and "Ship Tracking" for iOS are essential if ferry/cruise journeys are planned, which are a must-do at Santorini! Medical queries and searches can be done using the "My ATLS", which is the most efficient one in Greece.



22. Driving

At Santorini, an International Driver's License is to be produced failing which Insurance cannot be claimed. However, there is no need of any special driving permit to rent a car in Santorini. Any country's standard driving license would do. The minimum age for driving at Greece is 18 years.



23. Travel essentials

The island is filled with white washed buildings, which reflect all the sunlight into the tourist's eyes. So a pair of goggles is suggested. The island is known for extended sunshine, so a sunscreen is recommended, but it needn't have an SPF more than 15. The sun can affect almost everything, so it is advisable to take along a sun-resistant camera lens. It is not a bad idea to carry a safety wallet. Since the island is all about roaming around and feeling the skeptic sights, a pair of light, comfortable shoes would really help. A Greek phrase book for understanding the signboards is recommended. Carrying one's passport with them is required ALWAYS. Greece is infamous for the high frequency of mosquito and bug bites, so an insect repellent needs to go along with you to Santorini. Santorini has 220V/50 Hz power supply. So tourists from countries which have the alternative regulated power supply have to carry their power adapters in order to safeguard their gadgets. The socket is Type F.

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25. Local currency

The Official Currency of Greece is the Euro (EUR). 1 USD= 0.89 EUR.



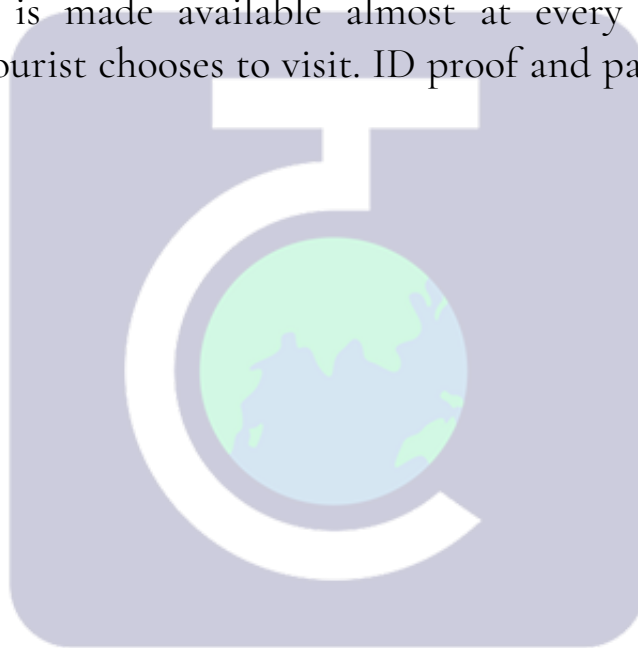
26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Currency exchange commission at exchange stores are high because it a very touristy island, and it is best advised to know the rates beforehand, or visit a bank for the purpose. ATMs charges EUR 2.6 for using a foreign card, but ATM withdrawals are preferred to credit cards, as the commission for using a foreign credit card is way more than that for an ATM. Change vendors have to pay 3% to the government, so their commission would be more than 3%. One can even expect a 10% commission depending on the hotel or place where the transaction is happening.



27. Staying connected

An international phone card available at the airport kiosks should serve the purpose completely fine. They can be purchased even at an OTE store. The code for Santorini is 30 22860. International roaming can be activated, but the charges are high, so taking a local SIM card would be the best go. A SIM card costs around EUR 20, and top-ups starting from EUR 0.8 are available. Wi-Fi or internet connection is made available almost at every hotel, restaurant or recreation spot the tourist chooses to visit. ID proof and passport is required for getting a SIM card.



28. Time Zone

The effective Time Zone on the Santorini islands is the Eastern European Time EET zone with an offset of +2 hours throughout the year except in the summer, when the offset is +3 hours.



Index**29. Languages**

The official and most spoken language of Santorini is Greek. 99% of the population communicates in Greek. However, most of the people living there can understandably communicate in English, French and Italian. Greek dialects are heard around the islands, and the only scope of communication gap is with elder citizens of the island.



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30. Political Scenario

Greece follows a unitary parliamentary republic system, where the republic operates under a parliamentary government and the power is totally exercised by the Center. The government is divided into three branches: The Executive, The Legislative and The Judiciary, where the Executive is headed by the President and is accountable to the Legislative. The President heads the state, and has tenure of five years. The Parliament is headed by the Prime Minister who carries most of the political power. The Legislative is obviously headed by the supreme court because it is a unitary state.



31. Economic Scenario

Santorini, being claimed as one of the world's wedding destinations has high standards of living, contrary to Greece's situation and economic crisis. The inflation rates are increasing day by day. The island city gains abundance of tourist spent money. The rates are high, be it commodities, hotels, restaurants or bars.



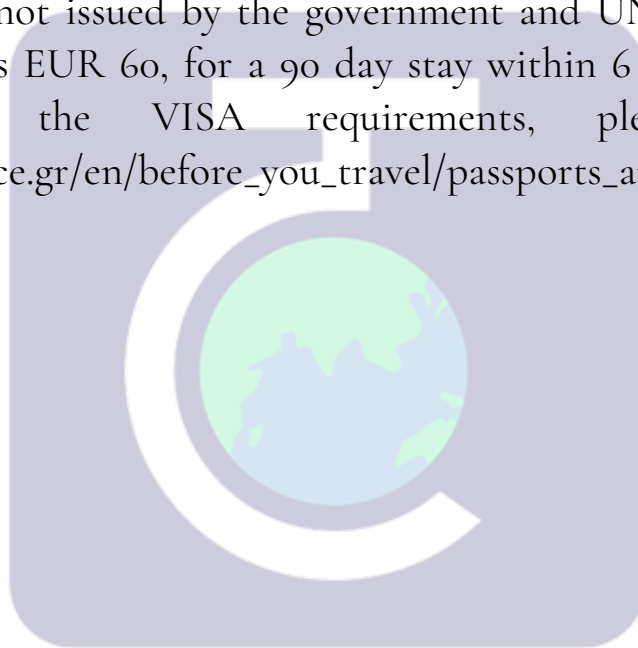
Index**32. Religious belief**

A majority of the residents (98%) of Santorini are Orthodox Christians and they believe in the Roman Orthodox Church. The minority (2%) comprises of Catholics, Hellenic, Hindu and Parsi settlers.



33. Visa requirements

A passport issued within 10 years of arrival and which is valid for 3 months after entry into the island is required. Countries from North America and the European Union need not produce a VISA for a 90 day stay or less. The other countries need to check with their respective embassies for VISA requirements, whether to produce a Schengen VISA or not. Greece refuses Cyprus travel documents that are not issued by the government and UN laissez passers. The Schengen VISA costs EUR 60, for a 90 day stay within 6 months of issue. For details regarding the VISA requirements, please check here: http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/before_you_travel/passports_and_visas



Index**34. Essential vaccination**

Routine vaccination like MMR, DTP and chickenpox, polio and the yearly flu shot are recommended. Essential vaccinations are those required for the following diseases: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Rabies. It is however advisable to be on a regular vaccination regardless of the travel destination.



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

Petty thefts, pick pocketing, robbery and mugging are common on the islands, just like in the rest of Greece. There is no need to undertake extra precautions about safety but a normal caution is to be taken like locking the rooms of the hotel and balconies, etc. given that the tourist is new to the city and there is a risk of being robbed. The place is not at all something to get threatened about. However, in case of a robbery, the local and tourist police can be contacted on the emergency lines.



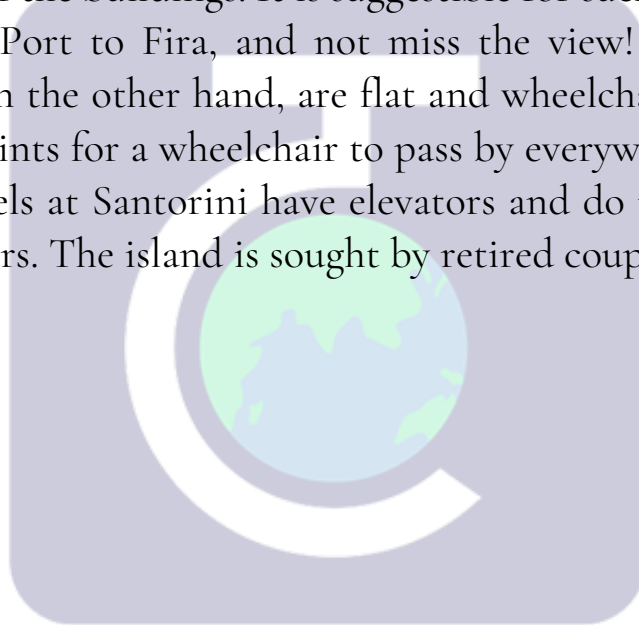
Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Visit <http://embassy.goabroad.com/city/santorini> for the addresses regarding the consulates.



37. Accessibility

The elevated tourist attractions at Santorini like Fira and the caldera at Oia cannot unfortunately provide a wheelchair friendly experience, because the steps are steep and it is not advisable to use a wheelchair on them. Nevertheless, a person on a wheelchair can take a taxi to the top of Fira or the caldera and reach the same destination, except that they'll miss the walk through the town and the painting-like-views of the buildings. It is suggestible for such a tourist to take the cable car from Old Port to Fira, and not miss the view! The attractions like Perissa and Kanari on the other hand, are flat and wheelchair friendly: there are seemingly no constraints for a wheelchair to pass by everywhere a normal person can. Most of the hotels at Santorini have elevators and do not pose a trouble to tourists on wheelchairs. The island is sought by retired couples too.



38. Emergencies

The emergency number is 166. Pharmacies can be recognized by their Green Cross, and the major hospital at Santorini is Santorini General Hospital (36.407654,25.441596). International medical policy is a must in case of treatment in Greek hospital. The SOS and emergency numbers are: SOS/Emergency numbers: Ambulance Service: 166 SOS Doctors: 1016 Duty Hospitals and Clinics: 1434 Pharmacies: 1434 Open Line for alcohol drug Addiction: 210 3617089 Poisoning First Aid: 210 7793777 Police: 100 Tourist Police: 1571



39. Do's and Don'ts

DOs: • DO address respectable and elder people with the title *sas*. • DO share your food because in Greece, it is table etiquette for everyone to share with everyone on the table. • DO greet people with a kiss on both cheeks. Greece is known for that. • DO reach at least half an hour late to an appointment, because that is how it works in Greece. • DO get used to smoking, because it is very common around here. • DO swim in the hot springs near the volcano. • DO make note of all the emergency numbers like medical assistance, police, fire, tourist police, etc. • DO try to dress conservatively and modestly while visiting the rural parts and churches of the islands • DO follow the rules while attending an orthodox practice at a church. • DO watch your step, because there might be holes and gutters present on the path, and it wouldn't be compensated for and blamed on the pedestrians. DON'Ts: • DON'T do the *moutza*, which is an offensive gesture depicted by a raised outstretched palm. • DON'T make disturbing noises or play loud music between 2PM and 5PM because it is nap-time and people get really uncomfortable being disturbed then. • DON'T stare at someone for quite a while, because people here are still superstitious, and it just has to be dealt with. • DON'T bring up topics relating to politics and local issues, because the residents can get quite sensitive regarding these talks. • DON'T wander around in a church, especially in the sanctuary, which is exclusively for priests. • DON'T plan or talk about something huge about Tuesday, the 13th because it is considered big luck at Greece.

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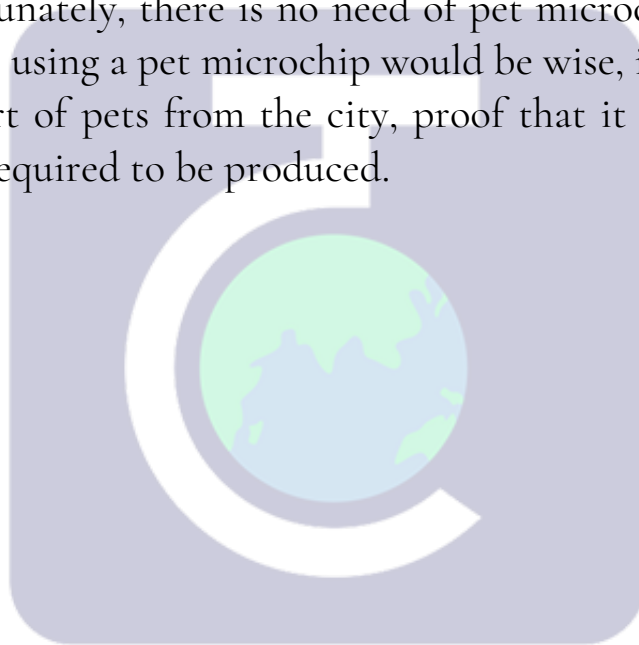
40.Tipping basics

Santorini has no ethic or rule which specifies about the tip, but be it a restaurant, a spa or a taxi which gave you a memorable experience, or complemented your visit to the island it deserves a minimal 10%. Unless the service is improbably dissatisfying, leave a tip!



Index**41.Pet info**

Pets are totally accepted in the city. Dogs and cats older than 4 months require proof that they had a rabies vaccination at least 30 days before their entry. Pets require a health certification from their respective governments stating that they do not carry any disease communicable to humans. With a prior notification, pets can travel in and out of the airport during business hours where their documents will be verified. Fortunately, there is no need of pet microchips or a blood titer test report. However, using a pet microchip would be wise, in case one loses their pet. Regarding export of pets from the city, proof that it does not belong to a protected species is required to be produced.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Santorini is voted the world's best island, made its place into the world's wedding destinations, and is the best sought destination after Athens in Greece. It is especially known for its romantic outtakes and eye catching pleasant villages, just complemented by its cool weather. The hilltop of Pygros allows to view the island, it's scenic towns, beaches and celebrations all at once: a panoramic view. And around the island we can catch an eyeful of newlywed couples paving their new path of life! The Oia Village to its north is one of the best and frequently visited places of Greece, and around Europe - no exaggeration. Its water sports are something not to miss on the beautiful beaches it bears as water sporting tourists can get the best photos clicked. The island can provide unique experiences like its wide-spread jewelry shops, souvenir shopping at Oia's main street, the cable car from Old Port to Fira, Oia's picturesque buildings, wine and food receptions by churches on their name days, nightlife on the beaches, relaxing spas, and uncountable couples of all ages visiting it on their honeymoon, or living their dream honeymoon, or on their retirement alongside the beautiful caldera and the sunrays on the sea. Don't take it off your mind that this island is famous for its wines. This island is the most enthusiastic vacation spot, be it for romance, fun or intoxication.

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