

MY ODYSSEY
TRAVEL POETICS

GREECE REVEALED



MY ODYSSEY
TRAVEL POETICS

If you decompose Greece, you'll end up with
an olive tree, a grapevine and a ship.
Which means: with just as much, you can make her anew.
Odysseas Elytis



THE BASICS

WHEN TO GO

As one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, Athens and the Aegean islands are particularly busy during the high-season months of July and August. With over 160 days of sunshine annually and its mild Mediterranean winters, Greece can be visited throughout the year, but temperatures are more pleasant in May-June and September-October. The Peloponnese shares the milder climate of southern Greece, with etesian winds blowing from May to September keeping summer temperatures low.

GETTING THERE

Athens connects with direct flights to major airports in the US (New York, Philadelphia), Canada (Toronto, Montréal) and the Middle East (Jeddah, Doha, Dubai). A direct flight from New York to Athens is approximately 10 hours. The smaller airport of Kalamata has direct flights to Athens, and helicopters can cross the Peloponnese coast-to-coast in about an hour.

GETTING AROUND

You can use a taxi service or private car/van for moving around in the city and for covering small distances on land. Speedboats and yachts allow for moving around in the Greek Riviera, with many small harbors and fishing villages along the coasts providing calm waters and docks. Archaeological sites and most beaches can easily be reached by car, but a 4X4 might be necessary for certain mountain roads.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your planned departure date from the Schengen area. One blank passport page is required for entry stamp in Greece.

OUR TEAM



Fokion Drosos

CEO & CO-FOUNDER

Being an experienced vendor in fabric and texture industry, he started exploring the business opportunities in China, already from 1995. In 2013, he founded My Odyssey Travel, with the vision to provide the unseen elements of Greece to the demanding Chinese clientele.



Salomi Chondrouli

HEAD EXPERIENCE DESIGNER

Equipped with a degree in Media and Culture Management, as well as a Masters degree in Tourism Management, Salomi is specializing in crafting trips in Greece for discerning clients.



Maria Stella Chiangprom

ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE DESIGNER

Graduate of the University of West Attica in Tourism Management and Hospitality, Stella is a new entry at My Odyssey Travel team since 2018. Her passion for traveling in and out of Greece makes her an enthusiastic designer of unique travels for demanding clientele.





BESPOKE SERVICES-TAILOR MADE
EXPERIENCES

SANTORINI

Taste the real island life..



CULTURE/ HISTORY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Visiting Akrotiri Archeological Site, the Pompei of Santorini..

In the morning, your driver will take you to the archaeological site of Akrotiri, where you'll explore the remains of a city from the Bronze Age and its luxurious mansions together with a professional English Speaking Guide (about 1-1,5 hour). Your expert guide will tell you all about the secrets that archaeologists have unearthed at the site, and share with you the history of the Minoan Civilization and how it ruled the Mediterranean 3,600 years ago.

And the Museum of Prehistoric Thera

You can further visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera in Fira (20 min drive). The permanent exhibition there illustrates life on Thera (Santorini's ancient name) in prehistoric times.



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GASTRONOMY/WINE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

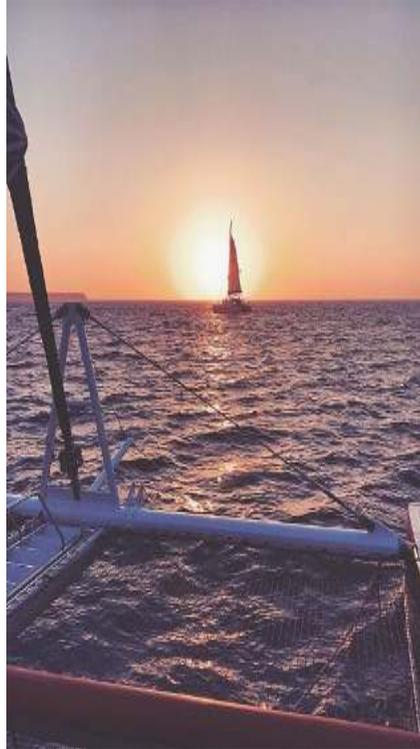
Tasting the famous Santorini Wines

Visit one of the oldest wineries of the island, Argyros winery, at their brand new premises in Megalochori village. Estate Argyros boasts a brand new wine facility that is modern and beautifully situated for a scenic view of vineyards and the Aegean sea.

The oenologists are more than happy to tell you the history of wine making on the island and make a tour on the premises, showing to you the whole procedure of wine bottling in real time. From the tables set outdoors, you will have the chance to enjoy the view of vines that count more than 150 years of age!

The wine tasting consists of 5 local wines, among others the famous white dry Santorini Assytko accompanied by a plateau of Greek cheese and cold cuts and the vintage 'Estate Argyros Vinsanto' (Decanter World Wine Awards 2016: Platinum) desert wine, paired with fine chocolate filled with this unique wine!





YACHTING

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Feeling the absolute Sailing Experience

Live the ultimate sunset experience on board. Enjoy this experience in a private Lagoon sailing catamaran.

A luxury mini van will take you from your hotel and transfer you to Vlychada Port. Here you'll board an elegant sailing catamaran for a refreshing half-day semi private boat trip inside the Caldera (about 5-5,5 hours). Your skipper will take you to secluded beaches that can only be reached by boat, where you can swim or go snorkeling to gather seashells and take underwater photos among the volcanic rocks. While you'll be exploring and enjoying the water, a unique dining experience will be in the making just for you: with the Santorini volcanoes and hot springs as a backdrop, you will taste a special BBQ lunch onboard.

On the afternoon you will enjoy the famous sunset from the port of Oia and then disembark to Ammoudi marina, to return to your estate by luxury minivan, where you can relax and chill out by the pool or enjoy your dinner at Oia.



ACTIVE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Horse Riding in the volcanic beaches of Santorini

This is a totally recommended guided excursion with trained horses and with the accompaniment of experienced riders. The journey takes 2 hours and offers riders the opportunity to experience the unique beauty of Thera countryside to admire and be photographed with background of dreamy landscapes.

The beautiful route starts from a lovely farm. Through the amazing nature of Akrotiri you will arrive near the archaeological site. Passing by the region where the great civilization flourished, as shown by the findings that was destroyed by the eruption and head towards the picturesque chapel of St. Anne. Here you can admire the traditional architecture and peaceful surroundings. Then you head to the beach of Vlychada, which stands out for its particular physiognomy. The sculptured volcanic cliffs that rise above the beach impress every visitor. Enjoy the experience of riding and admire the grandeur of nature of wonderful Santorini!



CULTURE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

An interactive musical journey through myths & storytelling

On this special experience, a talented musician links music to stories taken from history and mythology in an interactive performance “that can turn your average person into a musician in 10 minutes” he says.

The inspiring story of Yiannis Pantazis, a former saxophone player who moved to Santorini seven years ago to create a workshop dedicated to bagpipes, myths and storytelling, unfolds through a journey filled with music. Yiannis performs his own composition, *Odysseus Returns*, in the spellbound grounds of his workplace. It showcases 10 ancient Greek instruments (build by Yiannis), including two kinds of Greek bagpipe, five different flutes, a cane clarinet, santouri (a Middle Eastern dulcimer) and an Apollonian lyre.

The sound of this ecstatic Dionysian instrument sweeps your mind and transports you through time to the customs of the Aegean culture. A sound that is synonymous to the sea, the sun and its charming people.



ATHENS

Antiquity and modernity in a walk!



CULTURE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Pay Homage to the temple of the temples: Parthenon

Following your breakfast, your expert guide will meet you at the lobby of the hotel and prepare you for the “homage” to Greece’s most impressive legacy, the Parthenon on the Acropolis Hill. Climb up to the sacred hill and view from up close the main temple, the temple of Apteros Niki (Temple of Athena Nike) and Erechtheion.

Descend through Anafiotika, the closest thing you’ll find to an island village in Athens, if not the whole mainland.

Viewing privately the Acropolis Museum

Designed by the Swiss born architect Bernard Tschumi, the Museum houses unique artifacts from Greece’s most recognizable monument. In the eight years since its opening, the Acropolis Museum has consolidated its ranking among the finest repositories of art in the world. This VIP tour will allow you to experience things that very few people will ever have the chance to encounter. The Acropolis Museum all for yourself.



MODERN ART

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Visiting ATHENS ARTLINK

Visit the new art gallery "Athens Artlink" in the heart of historic center of Athens, Agias Irinis Square. You will have the chance to admire artworks from the contemporary art scene of Greece and for the first time and you will be able to take back home those that caught your attention, in an innovative plexiglass packaging!

Be prepared to be amazed by the variety of artworks that will come across on your way!



CULTURE/ GASTRONOMY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Discovering the Athens of 19th century and dining privately in an Athenian lounge
Start this journey from the **Numismatic Museum of Athens** which was originally Heinrich Schliemann's Mansion, designed by Ernst Schiller and built on 1880. Continue your walk, visiting the world famous **Athenian Trilogy (the University, the Academy and the Library)** the flagship trilogy that reveals the influence of classicism on the architecture of the 19th century combined with the simplicity of the human nature and the surrounding environment. Pass by **Arcade of Arsakeios**, the interior arcade of Arsakeio Mansion built with neo-baroque architectural elements and an impressive glass roof with a dome in its middle.

Continue your exploration to the Athens of 19th century by visiting the **Museum of the City of Athens**, the residence of Otto, first King of Greece, and his wife, Amalia, from 1837 up to 1843.

Last stop of the journey through the Athenian 19th century is Plateia Ag. Irinis, one of Athens' trendiest spots. Step into the pink coloured mansion, a Ziller's landmark building which nowadays houses **My Odyssey Travel**.

Climb up the imposing marble staircase, admire the genius of the architect to add theatrical allure even in the narrowest of spaces and prepare yourself for an unforgettable experience.

Enjoy an **exclusive dinner** carefully designed to offer you authentic Greek flavors, served in style at the mansions' third floor with incredible Acropolis views, for your eyes only...



GASTRONOMY/ URBAN STYLE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Eating like an Athenian!

After breakfast, set out to explore the local culinary culture through a special Flavors of the City Food Tour. This exclusive food & history "Odyssey" works as a time capsule that gets you back to the Greek 1900s.

It combines history of downtown Athens with a series of small food sampling - the "noshing" stops from favorite joints and eateries.

Step back in time and savor the multi-ethnic flavor mix that has shaped the gastronomic map of Athens through the decades.





CULTURE/ URBAN STYLE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Visiting Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC)

Visit the newly built Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) in the south suburbs of Athens, it is a 20 minutes journey to Kallithea (BellaVista) from the city center where the multi functional and environmentally sustainable education, arts, and recreation complex is located.

Follow a guided tour inside the state -of-the-art complex designed by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW), also the house of the new HQ for the National Library of Greece and the National Opera.

Enjoy the magnificent park around the premises and have a cup of coffee in a oasis of Athens city.





PAROS

A vivid island in the heart of Cyclades..



WINE/ GASTRONOMY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Wine-tasting at Moraitis winery

The Moraitis Winery is located in Naoussa of Paros, near the beach of Aghioi Anargyroi. It was founded in 1910 and has since been passed from generation to generation of the Moraitis family. Its single-complex premises include the winemaking, production, bottling and storage areas, and the old winery building, which hosts the underground ageing cellars, the wine museum, and the wine tasting area. The Moraitis Winery owns 18,000 m² of organic vineyards in selected vine cultivation areas of the island, mostly featuring the indigenous varieties of Paros: Monemvasia, Mandilaria, Aidani Black, Vaftra and Karampraimi. Other Greek varieties such as Assyrtiko and Malagouzia are also cultivated.

CULTURE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Walking tour: Authentic Culture Explorations

Start your tour to Parikia, the capital of Paros with the passenger and the commercial port and the Mill, which is the trademark of the village, is located at the island's bay. This place will fascinate you if you take a walk around to its alleys. You will visit Ekatontapiliani and the pinewood next to it and the Venetian castle in the old market. Then, continue to Lefkes. A traditional village in Paros that has a family-friendly profile. Take the "Byzantine road", a marble stone-paved footpath, as the name suggests, to the Byzantine era. Your guide will take you to Prodomos, a tiny, picturesque village with small stone-paved alleys lined with bougainvilleas. Our last stop is the lovely Venetian port at Naousa. The port, along with the adjacent Aghios Dimitrios beach, represents the heart of the island's nightlife. Worthwhile shops and interesting galleries operate in Naousa.





ACTIVE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Horse riding at unique parian paths

Experience the enjoyment of horse riding in a safe and beautiful environment. Riding on horseback allows you the opportunity to visit some places accessible only by horse or on foot. Ride through fields and hills, explore the quiet northern seaside the beach, the mountainous Byzantine trail of Lefkes or any location you'd like to experience on horseback. The experienced instructors will welcome you to the farm and guide you to the horse field. Their first priority is your safety and the well-being of the horses. Be amazed from the diverse beauty of Paros, combining with the endless blue of Aegean Sea and the fauna and flora of this island, we ensure you a remarkable experience.



CRETE
Authenticity combined with history..



CULTURE / HISTORY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Visiting Arkadi monastery

Arkadi monastery, situated at an altitude of almost 500 m., in the NW foothills of Psiloritis mountain, became famous when one of the major revolts in Cretan history against the Ottoman rule, broke in 1866.

Once there, admire the incredible architecture of the main church and adjoining cells, and do not miss seeing the valuable collection of ecclesiastical and historical items exhibited in the Monastery's Museum.





CULTURE / HISTORY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Visiting Ancient Eleutherna Site and Museum

A short drive from Arkadi, lies the archaeological site of the ancient city of Eleutherna and its brand new museum. The ancient city was built on a hill and enclosed by wall parts still surviving to date. Sculpted tombs on the cliffs and carved sarcophaguses provide us information on the civilization of ancient Eleutherna.

This newly inaugurated interactive museum leads the visitor through a journey of the life of Eleutherna's past inhabitants. In one wing, a six metre interactive wall illustrates the journey that many objects made to reach the hands of Eleutherna's inhabitants, from Egypt, Syria, Athens, Asia Minor, Cyprus, North Africa and all over the Mediterranean sea revealing a lively trade several millennia ago.





LOCAL ART

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Trying some pottery at Margarites Village

Located in picturesque green rolling hills of the region and just 12 minutes driving distance from Eleutherna Museum, the village is well known for its pottery.

In the area there are plenty of clay deposits which explain the long occupation of the residents with this art. It is located in scenic, green rolling hills at the foothills of Psiloritis. Explore the beauty of this local art and create your own ceramic, following the instructions of a local expert.





GASTRONOMY/ HISTORY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Exploring ancient cooking practices

A trip back in time, to the era of Minos and ancient Crete, to the heart of history and tradition through a unique gastronomic experience al fresco.

An inspiring archaeologist/anthropologist & potter has developed an interactive culinary experience employing experiential learning techniques to introduce discerning “foodies” on the Minoan culture and the ancient, as well as, modern Cretan cuisine.

Your experience will begin with a tour in the vineyards and cellar of a well known winery in Heraklion and the demonstration of an authentic Minoan cooking lesson resulting in a four-course Minoan-inspired feast. Lunch will be complemented by a wine tasting of 6 different wine labels highlighting the unique characteristics of the Cretan terroir and the revival of the indigenous –some known since antiquity- varieties.



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NORTHERN GREECE
Mountainous views and byzantine
elements



HISTORY/ ART

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Private tour in the castle town of Ioannina

For centuries, the castle of Ioannina was a vibrant melting pot of religions and cultures. Christians, Jews and Muslims coexisted in the busy lanes of the byzantine citadel. The imposing castle was built in 528 AD by the Emperor Justinian, and it is the oldest **Byzantine fortress** in Greece with significant influence over the history of the town which raised around it.

Silversmith's art is one of the most important aspects of local culture in the capital of Epirus region. The brand new **Silversmithing Museum**, disseminates in a modern fashion, the generations long history of the Ioannina silversmiths. It also houses an impressive collection of stunning jewellery, and objects made of silver or gold, items of understated elegance.

Delicate earrings, intricate chains, ornate buckles, and silver ornaments are only fragments of the variety of craftwork that visitors can admire in this little gem.



ACTIVE/ GASTRONOMY

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Truffle hunting in Anatoliko Zagori..

Spend a morning rooting around the woods with enthusiastic mushroom specialists as your guides, seeking out the forest's buried treasure as you hunt for 5 different types of truffle in the wild undergrowth of the Zagori region.

In spring and autumn, Epirus' forests brim with delicious mushrooms, and they're yours for the taking on this guided trek through the damp and shaded woods of the countryside.

Pick up tips on harvesting the mushrooms with a knife, by Mrs Katerina and her friends and carry what you collect as you absorb the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the woods. Mrs Katerina will help you cook your "treasures" into the woods (mushroom soup and risotto with wild mushrooms are only indicative plates). Finish this delicious walk with a plate of original Greek yogurt, accompanied by freshly made marmalade by your guides!

Once your plates are empty, raise a glass of wine, tsipouro or liqueur to toast your tasty finds before heading back to the comfort of your nest.





CULTURE/WINE

COLLECT LIFE STORIES BY...

Metsovo

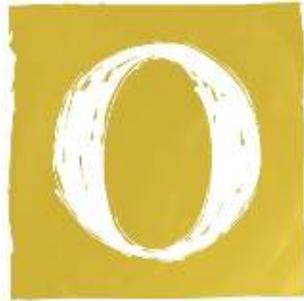
A 2 hours drive will take you to Metsovo. Surrounded by mountains and forests it has been a very prosperous town ever since Ottoman's ruled, many of its wealthy citizens are considered national benefactors of Greece.

Don't miss a visit to the **Averoff Museum (Portrait Gallery)** private collection of one of Greece's most prominent philanthropist.

Your expert guide will accompany you to **Metsovo Folk Art Museum**, housed in the renovated manor house of the Tossizza family—famous benefactors of Metsovo— which was originally built in 1661. Based on the idea of an “open museum”, the museum's valuable items and rich collections are exhibited in their natural space, inside the rooms, stables, warehouses and large parlors of the old mansion.

Wine tasting at Katogi Averoff

Visit Katogi Averoff winery for a wine tasting, accompanied by famous local cheeses. Katogi Averoff winery is particularly known for its fragrant red wines.



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