

Travel Tips

Simple packing tips

1. Use zippered bags to separate and store clothing and toiletries. www.ebag.com for great ideas.
2. Carryon knapsack with many pockets to find items easily.
3. BAGGAGE: Use soft sided collapsible rollers (lightweight and easy storage).

Avoid Anxiety and Stress

1. Label bags carefully inside and out.
2. Copy passports and credit cards and store many places in case of need.
3. Travel in groups and watch out for each other. (Makes it more of a party)
4. Get to the airport 2 hours early and let this be the start of your vacation.
5. Bring games, music, books, smart phones, iPads, etc.
6. Expect delays and roll with them.

Smart Ideas

1. Carry lots of \$1 bills for tipping.
2. Carry a bicycle lock to secure your belongings together.
3. Store cords in toilet paper tubes and secure plug in a notch.
4. Use binder clips to hold papers together. Use dry cleaner bags to separate items and keep clothes dry.
5. Use twist ties to fix broken zippers. Carry rubber bands for holding pairs of shoes together, socks and cords.
6. Sturdy soap cases are great for carrying jewelry. Jewelry pouches can double as an evening purse.
7. Pack heavy items near the bottom

Beat Jetlag

1. Set your watch to local time at take-off.
2. Stay awake till 8-9 PM local time.
3. Take Melatonin at bedtime, its natural and helps you adjust to time zones.
4. Take a short nap 1-1.5hours max.

Smart Touring

Learn from the locals.

Ask the hotel staff and cabbies. www.traveladvisor.com for tips from other travelers.

When to Travel

Traveling in the Spring and Fall generally means the kids are in school and the tourists are back home at work. Prices are lower, and sites are less crowded.

Get the best Prices

Use www.kayak.com to search many sites and compare prices. Hotels in Europe www.eurobookings.com to reserve and pay when you checkout. www.bing.com to find out when to buy travel and get predictions.

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Suggestions from Fellow Travelers Greece – Land of Myth & Magic June 2023

Mykonos was easy to navigate, not overwhelming with crowds and had nice stores and waterfront restaurants. My favorite stop was Syros. Beautiful, clean, restaurant was superb. Great shopping! To me it was the Greece the way I thought it was supposed to be. Wonderful, unexpected town!

I didn't have a favorite. Loved them all. Would have liked to be in Mykonos earlier. But glad I shopped in Syros.

Do your homework and book your own excursions. Add on a day or two before and after cruise.

Convert some cash, not all places accept dollars. Take snacks for your room granola bars, nuts, etc. Lots of walking – take some sneakers with good tread.

Skip the Gondola in Santorini and take the fast boat to OIE to beat the crowd and save time.

Do not recommend the Ares Athens hotel. Horrible. I wish we could have stayed at the Hotel Plaka. But the Wyndham was great. The restaurant across the street was fabulous.

Loved seeing these ancient ruins and visiting Turkey.

Loved seeing how the Turkish rugs were made, but the sales push was too much.

Loved this island (Syros)! It had the friendliest people and the best prices on food and clothes. Not a tourist spot! So PERFECT!

Milos Cruise should be earlier in week since it is full day and then packing to leave boat next day. Beautiful water though and really glad I saw it.

Fabulous trip with great people!!!

The people on the trip with us and how warm and friendly everyone was.

What made the trip was being with a group to interact with!

The lunch at Mamaloukas was so much fun! Loved it and loved meeting all the people in our group!

If you decide to walk to Santorini – DON'T wear flip flops – wear washable athletic shoes and stick to the side of the road. Some of our group took a water taxi from the beach and visited the other towns on the island. I would recommend that!

Athens was amazing. We loved the Hotel Plaka and would recommend it! We also heard the Hotel Ciel, Hotel Elia Ermo were good. The rooftop restaurant on Hotel Plaka has an amazing view of the Acropolis – worth trying!

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You might want to see about arranging transportation to your hotel from the airport in advance. I'm sure the hotel could do that. Cabs seemed to be in short supply and traffic was HORRIBLE. I do recommend taking an official tour of the Acropolis and museum and doing it as early as possible. It gets HOT fast. Our guide was great - very informative and funny. He made it come alive.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/AttractionProductReview-g189400-d11476899-Skip_the_Line_Acropolis_of_Athens_Afternoon_Walking_Tour-Athens_Attica.html

One friend took a walking food tour and liked it.

<https://www.athensfoodonfoot.com/tour/athens-highlights-and-dinner-tour/>

A fun place to check out is called Lil Kook. (Karaiskaki 17, Athina 105 54) It's a 2-3 block area within walking distance of the Plaka district. It is truly over the top. Worth checking out and having a drink or meal.

One restaurant to check out is Tazza (close to the Plaka district). It is unique. Be sure to venture downstairs to the restrooms.

We had drinks at Brettos - the oldest bar in Athens and the 2nd oldest in Europe. It too is in walking distance of the Plaka district and worth checking out. Ask anyone for directions. Everyone speaks English and everyone we met was extremely friendly.

Ermou Street connects Syntagma Square with Monastiraki. The street is one of the five most expensive shopping streets in Europe and was recently ranked 10th among the world's most expensive shopping streets. Even if you aren't "shopping" it's worth checking out!

If you plan to go anywhere else in Greece I highly recommend Mykonos - it's amazing and all of the sea front restaurants are great!

Syros was also worth checking out. Honestly, I would never go to Santorini again. It has turned into nothing but a crowded tourist trap. Even the iconic blue roofs are gone. It is crowded and every store is selling authentic Greek souvenirs handmade in China. Some friends took a water taxi from the beach and had a tour around the island, visiting Fara and a couple of other smaller villages. They loved it. We weren't that smart.

On Santorini you have choices to get to the town from the beach - gondola (1 1/2 hour wait - both ways), a donkey ride or you can walk. If you walk (we did) you'll be covering 657 four inch tall steps on the 1300 meters of the one paved switchback walkway. A few words of caution. If you are walking just know that you will have donkey/mules coming and going in both directions. Hold on, be ready and look ahead for people walking in the opposite direction, watch for any cranky looking donkeys as some have been reported as biters and be prepared to walk in donkey poop - don't wear good shoes or flip flops!

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