

## SANTORINI TRAVEL GUIDE – LOGISTICS AND ITINERARY



All those influencers flocking to Santorini for twirly sunset pics on the rooftops? It's for a reason. This island is breathtakingly beautiful. Looking out over the caldera from the villages, you can't help but pinch yourself!

P.S. caldera – noun – a large volcanic crater

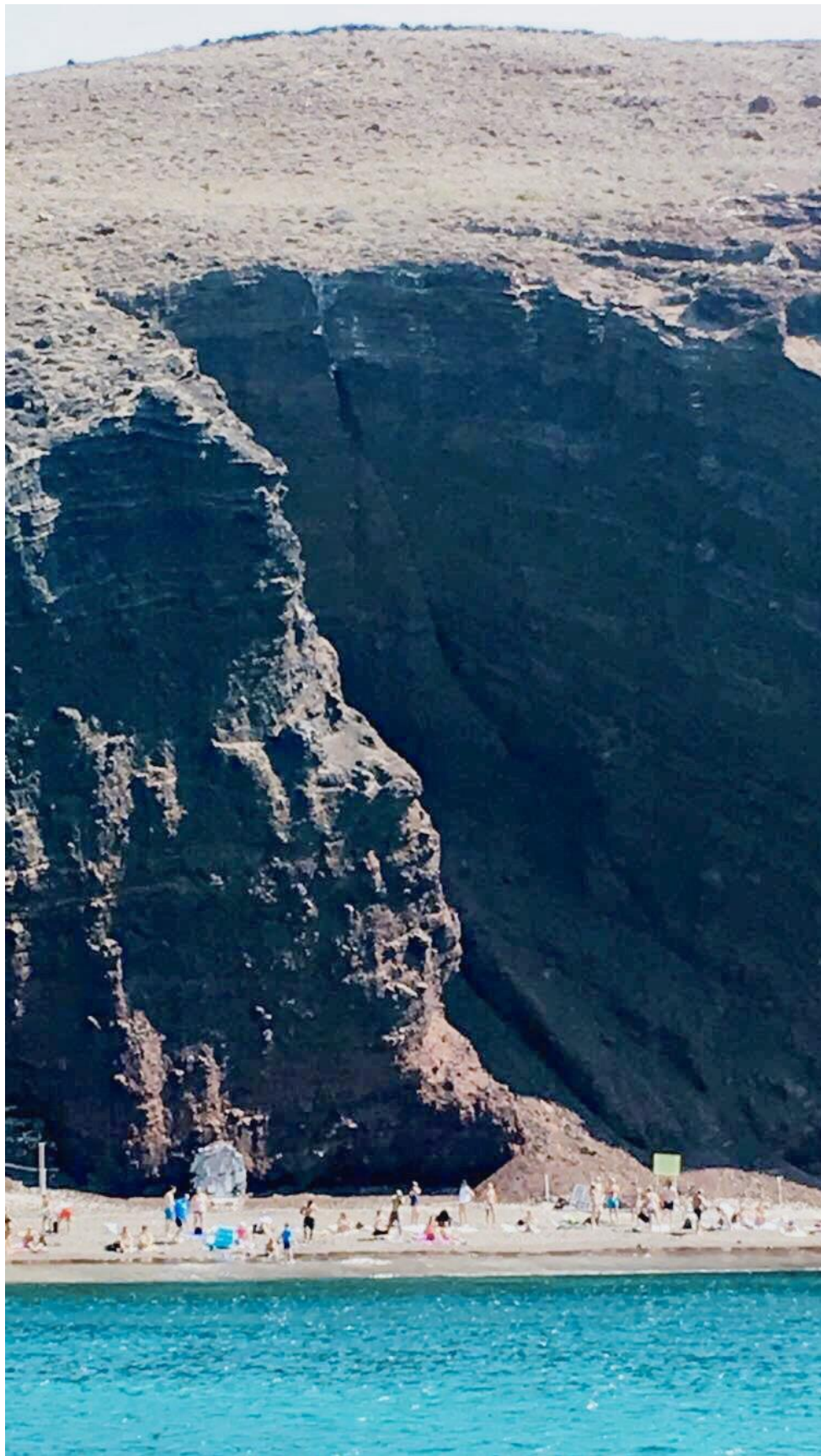


I went to Santorini right after Mykonos, and it was a major difference from the fun party scene of Mykonos. For me, Santorini was a mix of highs and lows. I had my favorite day of my whole trip in Santorini, but the lack of anything to do at night and the super touristy quality to it wasn't quite as fun to me as Mykonos. So whereas I've already booked a trip to go back to Mykonos with my husband, I am going to opt to explore some other islands with him instead of Santorini (but honestly while writing this, I am having major Santorini withdrawals and questioning our route).

## SHOULD I VISIT SANTORINI?

If you are in Greece on a trip to island hop, I think it would be a shame to miss out on Santorini. There is no way that any other island could be as beautiful and breathtaking as Santorini is. The island is basically shaped like a half moon and is built very steep. All of the villages lie on top of the steep cliffs with views across to the other side and "caldera". It's such a unique configuration that gives you all the incredible views. It's a bucket list destination for sure (if you are into beautiful views / stunning islands, as I am!!).

Your days in Santorini will be spent exploring the island by foot or sea, but the beaches are not really a destination. So this is not a lay at the beach island like most of the other islands are. If you are just trying to relax and plop your bum on a beach, this is probably not the island for you (see beach pic below).



## WHAT TIME OF YEAR SHOULD I VISIT SANTORINI?

As with all European beach destinations, May – September is the window with it being warmest, and busiest, in July and August.

## HOW DO I GET TO SANTORINI?

There are two options to pretty much all of the more popular Greek islands – ferry or flight. We took the fast ferry from Mykonos to Santorini. It's not very enjoyable, but we wanted to maximize our time on the island. The ferry had a café and made 2-3 stops in between. The place that it drops you off at in Santorini is not that pretty, so don't have high expectations on your approach. Santorini is prettiest at the top when you are looking out.

**[Book your ferry on this site](#)**

**[Check out google flights for flights to the island](#)**

When you get off the ferry, you can either take a bus or a taxi to your accommodation. If you have the budget, you can also book a private transfer through your hotel. Any option should take around 20 minutes.

The buses on the island are big coach buses with lots of luggage storage. The bus from the ferry can go straight to Fira, so if you are staying in another spot you will need to switch buses at Fira. The buses all operate on cash so make sure you have plenty of Euro coins with you. The fare is €2.30 per passenger from the port to Fira. Other fares range around €1.80 – €2.50 per ride.

According to online, taxis from the port to Fira shouldn't cost more than €20. Ask in advance how much it will cost as there aren't meters.

There are no Ubers on the island.

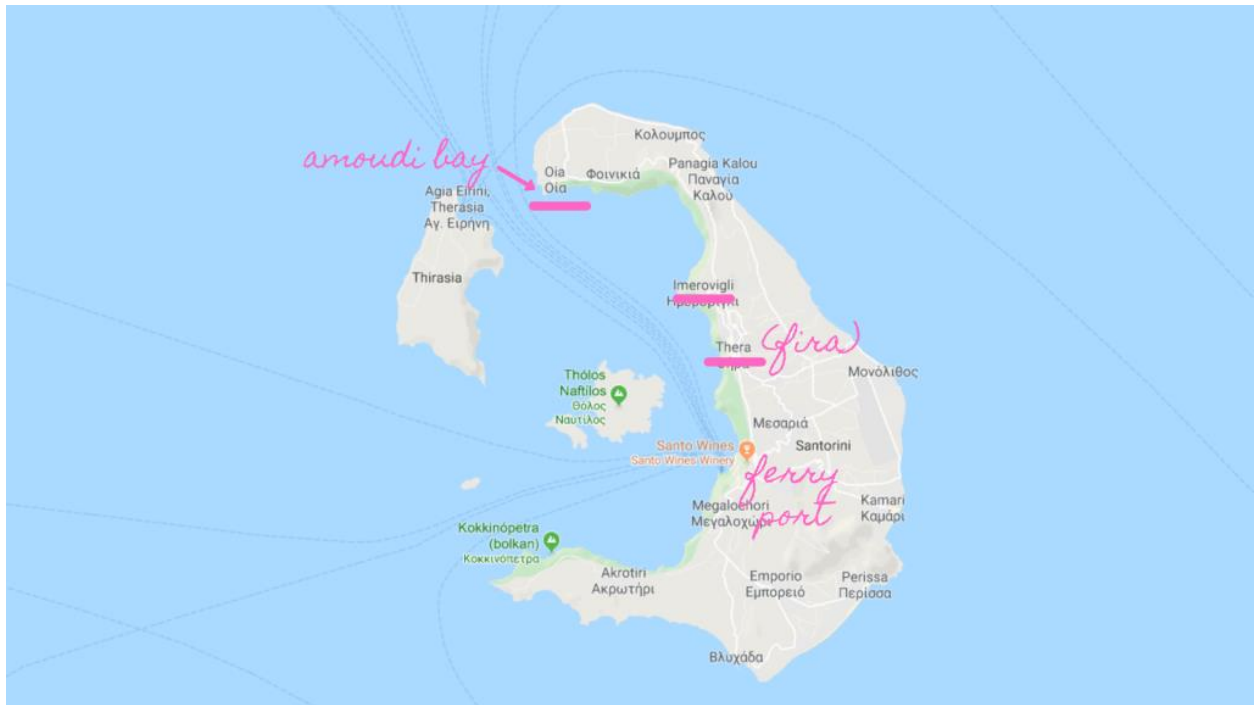
## IS THERE A LANGUAGE BARRIER IN SANTORINI?

No – Santorini is very touristy so everyone speaks English. You will not be able to read all the signs because they will be in the Greek alphabet, but all of the signs will have English translation anyways.

## WHERE SHOULD I STAY IN SANTORINI?

The big question in Santorini is – caldera view and big bucks or no caldera view? I personally think if there's ever a time to splurge on a hotel, it is here. However... we did splurge on a hotel with a caldera view and didn't even spend that much time there enjoying the view. But still if I were to go back, I would definitely still splurge on a hotel with a view. You do you! One thing to note is that you should book your accommodation as far out as you possibly can to ensure a good selection.

Next question is, what village to stay in? I am just going to talk about the three main villages with caldera views – Fira, Imerovigli, and Oia.



We ended up staying in Fira solely because we found a great hotel that wasn't too insanely expensive. **Our hotel** was sooooo amazing – I loved it so much – but the village itself was the worst of the three. It was the least glamorous of the three with lots of tacky tourist shops and mediocre restaurants. If I went back, I would not stay in Fira again.



Our first night we went to Imerovigli for sunset and dinner and loved it. It is the most glamorous, romantic, and quiet of the three with lots of high-end hotels and restaurants but not much to do. If you are coming on a honeymoon and want a pretty, romantic village to dock in, this is your place. I would stay in Imerovigli for sure.



Oia is the epicenter of Santorini with amazing views all over, tons of shopping and restaurants, and lots of area to explore. You could spend an entire day just wandering the streets popping in and out of shops and restaurants. My favorite part of the entire island, Amoudi Bay, is also located just off of Oia. It has lots of very upscale hotels, but you definitely get what you pay for. I would recommend staying in Oia if you can afford it for the convenience of having everything right there. You can stay there pretty much all the time, go to Imerovigli one night for dinner, go to a winery one day, but other than that just stay put and enjoy.





I also think there's another big reason why I would stay in Oia, and that is because of the island transportation.....

**Look for your Santorini hotel on TripAdvisor.**

## HOW DO I GET AROUND SANTORINI?

Unless you want to rent a car, your options for getting around are taxis or busses. The 1000% worst part about Santorini in my opinion is getting around the island. Let me try and explain this. When you are looking out over the caldera in your hotel or in one of the villages, you can't believe your eyes at how beautiful it is – you are in heaven and can't believe a place like this exists. Then you decide to head to another village so you walk the streets to the bus stop / taxi stand and now you have no view of anything waiting with 100s of tourists for a coach bus that might be standing room only to drive along the backstreets for 20 minutes.

It just kills the vibe! Because we stayed in Fira, we were constantly leaving our village to get to the other more glamorous villages which meant lots of sweaty coach bus rides and a lot less of beautiful caldera views / enjoying the moment. Just know this coming in and have your expectations low while traveling around.

On that note, as mentioned, the busses are one option of getting around the island – the cheapest option for sure. Fares range from €1.80 – €2.50 per ride and rides start and end in Fira. Tickets are collected while you are on the bus from the attendant, cash only! Here's a **timetable** from the bus company, but I would not consider the times as exact. Busses seem to run about every 30 minutes. Each town will have a bus stand that can be hard to find at first – but just ask for directions until you get to it.

Side note: we found Greek people to be so bad at administering directions!! They would say something like "turn left" when in fact there were about 6 more turns after that they just left out. It cracked us up but would also be frustrating at times.



Each town will also have a dedicated taxi stand, usually close to the bus stop. From here you can wait for a taxi to show up. Online says that taxis shouldn't cost more than €25 a ride, and tipping is not required.

## HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I SPEND IN SANTORINI?

You should at least spend 3 nights, but there actually is a lot to do on the island. Especially if you are burned out from laying on beaches on other islands, the activities in Santorini are different and exciting.

## WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN SANTORINI?

### BOAT TOUR

We did a boat tour with **Oia Sunset Cruises** and it was definitely the highlight of our trip. They had unlimited alcohol and the boat was so beautiful. We had so much fun. We stopped and did snorkeling but really we just enjoyed being on the water. I would definitely recommend this company. We did the morning one instead of the sunset one.

### AMOUDI BAY

This was one of my favorite things to do the whole trip. After our boat tour that started and ended in Oia, we walked this narrow stone path along Amoudi Bay to this old castle that people jump off of. Consult Google Maps for how to get there. There are also a couple really cute restaurants right on the water's edge. It was just so authentic and Mediterranean and reminded me of Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. You should definitely go do this.

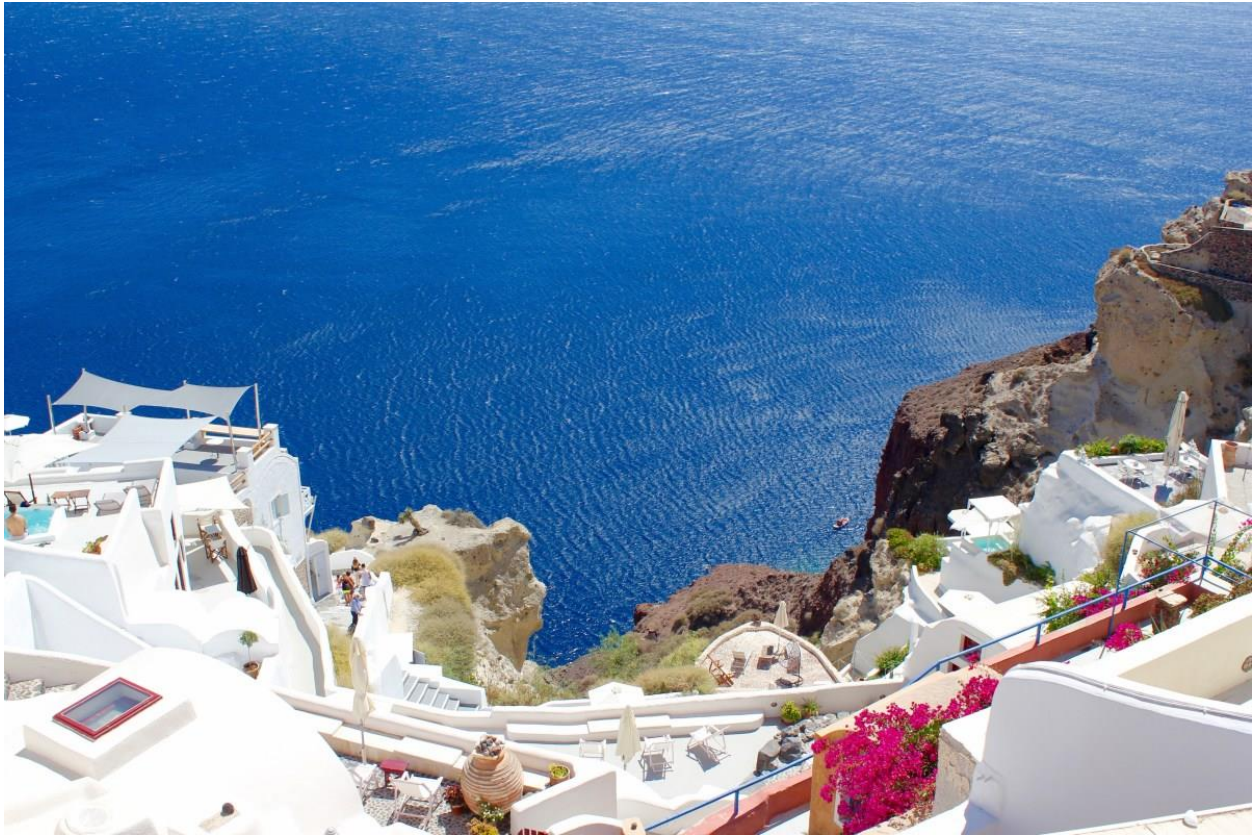






WALK THE STREETS

The streets in Oia are so fun and windy. You can spend a whole day just getting lost and popping into shops and dying at the views you accidentally stumble across.





## SUNSETS

We failed at being ready for the sunset. We most of the time were on a taxi on the way to catch the sunset somewhere when it would happen. Don't make that mistake! Watch the sunset at any point and it's beautiful. Oia is supposed to be the most beautiful but it is also PACKED. So get there early if you want a good spot.



## SANTO WINERY

Unfortunately the day we were supposed to go to Santo winery, they lost all power and had to cancel our reservations... but make a reservation for a table by the edge of the water at this winery one day by calling ahead. The views seriously look so incredible and you can do a wine tasting at sunset. We ended up going to Venetsanos Winery instead for sunset and had a great time.







## HIKE

We didn't do this because the wind was insane that day, but this hike from Fira to Oia looks so beautiful. It is supposed to take between 2 and 5 hours, so make sure and bring water and snacks. [Santorini Dave](#) has a really awesome guide to the hike with pictures to make sure you are doing it right.



## WHERE DO I EAT IN SANTORINI?

In my experience, literally everything we ate in Greece was delicious. I don't think it's worth spending extra money at fancy restaurants because the not as fancy restaurants still have amazing food. Each night for dinner, we just walked around the town looking at menus and asking places if they had any tables available until one said yes.



Our hotel gave us free breakfast which was soooooo dreamy overlooking the caldera (serious take-me-back feels right now), and I assume all other hotels would also have free breakfast. One night we just grabbed gyros to go and hung out on our balcony overlooking the caldera after a night at a winery and that was magical as well.



Long story short, don't fuss too hard about where to eat. I would definitely eat in Imerovigli one night if you are staying in Oia and vice versa, but I don't think there's any need to head into Fira to check it out – there's not much to see!

## IS THERE A PLACE TO GO OUT IN SANTORINI?

No. Santorini is very quiet at night. I don't think there are any options of places to be past dinnertime. Everyone goes back to their hotel and relaxes.

## WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR SANTORINI?

Do not bring wedges or heels. You will not wear them. And if you do, you will break your ankle. Everyone wears sandals. I wore maxi dresses, but it was SUPER windy, so I had to tie the bottoms together. Don't wear flowy dresses or heels.

## MY PERFECT 3 DAY SANTORINI ITINERARY

### DAY 1

Dinner and sunset in either Imerovigli or Oia

### DAY 2

Boat tour with Oia Sunset Cruises + Amoudi Bay

Dinner and sunset in either Imerovigli or Oia

## DAY 3

Hike + Santo Winery