



# Tour Information



## Endless Blue Walking in Naxos & Amorgos





# Travel

## Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

## Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Greece.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



## Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents.

## EasyJet

The e-ticket we send to you will show the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print or download your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an extra cost.

For more information, please visit:

[www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged an excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels).

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

## Taking food into EU countries

Please note you cannot take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.

## Transfers

On arrival at your destination Airport please collect your luggage and proceed until you are in the arrival's hall. You will find a transfer rep waiting with a Travel Editions sign. You will then transfer to the port to join a boat to Naxos, sailing time is between 40 and 50 minutes.

## Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make any necessary arrangements.



## Accommodation

### Naxos Beach Hotel, Chora

The three-star Naxos Beach Hotel is situated on the edge of Naxos Town. An attractive small hotel set within its own gardens and built with a Cycladic Island theme. The comfortable rooms, with garden or pool view, include TV, air-conditioning, fridge, kettle, safe box and balcony. There is an enticing swimming pool as well as a snack bar, free Wi-Fi is available throughout the property. The sandy beach of St George's is just a few metres away and Naxos town only a 10-minute walk. Everything you might need is nearby and easily accessible on foot.

For more information visit the hotel website:  
<https://www.hotelgalini.com/>

### Skopelitis Hotel, Amorgos

The three-star Skopelitis Hotel, Amorgos, is built in a minimal and simple design and has an elevated position that has been designed amphitheatrically across a hillside ensuring all rooms of a panoramic sea view. The sunny, airy rooms with modern furniture in natural earthy inspired tones, include TV, air-conditioning, a kitchenette, fridge, coffee machine, private bathroom with shower and balcony with sea view. A great place to relax after a day's exploring on foot!

For more information visit the hotel website:  
<https://skopelitisvillage.gr/>

## Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil. When eating out the Greeks nearly always eat 'mezedes' style. This means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It is a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Do not be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable.

When ordering fish in Greece you will usually find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don't be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose the fish you want, which will be weighed in front of you, so you know the cost before ordering.

Nearly all tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine. It can be something of an acquired taste, but it usually goes very well with the local food. If you are unsure, you can always ask if you can try the wine before you agree to it. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 6 euros per half litre.

Other local drinks are ouzo, tsipouro, brandy/cognac – Metaxa is the local brandy, which comes as 3, 5 and 7 star. Tsipouro is the local firewater, distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine.

## Meals included in the holiday

Breakfast daily.

Two dinners and two lunches.



# Destination

## Naxos

Naxos is the largest of the Cycladic islands, and the greenest, but, with neighbours like Mykonos and Santorini, it is one of the lesser known of these lovely islands, which means it has not been as saturated with tourism and holds on to an authenticity and natural beauty. The islands capital, Chora, is incredibly picturesque, with white-washed Cycladic architecture and a labyrinth of attractive cobbled alleyways. Graced with high mountains the island is exceptionally fertile and dotted with many lovely, white-washed villages.

## Chora, Naxos

Chora is Naxos main town, which has a rich past; in fact, the settlement has been built upon the ruins of an ancient town with the oldest findings dating to 4000 BC.

Modern day Chora offers an attractive seafront, lined with tavernas, small shops and café/bars. The town's attractive architecture combines both Venetian and Cycladic elements, and the pretty boat-filled harbour completes the picturesque scene. Situated above and behind the seafront is an attractive maze of narrow stone-paved alleys, which host gift shops, boutiques and restaurants. This is also where the castle is found, dominating the town. Built under the orders of Marco Sanudo, who conquered the Cyclades in 1207, and shaped as a pentagon, the castle was built according to a Venetian architectural style enclosing within its wall's beautiful buildings, mansions, monuments and churches.

The Archaeological Museum of Naxos is housed in an old Jesuit Commercial school in the castle area. The main museum is currently closed but a temporary exhibition is located close by. Check locally for opening hours.

Within the walls of the castle, you can also find the historic Ursulines School and Merchant Academy that dates to the 17th century, today used as a cultural centre.

For those interested in visiting ecclesiastical monuments, the Catholic Cathedral, situated inside the castle, is an outstanding medieval monument that dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Orthodox Cathedral of Chora was established in 1787 and is dedicated to Zoodochos Pigi,

(meaning life-giving source in Greek, an allusion to the Virgin Mary). A blend of materials taken from other temples and buildings were used for the cathedral's construction. It is suggested that the graphite pillars were brought from Delos, the sacred island of antiquity. In the front area of the church, relics of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC were discovered, including a tomb of Naxians of that period. Situated on a little island in the port area is the tiny, whitewashed church of Panagia Myrtidiotissa. According to historical sources, this islet served as a place of worship to the God of the sea, Poseidon. The locals highly esteem this small church, with many shops, boats and unions named after it. A celebration takes place here every year on September 24<sup>th</sup> in honour of the Virgin Mary. The church can only be accessed via boat from the port.

## Portara

The islands most famous archaeological site is the first thing you notice as you arrive to Naxos by ferry. Adjoined to Chora via a small causeway the Portara is a grand doorway of an ancient Temple dedicated to Apollo built in 522 BC by the Tyrant Lygdamis that was never finished. They say if you stand in the doorway and make a wish you can feel a force of energy as Apollo begins working to make your wish come true. Actually, the only reason they believe this was a Temple to Apollo is because it happens to face Delos, which is the island of Apollo, though it would not be the first temple that was attributed to the wrong God! It may turn out to be a Temple dedicated to Dionysius who was the most popular God on Naxos. Lygdamis intended to make it the largest and most glorious temple in Greece, unfortunately, he was overthrown before it was completed. Had it been finished, Naxos would probably be one of the most important archaeological destinations in Greece with a temple that might have been one of the wonders of the ancient world. After the rise of Christianity, the building was used as a church, it was dismantled during the Venetian period and its blocks used for other building projects most notably the castle of Naxos.

The Portara is very popular early evening as it has a prime position for sunset.



## The Naxos Kouros (plural: Kouroi)

Kouroi are a defining feature of Greek sculpture of the Archaic period, which preceded the Classical period, 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. They depict young men, typically nude, with a specific stylised pose; arms at the sides, hands clenched and one foot slightly forward. They served various purposes, as votive offerings to gods and goddesses, and as grave markers, usually commemorating young men.

In Naxos a Kouros Statue was found in Apollonas that dates to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and exceeds 10 metres in height. Despite this identification, evidence suggests that the statue is probably not a Kouros as it seems to wear a long cloak, and his face displays long hair and a beard. For this reason, most researchers believe that it depicts the god Dionysus.

Two other Kouros have been found at Melanes Village in Naxos, each weighing 5 to 7 tonnes. Both are made of Naxian marble and are unfinished. The Colossus of the Naxians, a 9-metre high kouros on Delos Island was quarried from the same quarry as the Kouroi found at Melanes.

## Amorgos

The tiny island of Amorgos is the easternmost island in the Cyclades and is one of the most charming. It covers an area of 126 sq. km, (Naxos is 430 sq.km). The island is a paradise of whitewashed houses, splendid beaches with dazzling waters and imposing mountain backdrops. The impressive monastery of Panagia Hozoviotissa is the symbol of the island, sitting on the side of a 300-meter cliff and visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. Traditional villages, such as Langada and Tholaria offer a unique charm.

The islands outstanding natural beauty and dramatic landscapes, and its traditional and religious symbols are the appeal for many visitors to the island.

The islands rich history, dating to the 4th century BC, was influenced by various civilizations, including the Cycladic and Minoan cultures.

Amorgos is not a typical Cycladic summer destination; it is more an alternative travel experience and is one of the most beautiful Greek islands. Having a strangely long and narrow shape, resembling a seahorse, its high mountains, uninhabited islets, and massive cliffs contribute to a feeling of wildness and remoteness. For this

reason, it remains unsaturated by tourism, retaining very positively the 'Greek island feel'.

Amorgos took its name from a type of flax that can be found on the island. The locals used to process the flax and make clothing out of it.

The archaeological studies of the island proved that Amorgos has been inhabited since the 4th millennium BC and served as an important centre of the remarkable Cycladic civilization. Numerous marble figurines found on the grounds of its prehistoric settlements and cemeteries add to that statement.

The Minoans did not miss the chance to exploit the island's position for their commercial interests and founded their city, Minoa, close to where the port of Katapola is today.

During classical times, Amorgos had three main city-states, self-governed but with a common currency. In Roman times, the remoteness and wild nature of Amorgos made it a place of prison and exile. After the Greek War of Independence, Amorgos was included in the New Greek State.

## Chora, Amorgos

The Chora of Amorgos, the island's main town, 400 metres above sea level, is a charming and authentic medieval capital with narrow alleys, a Venetian castle, and ancient churches.

Following the medieval trend of relocating to the mainland to protect themselves from raging piracy, Amorgians founded their town strategically at the top of a mountain that overlooked the sea passages on both sides. Perhaps the most authentic and traditional old town found in the Cyclades, you can't help but be enchanted by its beauty. Walk around the small, picturesque alleys of the town and mingle with the locals to experience how life in the Aegean Sea used to be way back when.

## Hozoviotissa Monastery

Close to the Chora of Amorgos and attached to the rough cliffs of the island's eastern side, lies the famous Monastery Hozoviotissa, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which became popular worldwide after Luc Besson's 1988 film The Big Blue.

According to tradition, during the harsh years of Iconoclasm that swept the lands of the Byzantine

Empire, the Holy Icon of the Virgin Mary miraculously found its way from Palestine to the small island of Amorgos. The inhabitants subsequently founded a monastery to rescue and honour this miracle that allegedly happened before their eyes.

The monastery is the second oldest in Greece. Although it was originally built in the 9th century, the Roman (Byzantine) Emperor Alexios Komnenos later renovated its premises and granted many privileges to the monks of the monastery.

A perfect blend of nature and the beauty of man's creation, the monastery symbolizes man's tribute to the Holy Mother. Built into the face of a cliff, it provides a breathtaking view of the sparkling blue waters of the Aegean Sea. It is with no doubt, the pride of Amorgos.

### Villages

There is a total of 12 villages dotted throughout Amorgos Island. Langada and Tholaria Villages, in the island's northern part are two very picturesque settlements, each offering the typical 'postcard' look of whitewashed houses, narrow cobbled streets and small churches. Situated less than 5 km from each other, the villages share Aegiali bay, a long, sandy beach that serves as the smaller port of the island.

### Tour Manager/Guide

#### Dimitris Papageorgiou

Dimitris Papageorgiou has been guiding walks in Greece for many years. Having been to more than forty countries with his backpack, travelling is a way of life for him and, although he studied to be an engineer, he decided that sharing his passion with others is much more vital, because interacting with people has always been an inspiration. He loves the outdoors, especially rock climbing and hiking and when he is not guiding, he is probably off somewhere on his bike.

Dimitris is Greek but speaks English fluently. He will be both guiding and tour managing this tour. If the tour reaches the maximum number of 16 participants, he will be ably assisted by Alexandros. If you have any problems or questions during the tour, please speak to Dimitris immediately and he will do his utmost to resolve any issues.

**Tour Grading:** This tour has been graded as moderate and is suitable for most people that are

in good physical condition. The itinerary includes walking in nature, following various footpaths, some of which may be stony or cobbled. Five days of moderate hikes of 3 to 4 hours. Pathways may be uneven and stony underfoot. There are some hills and elevations involved on each walk.

### Practical Information

#### We recommend you bring the following items:

- 1 light waterproof jacket
- 1 good size day sack for carrying water and any personal items, like a waterproof, additional layer, sun cream, snacks
- 1 pair of light trousers (for prickly undergrowth)
- 1 water bottle
- Personal first aid kit
- Sun hat, sun cream
- Insect repellent
- 1 warm layer for cooler days or chilly evenings and air-conditioned boats
- T-shirts/layers so you can adjust to changing early/late season weather conditions
- A walking stick or ski sticks can be very useful for loose terrain

A walking stick or ski sticks are highly recommended on our walking tours, as the paths followed are not always even and can be strewn with loose shingles or stones and sticks can be extremely helpful on such paths both for balance and to prevent slipping.

Although none of the walking paths are particularly difficult you will encounter uneven and sometimes rocky terrain, so it is essential to have comfortable, well-fitting and protective footwear with good soles. It is advisable that boots are ankle high to provide good ankle support. Vibram soles tend to have better grip. It is always advisable to break in your boots before your holiday. Try two pairs of socks, one thin pair close to the skin, and a thicker outer sock.

Bring a foot care kit, especially useful is moleskin and second skin, Compeed is also very good for blisters.



## The Basics

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be very pleasant, but evenings might be a little cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. The Cyclades are also known to be quite windy, so our advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a light rain jacket and something warm for a cool evening.

**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means Greece is always 2 hours ahead of the UK.

**Language** – Greek

**Religion** – Greek Orthodox

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are available in most towns, as well as airports and other spots. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros other than bringing euros with you. You can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdrawn cash.

**Please Note: As not all hotels on this tour are close to ATMS, we recommend bringing some euros with you for convenience.**

**Credit cards** – Credit cards are far more widely accepted nowadays but it is always best to check first in restaurants and shops, especially in small villages, that they accept payment by credit card, should you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments; you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before you travel. Hotels usually always accept credit cards.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is generally safe to drink although it is always best to check this, especially at hotels as bathroom water may be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water

is readily available to buy in many local shops and is very reasonable priced.

**Shopping** - Mini-markets are available in most places for any basic supplies you might need. These usually open until late in the evening.

**Stamps** – you can often purchase stamps at the same time you purchase postcards. This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

**Plumbing** - **Unless there is information to the contrary, please do not put toilet paper down the toilet.** This is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the waste pipes. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be emptied daily by the hotel.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Greece, depending on your operator and contract. If you are calling the UK from a mobile in Greece, you will need to prefix the number with the international dialling code 0044.

The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping in Greece** – Service is not included on restaurant/café bills in Greece. As per the UK, tipping is expected and appreciated. 10% on a meal bill, or rounding up the bill, is the general norm in Greece.

**Tour Guide Gratuities** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips for the local staff. However, in Greece and in tourism generally, tipping is customary at the end of a tour when receiving good service. It is an opportunity to say thank you and is a gesture which is genuinely appreciated by Tour Managers, guides and drivers involved in the smooth running of your tour, all of whom usually work in a freelance position. Gratuities are of course at your own discretion and should be based on your level of satisfaction. They are best paid in cash in local currency.



## Health

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager/guide if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor if necessary. There is normally a charge of around 80 Euros for calling out a doctor (or more, depending on the distance the doctor must travel), there is also a charge to visit a doctor.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who will, usually speak some English. Pharmacists are often able to give advice for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday with usually one locally open on a Saturday.



## Hospital

Your tour manager/guide or hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay. There is a General hospital on Naxos. The nearest hospitals to Amorgos are on Naxos and Santorini.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**



## Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill or injured, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date.

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>





## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7952 237156

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

**British Vice Consulate Rhodes**

29 Gr. Lambraki Street

85 100 Rhodes

Greece

Tel: +30 2241 022005

Email: rhodes@fco.gov.uk

**British Embassy Athens**

1, Ploutarchou str

106 75 Athens

Greece

Tel: +30 210 7272 600

Email: information.athens@fco.gov.uk

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.

Telephone enquiries - Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm

**In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600.**

Travel Editions Group Ltd

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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