

GREECE – THE CYCLADES

8-days / 7-night easy to moderate one-hotel group guided walking tour at Naxos



A wonderful chance to visit the idyllic little-known Cyclades Island of Naxos whose whitewashed villages and lush flowers typify the Greek islands everyone dreams about.

- The romantic Greek island of everyone's dreams with genuine Greek hospitality at the 3-Star family hotel
- Outstanding walking on old traditional trails
- Enjoy the hotel's location minutes from Naxos' Old Town

Our centre-based or one-hotel walking holidays offer a choice of two guided walks each day – usually an easier walk or a more challenging option. There is usually a free-day midweek to relax or to explore.

Cost: AU\$1105 per person (twin share) - Single room supplement AU\$260

Departs: 12th, 19th, 26th April, 3rd May, 13th, 20th, 27th September, 4th, 11th October, 2012

Tour includes: 7-nights in comfortable hotel accommodation with an ensuite bathroom, 7-breakfasts, 7-evening meals, experienced walks leader, 5-guided walks and a free-day midweek.

Not Included: Ferry transfers from Athens (these can be pre-booked at extra cost), meals & drinks not mentioned & personal expenses. .

Local Transport: On some days the walks start and finish at the hotel. On other days we use other hired transport to explore the surrounding area - please allow an extra €60 for the cost of transport to and from the walks. This is paid locally.



Accommodation: The family-run 3-star **Hotel Grotta** is a wonderful place to experience true Greek hospitality as the Lianos family have been there for three generations. From its terrace you can enjoy views of the old quarters of Naxos Town and the charming Temple of Apollo, both of which are a short walk away.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary: Please note that the itinerary outlined is provisional and could be subject to change. A finalised itinerary will be available at the resort and your leaders will brief you about the next day's walks.

Day 1: Arrival day

Day 2: Sagri to the temple of Demeter Travel to the ancient village of Sagri built two settlements: Ano (upper) Sagri and Kato (lower) Sagri. Our walking route takes us past Venetian towers, Byzantine churches and picturesque windmills to the impressive 520-530BC Temple of Demeter. This restored white marble monument was one of the greatest archaeological puzzles ever solved. End the day with a walk along the golden sands of Plaka Beach.

Day 3: Kouroi Naxos has a justifiably famous reputation for marble which is still quarried to this day. We visit the old hillside quarries wherein lie the figures of two 'Kouroi' or handsome young men over 6m long lying in the fields where the ancient craftsmen deserted them. We end the day at Melanes, a quiet farming village in a verdant valley with abundant water and rich vegetation, totally different from most typical Cycladic villages.

Day 4: Mountain of the Cyclades The highest mountain of the Cyclades, Zas (or Zeus) is dominant in today's walks; indeed it may be possible to ascend this 1,001 metre peak if the weather and the flesh are willing. For those not venturing to the top of Zas, the pretty mountain village of Apiranthos, rich in history and tradition, will mark the end of the day's walks, but not before passing the mysterious Moni Christou Fotodoti.

Day 5: Free day Today no walks are organised, allowing you to explore the local area or just relax in the hotel or at the beach. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently, or visit local places of interest. Leaders will be happy to recommend options if you would like to walk independently.

Day 6: Village of Moni Today we travel back into the heart of the mountains, to Apiranthos to allow the easier walkers to examine the medieval architecture, and visit the local museums before heading back down the hill in the coach to Chalki, then walk to the mountain village of Moni. The harder walkers will start their walk in Apiranthos and travel over an amazing limestone landscape before descending to Moni where both groups meet for a traditional leisurely Greek meze lunch. We return to Chalki either by a shorter or longer track.

Day 7: Waters to Chora Rivers on Naxos dry up in the late spring, but there is one which flows all year round and today we will walk alongside it. From Chora we visit the village of Kinidaros, known locally as 'the ones who have fun'. There are the remains of an 11 kilometre long 530BC aqueduct built to take water to Chora. We descend to see the 18th century church of Agios Artemios, the largest church outside the city of Naxos. Following the stream downhill there are many small pools home to turtles and other amphibians. There were many water mills, all now in ruins. As we leave the river we will be able to look up to a special cave high in the rock called Jennissis where Dionysos was said to have been born. Our walk ends in Engares.

Day 8: Depart

Tour ends after breakfast



Easier Walks: 8 to 11 km on rugged paths and tracks. Up to 420m of ascent in a day.



Harder Walks: 10 to 15 km on rugged paths and tracks with some steep descents. Up to 500m of ascent in a day.

Outdoor Travel offers a wide range of one-hotel or centre-based guided walking holidays in most countries in Europe including France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, Croatia, Greece, Slovakia, Slovenia or Norway. During the colder months walks are very popular in the Mediterranean or Canary Islands such as Madeira, Malta, Sicily, Teneriffe, Lanzarote or Crete and coastal areas such as Catalonia on the Spain / France border. Inn-to inn guided or self-guided walks are also available in most of these destinations

Contact **Outdoor Travel** or your travel agent for more details, travel brochures and reservations:

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