

# GREEK ISLANDS

Geological highlights of the Greek Islands.

12-21 July 2025

## Who normally participates?

Our trips cater to educators of all backgrounds, retired teachers, friends and family- you don't have to be an Earth science expert to enjoy and learn on our trips. People with no geology knowledge are especially welcome.

People from around the world have participated -from USA, Canada, Australia, Iceland, UK, Barbados, Austria and more have joined us.

Spouses, partners, and friends are welcome to join u and be an active part of the group.

Sorry, people under the age of 16 can't join these trips for insurance reasons.

## Accommodation

We will stay at hotels and lodges through these trips. Rooms will be shared with another participant. We can provide your own room for an additional fee, please let us know when you register.

We often stay in a place for one or two nights before



This 10-day (9-night) tour starts in Crete and takes in the geological wonders of Crete, Santorini, and Milos. We visit calderas, Sitia Geopark walk the famous Imbros Gorge. And we explore some of the famous archeological sites along the way.

This is very much an 'explore on foot' find of trip. We will be spending time leisurely walking around sites rather than being on huge crashes etc. This enables us to see things off the tourist routes.

## Trip Plan

Here is our current trip plan:

### Saturday 12th July

Meet at a hotel in Heraklion, Crete. We will share a meal together and get an overview of our trip plan.

### Sunday 13th July

We will visit the Knossos archaeological site in the morning

moving on. They will all have great facilities including internet access.

## Transport

We will be using public transport and some local van operators to move around islands. We will use high speed ferries to move between islands.

## When will registration open?

Registration is OPEN. You can register using the link on the website.

<https://geoetc.com/greece25/>

## How do I register?

Registration is easy - it is all online!

Registration requires a deposit (US\$200). This is refundable within the refund policy guidelines (see below).

You can pay the registration fee including deposit online using a credit card, or send us a check or Venmo (if in the USA).

### *Refund Guidelines Greek Islands Trip*

Trip payment (including deposit) is fully refundable minus a US\$50 administration fee up till COB on January 1, 2025. Full payment is due before January 30, 2025.

and then the Zeus Cave / Lasithi Plateau windmills in the afternoon.

Knossos is one of the most fascinating and perfectly preserved archaeological sites in the world dating back to nearly 4000 years old. It contains some beautiful buildings from the Minoan civilisation and the site was occupied for about 1000 years until it was destroyed by fire around 1300BC.

Zeus Cave, also known as the Diction Cave, is reputedly the birthplace of the god Zeus. Hidden from his cannibalistic father Cronus, Zeus was raised in the cave by various nymphs and eventually grew to overthrow his father, thus becoming one of the most important of all the Greek gods.

The Lasithi Plateau is a wonderful high-altitude plateau famous for its windmills and traditional Greek villages.

Overnight in Heraklion.

### **Monday 14th July**

We will walk the famous Imbros Gorge. The coastline of SW Crete is directed by numerous gorges, of which the Samaria and Imbros are the most spectacular. All of the gorges were formed by rivers downcutting through limestones as tectonic uplift occurred. The Imbros Gorge involves an 8km walk, mostly downhill with a 600 m change in elevation. It has a lot of shade on a walking path. We will examine the geology on our slow amble through the gorge and at the end we catch a boat to return us to our coach.

Overnight on Crete

### **Tuesday 15th July**

In the morning we will catch a high speed ferry to Santorini. This is a 2 hour approx crossing with a stunning approach to the dock in Santorini as we enter the volcanic crater. A coach transfer takes us up to the plateau and to our hotel.

In the afternoon we will do a walking tour along the crater rim from Fira to Oia - maybe short excursion to see Skaros Rock and catch a bus back to the hotel.

We recommend finding a table in one of the many restaurants along the crater rim as the sunsets are truly wonderful.

There are no refunds after January 30, 2025. All participants must provide evidence for health & travel insurance for the trip period when full payment is made.

## What happens after you register?

We keep in contact with you via regular newsletters that provide you with a load of information right up till the trip. We provide you with packing information, more trip details, interesting reading, tips and tricks to get the most out of your experience, and more.

## What about trip insurance?

We insist that you take out travel insurance to cover you for these trips. You should have coverage for if you or a close family member becomes ill and you can't attend. Coverage for medical costs while in Greece is also a must.

Many companies offer travel insurance. We suggest you use one of the online sites that compare the different companies. The one we like is [TravelInsurance.com](http://TravelInsurance.com)

Make sure you are covering your flights as well as the cost of the trip.

Overnight on Santorini

### Wednesday 16th July

In the morning we will take a boat trip to Nea Kameni island and walking tour to see Santorini Volcano. This is a walk of around 3 to 4km but the terrain is very uneven and there is no shade. There are some active sulphur vents, a stunning volcanic crater and amazing views back to the cliffs of Santorini. The last eruption was in 1950.

In the afternoon you will have some free time to explore Fira, possibility of visiting the museum or even the Minoan archaeological site of Akrotiri.

Overnight on Santorini

### Thursday 17th July

In the morning we will take a high speed ferry from Santorini to Milos, about journey of just over 2 hours duration with the ferry route weaving between many of the Cycladic Islands.

The Island of Milos is one of the most geologically varied Islands in Greece with this geological variety forming a range of unique and beautiful coastal landforms.

We will arrive at our hotel around midday and after lunch we will take a trip to Sarakiniko rocks and beach. The rocks are a deeply weathered pumice which is bright white and with the deep blue crystal clear sea, it is really a unique landscape to swim amongst and explore.

Overnight on Milos

### Friday 18th July

Boat tour around Milos to see the various coastal geological features such as the Kleftiko sea stacks, caves and arches and some wonderful hidden beaches and coves.

Overnight on Milos

### Saturday 19th July

Today we take a Ferry to Athens

We will then bus into central Athens.

Afternoon is free to explore Athens.

Overnight in Athens

## Sunday 20th July

Today we will take a walking tour of the Acropolis area with a local guide followed by time to walk the streets of the city.

Overnight in Athens

## Monday 21 July

Flights out of Athens

## Trip Leaders

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**Barry Cullimore** (left) is the Director of Geofieldwork Ltd and an experienced teacher of geology, geography and outdoor education. He has a degree in Geology and Geography from the University of Exeter, UK and studied for a PhD at St Andrews University in Scotland. The PhD is still unfinished but the time in Scotland was otherwise well spent by using every possible opportunity to explore, hike and climb in the Scottish Highlands!

He has worked for the British Geological Survey, is a qualified teacher and has 30+ years of experience leading geography and geology field study groups in the UK and Europe.

**Gary Lewis** (right) is the President of GEOetc and a passionate Earth science communicator. His speciality is the communication of geological processes to teachers, students and the general public and the operation of programs that raise the awareness of Earth science at an international level. He is a trained geologist - with an honors degree in Geology from the University of Sydney - and a K-12 teacher. He has worked in Earth science outreach in Australia and the USA and run trips for teachers to Hawaii, Iceland, Australia, Italy, UK and other destinations since the 1980s. He is the author of over 150 Earth science teaching resources.



## Want more information?

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Contact Gary Lewis on:

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Call : 207 693 8501 (US Eastern Time)