



BEACHES

# 20 BEST GREEK ISLANDS

View from Plaka town, Milos

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# SANTORINI

## Best for: Honeymooners and first-timers

Cooing American and Chinese honeymooners line up to take selfies as the sun sinks behind [Santorini's](#) caldera, the flooded volcanic crater. That view may be a romantic cliché, but it still takes your breath away. A volcanic explosion blew out Santorini's heart 3,500 years ago, leaving black-sand beaches, vertiginous cliffs in psychedelic hues, and swirling rumours about Atlantis in its wake. The eruption also preserved the ancient city of Akrotiri under layers of ash, and created fertile ground for exceptional Assyrtiko grapes and Vinsanto wines. (Sample them at Sigalas and Vassaltis wineries, paired with delicate dishes that let the grapes sing.)

Apart from a boat trip to the smouldering crater of Nea Kameni and hot springs at Palia Kameni, there's not much to do but gaze at the mesmerising views from your suite, dangling on the edge of the caldera. The [best hotels in Santorini](#) are concentrated in Oia, but the inland village of Pyrgos is up-and-coming. Go for a twilight Bellini at Franco's or a cocktail at newcomer Botargo, with views that will leave you light-headed, followed by dinner at Selene, a pioneer of new Cycladic cuisine.

**Where to stay in Santorini:** Trendier pretenders come and go, but [Perivolos](#) is still the most stylish and peaceful place to stay. If you have cash to splash, and can't stand the crowds, take over Perivolos Hideaway, a waterfront villa on Santorini's undiscovered offshoot, Thirassia, or [Erosantorini](#), a stunning clifftop estate with a tiered pool plunging 1000 feet to the sea.