



...Travellin' Round

"Greece Island Hopping"

by Ashley Varey
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In May of 2017, I was lucky enough to spend eight days exploring Greece. It was a destination on my bucket list and I know it is a must-see for many other travellers as well. There is just something about those tiny white "sugar cube" homes, the gorgeous blue water, the hospitality, the laid back life style and of course the food!

Typically Greece has beautiful weather most of the year and it hardly ever rains. In fact, it is known as the "Land of Sunshine" however, when I arrived in Greece on the first day that certainly wasn't the case. We had a full day planned of touring Athens and we weren't about to let the rain stop us. The tour we opted for was "Athens Past and Present" and it has the perfect mix of seeing the Acropolis, The Olympic Stadium, The Theatre of Dionysus, Shopping at the Plaka and more! We had a guide who also told us all about the present life in Greece and how the economy has changed so drastically. I was glad that I was able to see Athens first hand as in the past I had always thought you would need 2 to 3 days to explore Athens but I realize now you only require 1 or 2 days max and then it is time to head to the beautiful islands!

Thanks to our high speed ferry ride from Athens we arrived in Mykonos in about 4.5 hours but it honestly did not feel that long. On board the ferry, they had comfortable seating, a bar and restaurant serving food and drinks, gorgeous views of the water and other islands we passed along the way. Our resort in Mykonos was located directly on "Paradise Beach" which truly lives up to its name with crystal



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clear blue waters, sandy beaches and gorgeous views. We spent the day relaxing on the beaches but headed to town for the afternoon and evening. The views along the waterfront with the famous Mykonos Windmills and the sunsets are absolutely incredible. It seems like every visitor to the island is down at the water at that time yet it doesn't feel overly crowded. You can

find a nice restaurant to eat fresh sea food, grab a gyro to go or simply enjoy a glass of wine with views of some of the best sunsets in the world. The cobble streets that weave in and out of town make you feel lost but really you are just discovering all the shops, the friendly shop owners and those thoughts quickly slip to the back of your mind. If you ever visit Mykonos,



Greece Island Hopping (Continued)
do yourself a favour and visit “Jimmy’s Gyros” I promise you this is the best gyro you will ever have! He has been around for over 30 years and the walls are covered in photos of all his visitors including the celebrities!

The second island we visited was Ios, Greece. This island is known for its nightlife and when I was told that the bars don’t even open until after midnight I was surprised. I can honestly say I never last past midnight because after travelling and a day of sailing there was just no way. The island of Ios, Greece is comparable to Ibiza, Spain and seems to have an underlying competition always happening. Even if you aren’t a partier, Ios has several wonderful daytime activities as well. On our second day in Ios we boarded a Pirate Ship for a full day of sailing around the island to private beaches. We stopped in some small inlets and had the chance to “walk the plank” and dive into the water. The hosts of our pirate ship sailing which was actually a father and son duo had prepared a delicious lunch with Greek pasta, sandwiches, fruit and homemade dessert which we enjoyed on a private beach. The Aegean Sea doesn’t have the best snorkelling due to the high salt content but it does make for great floating, stand up paddle boarding and other water sports!

It was a short but sweet visit to Greece but I know I will absolutely be back. There are so many unique and different islands to explore and I would absolutely love to see Santorini one day! If Greece isn’t on your bucket list yet, hopefully it gets added soon and you will find the perfect island for you!

