BRIDES

How to Plan a Romantic Honeymoon in Greece

This Mediterranean destination is better than ever.

By Kelli Acciardo and Sarah Schreiber | Updated on November 08, 2024 09:20AM

Move over Italy: Greece is the next big thing for newlyweds hoping to hit the Mediterranean on their first-married trip. Of course, this once-in-alifetime destination has hovered at the top of couples' must-visit lists for decades, but it's about to become the place to honeymoon in 2025 and beyond. "With the pricing and number of travelers both rising for Italy, Greece is becoming more popular for honeymooners," affirms Dr. Dr. Terika L. Haynes, a luxury travel agent and the founder of Dynamite Travel. Comprised of 6,000 islands and inlets—roughly 200 of which are inhabited—Greece also offers travelers unparalleled variety without a ton of in-country travel. "I am finding that most couples are visiting multiple destinations (within the country) during their honeymoon to Greece," notes Dr. Haynes, who cites Santorini and Mykonos as the most popular islands to visit. There's romance outside of those giants, though, she adds; Corfu, Crete, Naxos, and Patmos are steadily rising in popularity. It's no wonder couples' biggest challenge when planning a Greece honeymoon these days is answering this question: Which island to start with first?

We're here to help you answer that—and work out a game plan for your romantic visit. Regardless of where you go, a blissful few weeks in Greece usually involves long, languid days catching rays on pristine beaches, followed by three-hour lunches replete with wine, feta cheese, and olives—but whether you're in search of buzzy party isles or subdued, small-scale archipelagos to spend your first days as newlyweds, there's a myriad of options to choose from. Here, we enlisted the help of seven trusted travel experts to help you plan the perfect honeymoon in Greece. Heed their advice below, then get ready to island hop.

Places to Stay During Your Greece Honeymoon

Island hopping is part of the allure of a Grecian honeymoon, but given the fact that there are 227 inhabited islands, narrowing down where to go and where to stay is arguably the most time-consuming part of the planning process. Are you looking to hit the most popular destinations? Then Santorini and Mykonos it is! "From the most romantic sunsets over the caldera in Oia to the famed white buildings and blue tops, Santorini is probably the most popular proposal and honeymoon destination in the Greek islands," shares travel expert Nneya Richards. "It's not a tourist trap—remember, tourists come in droves here for a reason. It's remarkable."

However, if you prefer under-the-radar gems as opposed to hotspot hubs, then the islands of Crete, Sifnos, and Milos might be more your speed. Whichever direction you decide to take, rest assured there's no shortage of luxury hotels awaiting your arrival.



Andronis Concept Wellness Resort

"Greece oozes romance all over, but if I had to pick one place to take my significant other, it would be Santorini, specifically to the <u>Andronis</u> <u>Concept Wellness Resort</u>: A minimalist haven overlooking the sea," says Berkson. "Each suite has its very own private plunge pool and the sunsets in Santorini are epic."

If you have your heart set on classic Santorini-style suites—those famous white-washed buildings dotting the volcanic caldera—don't worry, they have those too. Their sister properties Andronis Arcadia, Boutique Hotel, and Luxury Suites are also viable options and part of the same five-star family.

Where to Eat During Your Greece Honeymoon

In addition to having dinner above the Acropolis, you'll also want to experience dinner underneath it. Here you'll find The Plaka, a beloved village within the city, lined with late-night tavernas and always-flowing Ouzo. As for other well-known mainstays on the islands, here's where our experts frequent:

Santorini

Jamieson adores Sunset Ammoudi, a Santorini spot know for incredible wine and fresh seafood overlooking the water—but other top contenders in "the wine island" are Varoulko Santorini at Grace Hotel Auberge, Oia Vineyart, Seaside on Perivolos' black sand beach and 1800-Floga, where plated Greek dishes look more like art than food.

For the carnivores, the island's first "Beefbar" recently opened at the acclaimed Andronis Arcadia in Oia, featuring elevated takes on street meat favorites from around the world. Kaliya in Fira is a must-visit for lunch (order the octopus!) and craft cocktails; back in Oia, put Roka, which serves authentic, comforting food at *very* reasonable prices, on your radar.