

# Best cave hotels in Santorini

Santorini's cave dwellings are as much island icons as its whitewashed villages, blue-domed churches and sea-filled caldera. These are the top examples



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**S**ickle-shaped [Santorini](#) may have some of Greece's most expensive hotel rooms, but the island has not always merited such sky-high prices. This is a place of scant natural resources and, being of volcanic origin, was frequently troubled by earthquakes. The solution found by the farmers, craftsmen and mariners who lived here was to carve sturdy dwellings and storage spaces into the softer strata of the steep, sea-facing cliffs of the flooded caldera.

Able to withstand earth tremors and seasonal climatic extremes, these cavern spaces were blessed with stable temperatures year-round and had furniture such as alcoves, shelving and podium beds built into their structure. With the advent of tourism, their dreamy, edge-of-the-world sea views became even more valuable assets. Many of these cave homes were converted into luxury hotels, rooms and suites that remain Santorini's signature accommodation type. These are some of the best.



Andronis Luxury Suites

## 2. Andronis Luxury Suites, Oia

### **Best for** splashing out

The fairytale village of Oia has some of the most desirable hotels in Santorini. Leading the pack is Andronis Luxury Suites, whose 29 heavenly, cave-style suites cascade down the cliffs' steep face. Each has its own private pool or Jacuzzi looking out across the cobalt blue of the deeply flooded caldera. First-rate dining at Lycabettus receives an additional uplift via the Andronis Gastronomy Festival, which hosts takeovers by upscale chefs throughout the summer season. Mare Sanus Spa's CBD treatments and multi-day wellness programmes that focus on fitness, nutrition and meditation are other highlights.



Andronis Boutique Hotel

## 9. Andronis Boutique Hotel, Oia

### **Best for** fine dining

Privacy, seclusion and incredible views come as standard at this ever-popular cliffside bolt hole in Oia. All 23 luxurious suites are built into the rock, with many benefitting from desirable features such as cave plunge pools. Beyond these personal sanctuaries, guests can treat themselves to tasting menus or à la carte fine dining at Lauda Restaurant, or stay put to soak up golden hour and sunset views from private terraces. The décor throughout is light and bright to compensate for the cave spaces' windowless nature; walls even bear the dates on which some of the caves were created.