

# Condé Nast Traveller



## The 26 best Greek islands to visit in 2023

*'The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece, eternal summer gilds them yet...'*

BY RACHEL HOWARD AND CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

23 March 2023

Lord Byron was on to something when he waxed lyrical about the Greek islands. But with more than 200 inhabited to choose from, which ones are the very best Greek islands? Here regular isle-hopper Rachel Howard reveals the ones to get in a speedboat for in 2023 (in no particular order), with where to stay recommendations chosen by the editors of *Condé Nast Traveller*.

For more recommendations, see our round up of the [best Greek Islands hotels](#).



Getty Images

# 1. 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 Domaine 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. Most places to stay are concentrated in Oia and Imerovigli, but the inland village of Pyrgos is up-and-coming. Go for a twilight Bellini at Franco's Cafe and visit Emporio, with its smattering of old-school coffee shops and Airbnbs. For a glimpse of [Santorini](#) before the onslaught of cruise ships and Instagrammers, explore the quieter south (but keep your discoveries to yourself).

### **Where to stay in Santorini:**

- For laidback luxury: [Perivolos](#)
- For glamour: [Nobu Hotel](#)
- For romance: [Andronis Boutique Hotel](#)
- For families: [The Vasilicos](#)
- For groups: [Elilia Superior Villa](#) sleeps 8 people
- For something unique: [this cave house](#)

For more recommendations, see our guide to the [best hotels in Santorini](#) and the [best Airbnbs in Santorini](#).