

Greece Trip Cheat Sheet

Top 7 secret-ish islands, a condensed 7-day route, real budget ranges, and insider moves for a calmer Aegean trip.

THE 7 ISLANDS TO SAVE FIRST

1. Tinos - marble villages, dovecotes, pilgrimage lanes, serious Cycladic food, and immediate payoff from Rafina port.
2. Naxos - the itinerary stabilizer: mountain villages, beaches, kitron, inland tavernas, and useful ferry links.
3. Amorgos - cinematic finale: Hozoviotissa Monastery, Chora windmills, deep-blue coves, and slow ferry drama.
4. Iraklia - smallest-feeling Small Cyclades pick for walking, quiet coves, simple port tavernas, and low performance.
5. Schinoussa - soft beaches, slow village meals, and a food-first day trip from Naxos when ferry times cooperate.
6. Ikaria - anti-stress North Aegean energy, thermal springs, local wine, mountain villages, and a stay-awhile rhythm.
7. Tilos - birdlife, quiet beaches, Megalo Chorio, and a Dodecanese feel without the big-island crush.

FAST RULE

Do not build Greece around famous names first. Build around ferry logic, month, and how many hotel changes you can tolerate.

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7 DAYS, NO ISLAND-COLLECTING

Condensed 7-Day Route

This is the shortcut version of Voyagio's longer Greece route: fewer places done well, with buffers for ferries and wind.

DAY-BY-DAY SPINE

Day 1: Athens Airport or city -> Rafina Port -> Tinos Town. Walk the old lanes, then sunset in Kardiani or Ysternia.

Day 2: Tinos villages by small car: Volax, dovecote country, Pyrgos, Panormos or Rochari. Sleep second night on Tinos.

Day 3: Ferry Tinos -> Naxos. Keep it soft: Kastro lanes, old market, Portara sunset, dinner in Naxos Town.

Day 4: Naxos inland: Temple of Demeter, Halki, Filoti, Apeiranthos, Rotonda sunset if reserved.

Day 5: Small Cyclades day from Naxos. Pick Iraklia for quiet, Schinoussa for food, Koufonisia for bright water.

Day 6: Ferry Naxos -> Amorgos. Chora lanes, Hozoviotissa Monastery, Agia Anna viewpoint if time allows.

Day 7: Amorgos -> Piraeus. Treat the long return as part of the trip; do not book a tight international flight after it.

IF THE SEA SAYS NO

Swap Day 5 for Eggares Olive Press, Amitis or Alyko beach, and a relaxed Naxos Town dinner. Protect Amorgos or Athens return first.

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Budget Snapshot

Use these planning ranges before live quotes. Prices swing by month, ferry type, room quality, and booking lead time.

CORE RANGES, EXCLUDING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Lean solo: EUR 780-1,050 for guesthouses, buses, simple meals, economy ferries, and limited taxis.

Comfort couple: EUR 1,250-1,850 per person for good rooms, two car days, strong food budget, and sensible seats.

Soft-luxury: EUR 2,100+ per person for sea-view rooms, private transfers, upgraded ferry comfort, and flexible dining.

LINE ITEMS TO SANITY-CHECK

Ferries: about EUR 150-260 per person for four main legs, depending on high-speed vs conventional boats.

Rooms: shoulder-season comfort rooms often EUR 75-150/night for two; peak summer can run EUR 130-260+.

Food: breakfast EUR 5-10, taverna lunch EUR 12-22, dinner EUR 22-45 per person with wine/shared plates.

Cars: small automatic from EUR 45-90/day in shoulder season; more in peak. Rent only on Tinos and Naxos if rushed.

Experiences: museums/tastings EUR 0-12; private marble, food, or driving experiences roughly EUR 35-95+.

SPEND / SAVE

Spend on the Naxos car day and Amorgos room location. Save on beach clubs, port meals with views only, and unnecessary Athens transfers.

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10 Insider Addresses & More GREECE

Use this as the practical hit list: names, route habits, and small decisions that keep the trip calm.

THE HIT LIST

1. Itan Ena Mikro Karavi, Tinos Town - polished Cycladic cooking; reserve in summer.
2. To Thalassaki, Ysternia Bay - first-night seafood splurge if timing and budget fit.
3. Pyrgos square, Tinos - coffee and galaktoboureko after the Marble Crafts Museum.
4. Doukato, Naxos old town - reliable dinner in the lanes after ferry day.
5. Metaxi Mas, Naxos Town - useful meze rhythm when you want unfussy local food.
6. Rotonda near Apeiranthos - book for a view-led late lunch or sunset meal.
7. Vallindras Distillery, Halki - quick kitron stop that anchors the Naxos inland day.
8. Small Cyclades rule - choose one island by mood, not rankings: Iraklia quiet, Schinoussa food, Koufonisia water.
9. TranzisToRaki, Amorgos Chora - small plates after monastery/windmill time; go early or reserve.
10. Hozoviotissa Monastery, Amorgos - covered shoulders/knees, water for the steps, quiet voice inside.

48-HOUR CHECKLIST

Re-check ferry and bus times, screenshot tickets and hotel addresses, keep EUR 80-120 cash, download offline maps, and confirm which Amorgos port your ferry uses.

WANT THE FULL ROUTE?

Upgrade to Voyagio's Greece Off the Beaten Path guide for the full 20-page itinerary, expanded food list, ferry notes, map searches, and booking checklist.

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