

Athens, Mykonos, Santorini, and Crete top spots for newlyweds

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The Hellenic Voice

Nothing tops off a Greek wedding more fittingly than a honeymoon in Greece. But where are the best places for newlyweds? And what's the right balance between "see all the sites" and "never leave the resort?"

Of course, it all depends on the couple and what they want. And where one or both partners are of Greek descent, the opportunity to reconnect with their heritage and even family are often factors to consider in planning.

We spoke with Mina Agnos, vice president of sales and client services for Travel2Greece (www.travel2greece.com), for some tips on what to look for in a honeymoon in Greece.

What are your top 5 to 10 most popular honeymoon destinations? Why?

Athens, Mykonos, Santorini and Crete are our most popular honeymoon destinations. They make for an exciting itinerary as each destination offers something unique.

In Athens there are wonderful archaeological sites mixed in with a modern and fast-paced city. We include private cultural tours for our guests to spend a day with an Athenian who will share the city with them. As such, they are able to enjoy the city as a local would, not just as a tourist.

Mykonos offers beautiful beaches, great night-life,



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and excellent restaurants. It is a true jet-set and cosmopolitan destination where people from around the world feel comfortable and excited. The island atmosphere and the beauty of the beaches and Mykonos town offer North American guests something that is very different from where they came from.

The island of Santorini is known for romance and beautiful sunsets. Our honeymooners agree. Santorini has a landscape that is very unique and that oozes romance. The island also offers exciting attractions that connect guests with the local culture: cooking classes, wine tasting in the vineyards, private day cruises. There are also many small villages to explore where

you can mix in with the locals.

Crete and the Cretans are known for the hospitality. Crete is where we find our honeymoon guests have the deepest connection with the locals. Because it is a large island, and one where many Cretans live and reside year round, there are more localized activities for honeymooners. We often hear from our guests that they were invited to private homes for dinners or holiday celebrations, or that the "yiayia" from across the street brought home-made sweets to share.

Honeymooners also like to add a private (crewed) yacht charter to their itinerary. Yachting is a great way to see the islands. Greece and her islands have so many beautiful

locations not accessible by road which makes yachting an ideal experience. Greece is known for its blue seas and spending time navigating them is always extremely satisfying and absolutely unforgettable.

For newlyweds in Greece, what do you recommend as the right balance between "visit every site" and "never leave the resort?"

The right balance varies per couple. Each couple is so unique – and their experience should be too. The

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best way to proceed is to determine what is really of interest to the couple and to try and target those interests. If it is history and archaeology, then we may arrange a multi day Classical tour. If our guests are "foodies" we send them to private cooking classes, excellent restaurants and to wineries to experience Greek wines. If the couple wants to relax all day, we may pre-book seabed and lunch at a different beach each day and add a private sailboat charter for a day.

What kinds of expectations/hopes do Greek Americans who honeymoon in Greece have that non-Greeks might not have?

Greek-American couples tend to expect more of a cultural experience – a connection with their roots. This is especially true with couples of mixed heritage. In this case, the Greek American wants to really share the culture and heritage with their new spouse.

Describe the range of honeymoon packages you offer, from simplest to most complex, from least expensive to most expensive.

At Travel2Greece you set the date and you select the service. We do not offer set packages with set prices. Each of our packages is created for the client.

Our packages tend to range from 7-14 days and include Athens plus one to three islands and possibly a private yacht charter. They include private tours and personalized services. Hotels are hand selected for each couple based on their preferences and budget.

We do offer suggested itineraries in which guests can choose their hotel location and class of service. The most popular of which are the Hellenic Beauty (two nights Athens, four nights Mykonos, four nights Santorini) and the Aegean Escape (two nights Athens, three nights Mykonos, three nights Santorini, four nights Crete). Most of our guests prefer to customize their honeymoons as such, we do not have set USD rates.