

Escape completely.

PRINCESS PATTER

A daily guide to cruise activities 

SANTORINI • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008 • GRAND PRINCESS
Sunrise 7:13am • Sunset 7:01pm • Tonight's Dress: Smart Casual

Welcome to Santorini



Did the catastrophic volcanic eruption that ravaged Santorini circa 1600 BC destroy Crete's ancient Minoan civilization and give birth to the myth of Atlantis? In 1967, archaeologists on Santorini unearthed the remains of a Bronze Age city that may have been home to as many as 30,000 people. Whether the Lost Continent of Atlantis is

rooted in myth or reality, an undisputed fact remains. The eruption created a caldera and one of the most dramatic land and seascapes in the entire Mediterranean. On Santorini, white washed buildings cling to vertiginous cliffs that plunge to a turquoise sea. Part of the Cyclades Archipelago, the three island group of Santorini, Thirasia and uninhabited Aspronisi present the traveler with unforgettable vistas.

Tender Information For Passengers Not On Tour

To avoid overcrowding at the tender embarkation area and to avoid discomfort standing in line waiting for a tender to take you ashore, we will be operating an organized tender ticket system on arrival. **When you and your complete party are ready to go ashore, please proceed to the Michelangelo, Deck 5 and collect a tender ticket from the Cruise Staff who will be in attendance from 7:15am.** Once in the lounge, a member of the Cruise Staff will direct you to the next available tender. This is for your comfort and your safety. There may be a slight delay at peak morning times. Tenders operate on a continuous service back to the ship and no tickets are required for the return journey. **Last tender boat departs shoreside at 5:30pm.** For tour information, please refer to page three of the Princess Patter.

FROM THE NAVIGATOR



After dropping off our local pilot the Grand Princess set various southwesterly courses into the Aegean Sea throughout the night, passing various Greek Islands along the way. In the early hours of the morning, the Grand Princess will alter to a more westerly course as we make our final approaches towards the northern entrance to our anchorage at Santorini. The island of Santorini is formed from an extinct volcano which exploded leaving the remains we see today. The anchorage is on a pinnacle on the crater floor, with the bottom shelving steeply to depths of over 300 meters. Once the vessel has been anchored, tender operations will commence shortly afterwards, to the village of Thira. In the afternoon, we will weigh anchor and set courses out of the bay, towards Naples. We will transit the southern Aegean during the evening making westerly courses towards the Ionian Sea.

WEATHER:

Wind: South easterly gentle breeze
Temperature: 25°C / 77°C
Sky: Sunny
Sea State: Slight seas

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Events and activities not to be missed

ENTERTAINMENT

PRINCESS THEATER

Promenade, Decks 6 & 7 Forward

8:45pm

(Show will repeated tomorrow
at 8:30pm & 10:30pm)

THE PRODUCTION SHOW "DO YOU WANNA DANCE"

The latest dance spectacular!

Starring: THE GRAND PRINCESS
SINGERS & DANCERS

MC: Cruise Director Paul

ENTERTAINMENT

VISTA LOUNGE

Promenade Deck 7 Aft

8:00pm & 10:00pm

BIG BAND DANCE DATE

With the Grand Princess Orchestra

8:30pm & 10:30pm

VARIETY SHOWTIME

Starring: International Comedian

RIKKI JAY

Dynamic Singer & Entertainer

HELEN JAYNE

Back with brand new shows!

MC: Deputy Cruise Director Stu

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

There are **two ports** used on the Island of Santorini. One is the port of Athinios which is used **only for tour passengers**, as it is the only port on the island which has road access for coaches. The other is the Skala Fira Port which serves Fira town **for independent passengers**. If you are on an afternoon tour and decide to go ashore in the morning independently, you will be tendered into Fira town. Please allow enough time to return to the ship (35-45 mins) to meet onboard at the meeting times specified on page 3, in order to then be tendered into Athinios. You will be unable to meet your tour if you do not return to the ship first.



GREECE AT A GLANCE

SIZE: 51,146 square miles, about the size of Alabama

POPULATION: 10,706,290
(July 2007 est.)

LANGUAGE: Greek

CAPITAL: Athens

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Presidential
Parliamentary Republic

CURRENCY: Euro

TIME ZONE: GMT +2

The islands of the Cyclades comprise one of the most enchanting parts of Greece, and Santorini may be the prettiest of the Cyclades.

It seems ironic that such a tranquil island might have destroyed one of Europe's earliest civilizations.

Before there were civilized towns anywhere else in Greece, a mysterious group called the Minoans built a very highly developed culture on the large island of Crete. Although we cannot read their written language, we know that the Minoans travelled and traded throughout the Mediterranean. They were skilled at making bronze tools and knives, but seemed to have no interest in larger weapons.

For hundreds of years, they constructed huge, intricately designed palaces with polychrome pottery, indoor plumbing, and brightly colored wall paintings. Unlike Egyptian art, the Minoans' decorative art is so free and natural that it looks quite modern. Features of the Minoan civilization were adopted by other peoples, including Trojans and Greek speaking Mycenaeans, who set the stage for

what we call the "Classical Greek" age. But it all came to an end for reasons still unclear.

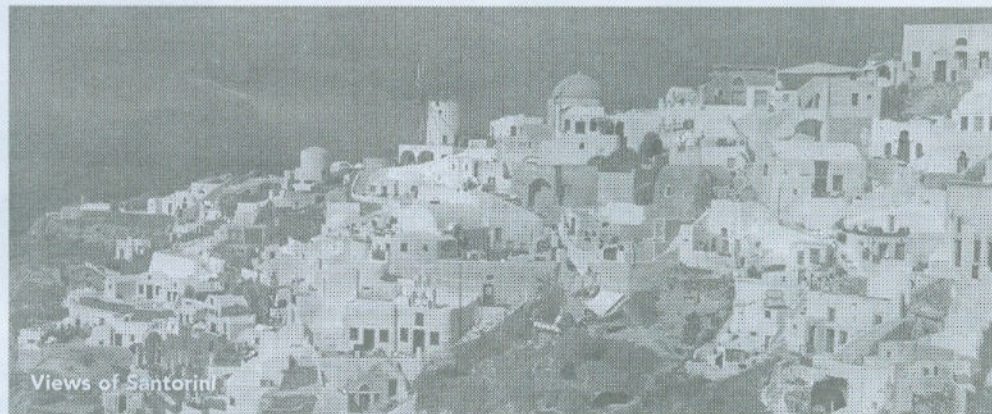
Santorini today is shaped like a fishhook. Centuries ago it was called Thera, and was shaped like a neat, round cone. But that cone was formed by a volcano, and sometime before 1600 B.C., Thera erupted. Scientists believe that the center exploded out of the island and the resulting tidal wave may have sent a wall of water crashing over Minoan cities along the northern coast of Crete. Whether it was Thera or not, something weakened the Minoans so badly that their civilization never recovered, and their influence died out.

Excavations beginning in 1967 have uncovered a large settlement at Akrotiri, on the southern hook of this island, with a culture very similar to the Minoans'. Since no preserved bodies were found, the inhabitants may have been able to escape from the island before the final disaster. This community was large enough to accommodate 30,000 people.

ABOUT YOUR PORT GUIDE

This is your guide to Santorini, specially prepared by Princess Cruises. This guide is intended to assist you if you are on a shore excursion, touring independently or doing both.

Please note that the information provided is general in nature and is subject to change.



Views of Santorini

Probably the best-preserved site discovered dates from the Bronze Age; the settlement is unique in the archaeological world. It appears to have been destroyed and covered with volcanic debris, which actually preserved the buildings and artifacts from further deterioration. Professor Spyros Marinatos, the archaeologist who excavated the town, speculates that there may even have been a large land mass between Thera and Crete, which sank into the sea after the eruption. Could this have been the lost continent of Atlantis, described in Greek literature?

After its most famous eruption, the island was repopulated and recovered quickly. The Egyptians used the sheltered harbor as a forward base for their fleet of galleys. There are also many remnants of Roman buildings and early Christian churches. The current name of the island comes from its patroness, Saint Irene of Thessalonika, who died here in 304. The Venetians called her Sant'Irini, and the name stuck. Before the Turks evicted them, the Venetian navy controlled Santorini and the other Cyclades for more than 300 years. There are more

Catholic churches here than in the rest of Greece, where the prevailing religion is Greek Orthodox.

The present capital is the town of Thera, also called Thira and Fira. The cliffs surrounding the town are of special interest, since they show levels of volcanic debris laid down after each eruption. You will see different colored layers of lava, slag, ash and pumice stone, providing a gentle reminder that earthquakes and volcanic activity continue to be a reality here. The last eruption was in 1948. Santorini is on the same fault line as Stromboli, Vesuvia, and Etna.

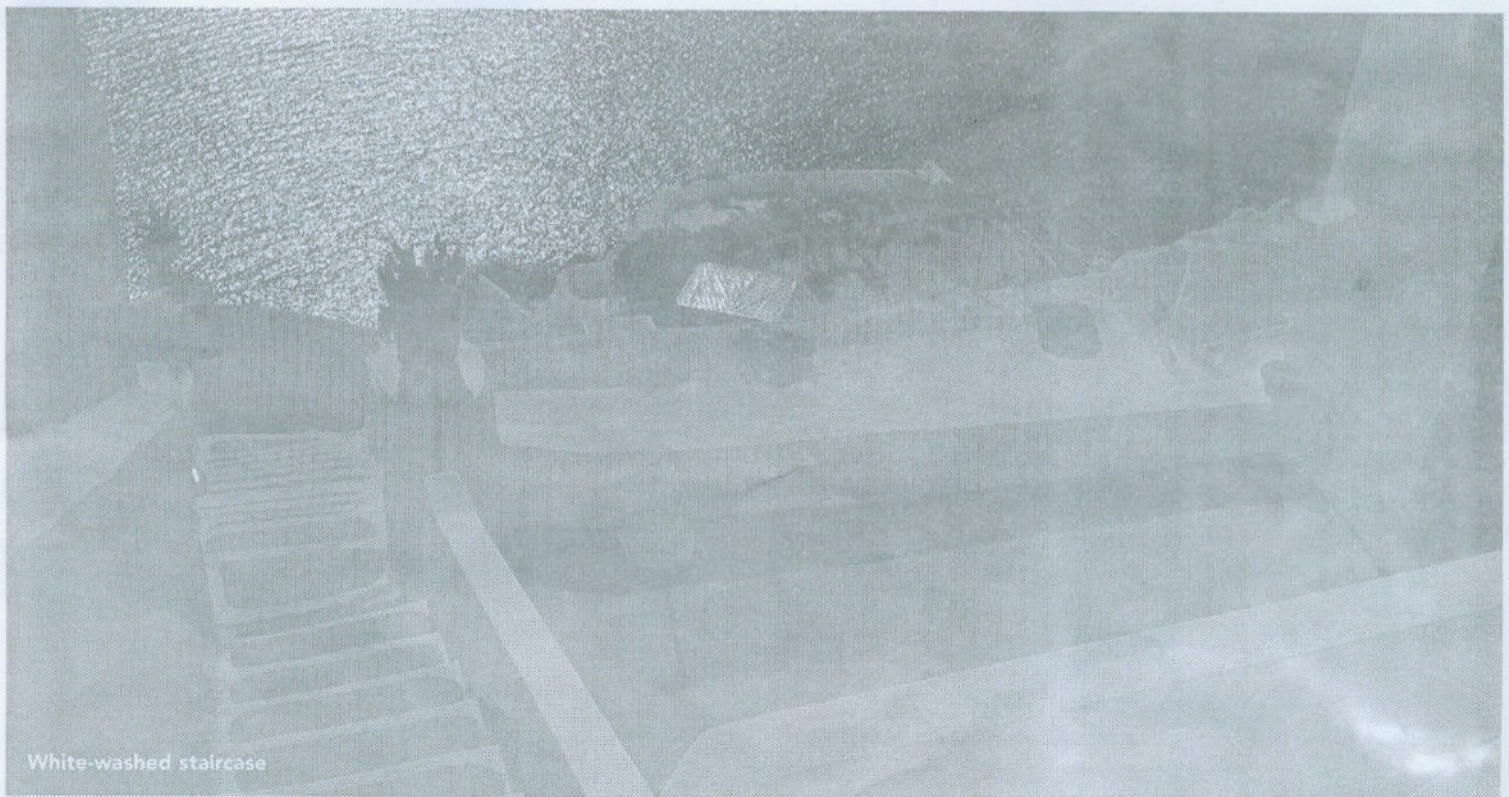
Views from this picturesque town are especially beautiful, such as the panorama from the Orthodox Cathedral. The new Archeological Museum displays materials from the excavations at Akrotiri, as well as later artifacts from the Mycenaean and Roman periods. Parts of the city have been recently rebuilt, following the earthquake of 1956.

On your way to Akrotiri, you will see the highest point on the island, which is

marked by the Monastery of the Prophet Elijah. According to the Bible, that zealous prophet experienced storms, fire, and earthquakes, but then found God only in the whispering of a gentle breeze. This monastery's location on Santorini makes such a story especially appropriate.

On the eastern shore of the island, near the towns of Kamari and Perissa, there are sweeping beaches of black sand from previous volcanic activity. Close by are the ruins of Ancient Thera, which was founded in the 9th century B.C. There are ruins of a two-part Agora, or marketplace, as well as the residential district. You will also find a temple dedicated to Apollo, and a gymnasium terrace for young men doing their military service. A small shrine cut out of rock honors the Egyptian gods Isis, Serapis, and Anubis, a reminder of the Egyptian presence here during the Ptolemaic period.

Santorini provides a wonderfully diverse spectrum of the history of the Aegean region. While it might seem strange that violence and serenity can exist so closely together, this paradox shows us something of the contrasts of the Greek world.



White-washed staircase

Places of Interest

The island has had a number of names throughout history — from Strongyle or "Round" to Thera in honor of an ancient hero. Santorini is more recent and stems from the island church dedicated to St. Irene — Santa Rini to foreign sailors.

AKROTIRI

An archaeological team uncovered the remains of a Bronze Age city here in 1967. Pottery discovered at the site link the ruins with Minoan Crete. Please note: This site is closed for major repairs until further notice.

FIRA

Santorini's largest town is a village of dazzlingly whitewashed houses clinging to steep volcanic cliffs. Accessible only by foot, Fira's narrow cobblestone lanes lead uphill past shops, homes and cafés to a cable car.

THE MOUNTAIN OF PROPHET ELIJAH

Santorini's highest point towers 2,000-feet above the sea and offers panoramic views of the island.

PANAGIA EPISKOPI CHURCH

Dating from the 11th century, the oldest Byzantine church on the island has survived pirates, earthquakes, eruptions and fire.

LOCAL WINERIES

Santorini's rich volcanic soil and the rare assyrtiko grape combine to produce a world renowned wine.

OIA

Perched atop cliffs at Santorini's northernmost point, this small village has managed to escape the onslaught of modern tourism. Its narrow, cobblestone lanes reveal brilliantly whitewashed buildings, shops, cafés and domed churches.

AGHIOS NEKTARIOS

This striking church sports a blue and white façade with stone latticework and an octagonal cupola.

KAMARI

Today, the ancient port of Thera is a large tourist resort famed for its dramatic black sand beach, unique in the Greek islands.

CALDERA VIEWPOINT

Santorini's three islands form the visible rim of a caldera left by a massive volcanic eruption circa 1600 B.C.

NEA KAMENI VOLCANO CRATER

That volcanic explosion left a round cusp of island with two islets on the opposite side. It is believed that 200-meter tsunamis destroyed the Minoan Civilization on Crete over 70 miles away. In fact, pieces of Santorini have been as far away as Scandinavia.

Practical Information

ANCHORAGE

Your Princess ship anchors in Santorini. The tender transit time is approximately 10 minutes each way. A cable car operates from the tender dock up to the town of Fira.

SHORE EXCURSION DEPARTURES

Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter for the correct place and time.

TAXIS

Limited taxis are available in Fira. Taxis only accept euros.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Santorini reflects the folk traditions of the island. You'll find good buys in:

Leather: Particularly sandals and bags

Pottery: Unique designs in bright colors

Reproductions: Early bronzes, figurines and vase paintings

Jewelry: High-quality gold and silver

The nearest shopping is in the town of Fira.

OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Banks: National Bank and Commercial Bank in Fira Town are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Shops: Open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Post Office: The nearest post office is in Fira. Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PROPER ATTIRE

Please wear proper attire ashore when planning to visit churches, cathedrals and other sacred places. Shorts for both men and women are considered improper. Women should also cover their bare shoulders.

LOCAL CUISINE

Food Specialties

Eating is a lively social activity in the Cyclades. Popular foods include:

Tarmosalata: Smoked fish roe

Keftedes: Spicy meatballs

Dolmades: Vine or cabbage leaves wrapped around savory rice and sometimes mincemeat, often served with an egg and lemon sauce

Drink Specialties

Santorini is known for its wines, the most famous brand Boutari. It also produces a sweet dessert wine called Vinsanto, meaning Holy Wine, which is quite delicious. It is always recommended that you drink bottled water while in port.

TIPPING

Suggested tipping is 15 to 20 percent for good service.

SOME USEFUL WORDS

YesMalista or Ne

NoOchi

PleaseParakalo

Thank YouEfcharisto

Good MorningKalimera

CLIMATE

The climate in Santorini is typical of the Mediterranean climate: extended periods of sunshine throughout most of the year, relatively warm and dry summers and mild and rainy winters. Summer temperatures average over 80 degrees F and winter temperatures average 54 degrees F. The sun can be fierce; it is recommended to bring sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat and wear clothes with sleeves you can roll down.

PRINCESS CRUISES AGENTS

In case of emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

Inchcape Shipping Services

c/o Damigos Tours

Fira Town, 84700

Santorini

GREECE

84700

Telephone: 30 22860 23910

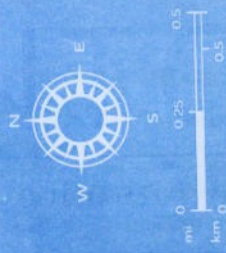
Telefax: 30 22860 23950



Local beach



Santorini



© Maps.com, 2008
*Map not to scale

Agean Sea



Santorini

SHIP

FIRA

Skala

NEA KAMENI
VOLCANO CRATER

Pelaea
Kaimena

Aspronisi

Athinios

Pyrgos

Episkopi

Kamari

Perissa

Emporio

Akrotiri

Megalochori

MOUNTAIN OF
PROPHET ELIJAH

Therasia

Sea of Crete