Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

**DAY 1**

**Arrival day, short walking tour of Athens, Welcome dinner**

We'll meet at the Athens International Airport for a 4:00 pm group shuttle from Athens Airport to our hotel. That evening we'll meet with our local guide for a short walking tour of Athens and then share a welcome dinner in a traditional Greek tavern in Plaka, the old part of Athens, overlooking the Acropolis. Overnight Hotel Acropolis / Hotel Philippos or similar. (D)

**DAY 2**

**Half day sightseeing tour of Athens, flight to Paros**

After breakfast, a half day sightseeing tour of the Acropolis with a professional guide will introduce us to one of the crowning glories of Greek culture. At the top we learn about the history of the various monuments of the Acropolis (the Parthenon, Erechtheion, Propylaea, and Nike Temple) as well as the surrounding monuments (the Dionysus sanctuary, Pnyx Hill, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, and the Ancient Agora). We will spend some extra time at the Parthenon, the finest sanctuary of ancient Athens, originally dedicated to its patron the goddess Athena. We will then continue our tour with a visit to the New Acropolis Museum. The walk is 10 minutes along a beautiful pedestrian area that was created around the Hill of the Acropolis, as a way to join most of the Archaeological Sites of Athens together. Seeing the museum after our visit of the Acropolis really helps "put together" the archaeological site with the findings displayed in the various exhibition areas.

After lunch, we transfer to the Athens airport in order to catch our 40 minute flight to the beautiful island of Paros, our first island. Along the way we'll stop for photos at the Panathinaiko Stadium, the stadium where the first Olympic Games were held in 1896, and the Parliament. Upon arrival in Paros we transfer to our hotel and enjoy our first island dinner. Hotel Kalypso or similar (B, L, D)

**DAY 3**

**Hike from Marathí quarry to Lefkes and on to Prodromas, late afternoon cooking class**

Today, we will begin with a visit to Lefkes village (the old capital of Paros) with its amazing marble church and its (paved) portion of the Byzantine trail with magnificent views to the Aegean Sea and the island of Naxos. We will stop for a traditional Parian lunch at the village of Prodromos and then hike towards the cultural village of Marpissa where we will have the opportunity to meet with/shop some of the local shops operated by local women producing local products. Late afternoon will find us learning some of the secrets of delicious Greek cooking as we participate in a Greek cooking class. We'll learn how to make several authentic Greek dishes, and once the bread is baked and the food cooked, we will enjoy a typical Greek meal. Hotel Kalypso or similar. Total walking/hiking time: 3 - 4 hrs. (B, L, D)

**DAY 4**

**Ferry to Naxos, hike to Ano Potamia, option to hike to Apano Kastro, visit small distillery**

This morning we'll take the ferry to the island of Naxos. Naxos is the largest of the Islands, known for its natural beauty and also its "kouros". Remnants of ancient Greece, kouroi are full-sized statues of male youth which may or may not be related to the god Apollo. After lunch, our hike literally starts in the backyard of a Greek family, at the site of Kouros of Melanes statue. Our hike along an old footpath gradually descends to the picturesque village of Ano Potamia. After refreshing ourselves at the village square, those who choose can continue uphill to the Apano Kastro (Upper Castle). Built in a very strategic position, it commands expansive views of Naxos town and port and surrounding towns. This is the highest point of our hike and about a 400 ft elevation gain. Our hike finishes with an easy walk to the village of Halki and a visit to a small distillery that produces Ktizon, the local specialty liquor. Overnight Naxos Resort or similar. Total hiking time: 3 hours. 4 hours with stop.
DAY 5

Climb Mt Zeus, hike to Filoti, free afternoon

We start today with a drive to the little chapel at Santa Marina. Today's hike is to the summit of Mt. Zeus, the highest point in the Cyclades, with incredible panoramic views from the summit. The ascent and descent take about 3 hours including ample time for pictures and stories at the top. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch in the courtyard around the little chapel before continuing our hike along a road to the village of Filoti, the second-largest town on Naxos. From there we are transported back to our hotel and have the rest of the afternoon free for swimming or visiting the old part of Naxos town. If you prefer not to hike, spending the day relaxing and wandering through town or swimming are excellent options. Dinner is on our own tonight and our Greek guide can suggest a favorite, or you can choose one of the many quaint taverns as you wander the narrow streets of the town. Overnight Naxos Resort or similar. Total hiking time: 3 hours, 4 hours with stops. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Relaxed morning, ferry to Santorini, visit Acrotiri

Time for a relaxed morning and lingering over breakfast. Today we take a ferry to the fairest island of the Cyclades, Santorini. Santorini, probably the best known of the Cyclades, was shaped by a huge volcanic eruption in 2000 B.C. that destroyed the town in the central part of the island and left a huge crater behind. Upon arrival we'll have time to settle into our hotel before visiting Acrotiri, a Bronze Age Minoan settlement also called the "Greek Pompeii". Upon our return we'll meet for the sunset over the volcano and share a delicious dinner, sampling some of the local foods of Santorini. Overnight Astir Thira or similar. (B, D)

DAY 7

Hike from Fira to Oia, Final dinner

Today we hike to the picturesque village of Oia. The hike goes along the rim of Caldera (the collapsed crater) where the picture opportunities are legion. We end up in the village of Oia where we have time to explore its narrow passageways and quaint shops before having lunch and returning to Fira. There may be some free time in the afternoon to visit one of its famous wineries or just wander in its picturesque alleyways and do some shopping. Note: Tomorrow some of you will be heading to Athens for a last evening in that beautiful city. Others of you will be continuing on to Crete for the extension offered. But tonight we'll all celebrate our island hopping tour and our new understanding of Greek life at our final meal all together in a tavern overlooking the caldera! Overnight Pelican Hotel or similar. Total hiking hours: 3.5 - 4.5 hrs. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

Kayak, depart for Athens or Crete

Today we see Santorini from a completely different perspective: the cockpit of a kayak! With the freedom of kayaking we can enjoy views from the sea of spectacular rock formations and crystal blue water. We'll stop at a beautiful beach for swimming and a picnic lunch, kayaking for a total of about 3 hours. No previous kayaking experience is needed, you'll get taught what you need to know to be comfortable in your boat. If you choose not to kayak, you can explore the shops and museums of Santorini on your own.

The late afternoon plan will depend on the time of the flight back to Athens and/or the ferry to Crete (for those of you doing the Crete Extension).

Those of you returning to Athens will share a final dinner in this beautiful Greek city. Overnight Hotel Acropolis / Hotel Philippou or similar. Those of you continuing on to the Crete Extension will arrive in Heraklion and transfer to your hotel for your first dinner in Crete. (B, L, D)
Day 9

Depart anytime or continue on the Crete Extension

If this is the end of your trip, you’re free to leave anytime today. (B)

For a full overview of our optional Crete Extension, please see: https://adventuresingoodcompany.com/images/uploaded/CREX_Trip_Extension.pdf