

# The Best Things To Do in Santorini

## 1. Hike From Fira to Oia



This is the single best thing to do on Santorini – and it's free! The views are incredible. The hike takes somewhere between 2 and 5 hours depending on your speed and how many pictures you take along the way. Start in Fira and move north through Firostefani and then Imerovigli (this part of the path feels more like a village sidewalk). From Imerovigli to Oia it's largely rural with only a few shops or restaurants on this stretch of path. Most people will want to wear a sturdy running shoe for the walk but I've certainly seen people do it in flip flops. The route isn't completely marked but it's fairly intuitive: stay on the path that follows the edge of the caldera and walk north (when in doubt stay to the left/west). Of course, it's fine to do the walk in the opposite direction but it feels more natural (to me) to walk north to Oia and the island's tip. And walking into Oia from the hills above is an awesome finish. If it's July or August I'd highly recommend starting before 8am.

## 2. Santorini Photography Tour



I can not say enough great things about this wonderful tour. It's run by a guy from New Zealand named Olaf. The tour is for small groups of 1 to 4 and he tailors it based on the skill and interests of the group. Are you just figuring how to use your new camera? Olaf's your man. Are you a serious enthusiast looking to find the best shots on Santorini? Olaf knows the places. It's a little expensive but this is a great way to see the island from a number of unique spots. Highly recommended – but book far in advance.

### 3. Cable Car from Old Port to Fira



Walk down the stairs to the Old Port, grab a drink, then take the cable car back up (though you can walk or cable car both ways if you want). From May to October the cable car runs every 20 minutes, 6:30 to 22:00 – a little longer hours in July and August, and a reduced schedule from November until April. It costs 4€ for adults and 2€ for children.

### 4. Santorini Winery Tour



Santorini wine is great, the wineries are beautiful, and the people super friendly. It's a fun and easy way to see the island away from the caldera. A tour is the best way of exploring more than one winery

## 5. Jet Ski Tour to Volcano



A fun and unique way of seeing the caldera. There are different tours that go different places – all leave from Perivolos in the south of the island. Short tours visit nearby Red Beach and White Beach. Longer tours go all the way to the caldera (and volcano) and stop for a swim in the hot springs. Email Wavesports to enquire about openings on required dates: [info@wavesports.gr](mailto:info@wavesports.gr). Staff are friendly and helpful. They also do parasailing, tubing, and water skiing.

## 6. Walk the Volcano



The island in the middle of caldera is Nea Kameni and where you'll find the most active volcano on Santorini. The crater is 130 meters up and takes about 20 minutes to walk to. Sulfur vents are found along the way. The only way to get here is by doing a [volcano boat tour](#) or hiring a chartered boat.

## 7. Ancient Akrotiri



See the village left behind after the devastating volcanic eruption that made the island uninhabitable. The site is very well done and I highly recommend getting a guide to show you around the site and discuss the history of the island, the eruption, and the following destruction. Sometimes there can be guides waiting at the entrance but it's better to [book a good tour guide in advance](#).

## 8. Outdoor Cinema in Kamari



Family-friendly fun (depending on what's playing, of course). Watch a movie outside as the sun sets and the sky grows dark. Wine, beer, and simple snacks available. Movies start around 9:30pm.

## 9. Sunset, Caldera, and Volcano Boat Tour



You can do both the volcano walk and the hot springs as part of a boat tour. Be sure to get a tour that takes in the sunset too. There are also tour options to visit Thirassia (a small populated island that forms part of the caldera ring with Santorini) and Red and Black beach. The boats start from either Athinios port (where the ferries arrive) or the Old Port below Fira (for this you can take the cable car down) and most offer hotel pickup to get you to the boat. All the tour companies are legitimate so buy the tour that suits your needs best as far as timing, interests, and transportation.

## 10. Swim at Ammoudi Bay



One of the best swimming spots on Santorini is down the cliff from Oia at a spot just south of the Ammoudi port. Walk or drive to Ammoudi Bay then take the path that leads south from the restaurants in the port (can't miss it, there's only one way to go). It's a 5 minute walk to a small island (Agios Nikolaos) that you can swim out to. Then jump from the ledge (if you want).

## 12. Explore the Paths, Alleys, and Stairwells of Fira, Firostefani, and Imerovigli



This is similar to the hike from Fira to Oia but instead of staying on the foot path you need to descend, wander, and explore.

## 13. Walk to Skaros Rock



Descend the cliff to the path to Skaros Rock and explore the far side of the outcrop (there's a little church hidden on the far side) and climb to the top of the rock if you're brave enough. Great views too. The path starts just south of Grace Santorini hotel.

#### 14. Explore the Paths, Alleys, and Stairwells of Oia



Oia has even more hidden pathways than Fira. Be sure to get off the main path and explore the magical views you'll stumble upon. A good place to start is to find the restaurant Lotza then take the path down the cliff directly to the right of the restaurant.

#### 15. Perissa Beach



Perissa is the best swimming beach on Santorini and has the nicest sand. Good restaurants are spread along the beach front. Perissa is about a 30 minute drive from Fira and 45 minutes from Oia.

## 16. Ride the Donkeys



Ride the donkeys either from the Old Port up to Fira or from Amoudi Bay up to Oia.

## 17. Explore the Santorini Countryside



This is one of the advantages of renting a car – you can get away from the main towns and explore the beautiful Santorini countryside. The island's small – you can almost always see the sea – but there's lots of farmland (especially in the south) and you can't drive for very long without stumbling across a winery.

### 18. Dinner with a View



The food is often better when you go to a restaurant without a view. But regardless, you have to have dinner with a view of the caldera at least one night while in Santorini.

### 19. Kamari Beach



Good swimming and lots of restaurants. The pedestrian only street along the beach is fun to walk along at night when it gets quite busy.

## 20. Swim in the Hot Springs



Jump from the boat into the cold water of the caldera then swim towards the warm water of the volcanic hot springs. It never gets hot but it's warm enough to never feel the need to get out.

## 21. Emborio & Megalohori traditional villages



On the way to Perissa beach in the south of Santorini you'll find this magical little town. There's almost never any tourists here and though it's small it's still plenty big enough to get good and lost in the tangle of alleyways.

### 23. Watch the Sunset in Oia



Bring a bottle of wine and hang out on the cliffs of Oia watching the sun set. It is busy so be prepared for crowds. Forget about finding a taxi back to Fira or Imerovigli but there are extra buses waiting for the crowds after the sunset so there's often no wait at all.

### 24. The Seafood Restaurants Of Amoudi Bay



Walk down the stairs from Oia to the Ammoudi Port and find a little port with 4 or 5 restaurants serving ridiculously fresh seafood. All the restaurants are good but Ammoudi Taverna is my favorite but they're all good. It's surprisingly quiet down here and you can usually get away without a reservation.

## 26. Museum of Prehistoric Fira



On the main street in Fira this small museum is worth a 45 minute visit. It's not huge but is especially interesting if you visit Akrotiri first.

## 27. Red Beach



Just down the road from the Akrotiri ruins, red beach is the most spectacular and picturesque of any Santorini beach. From the bus stop or car park it's about a 15 minute walk into the beach. Oh, and watch for falling rock.

## 28. Lighthouse on Southern Tip of Santorini



The lighthouse is the destination but the draw is the incredible views looking north into the caldera – very different than the views from Fira or Oia and you can really see the circular nature of the caldera from this vantage point.

## 30. Take the Boat to Thirassia Island



Thirassia forms the western side of the caldera and was connected to Santorini before the volcanic eruption. It's inhabited, has some good tavernas, and is worth the 1€ boat ride to visit. Boats leave several times a day from Ammoudi and the Old Fira port. Last one back is usually around 5pm so plan wisely or you'll be spending the night on the island.

### 31. Santorini Wine Museum



The winery has a 300meter long wine cave that shows the history and development of Santorini wine over the previous 5 centuries. Admission to the museum includes 4 wine tastings from the Koutsoyannopoulos winery.

### 32. Eat Local Farm Food



There are lots of little farms on Santorini and they produce some wonderful local food. A good way to experience this is at the rustic