



SANTORINI TRANSPORTATION TIPS

One Day in a City

Thanks for downloading these printable transportation tips! Hope you find them useful. Stay tuned to your email for more helpful travel tips coming soon. Happy Travels!

-Gina

Since Santorini is an island, you only have two options for getting there: by air or by sea.

By Plane

Most planes into Santorini depart from Athens, Greece, though you can also find some direct flights from other major European cities such as London, England, and Zurich, Switzerland. The flight time is only 45 minutes from Athens to Santorini (Thira) National Airport.

By Ferry

Ferries are the most popular way to get to Santorini, particularly now that high speed ferries have made the trip much faster to get to Santorini from Athens. Athens' port, Piraeus, and many of Italy's eastern ports have ferries to Athens. The trip from Piraeus takes about four to six hours depending on the speed of ferry chosen (higher speed ferries are more expensive). Popular ferry lines into Santorini are Blue Star and Sea Jets. Both offer regular and high speed ferry options. Prices start from €35 and go up depending on the speed of the ferry and the seat location.

By Cruise

Many Mediterranean cruises stop in Santorini. Due to Santorini's small harbor, most cruise ships must tender passengers in, which means the ship will dock hundreds of meters away and take people in by boat. On larger cruise ships, this means you'll need to get a number for when it's your turn to get off the ship on the smaller boat. If your cruise ship is tendering in Santorini, find out when and where they will be handing numbers out and get there early – otherwise you'll risk losing an hour or more in port.

GETTING AROUND SANTORINI

Public transportation in Santorini is hard to come by. Taxis aren't always readily available when you want them, and the bus system is slow with long periods of time at each stop in between pickups. Your best bet for getting around Santorini and seeing as much as possible in one day is renting a car, a 4-wheeler, or a scooter. There are pros and cons to each.

Car

If you're weary of getting on a motorcycle-type vehicle, then put your mind at ease and get a car. Most cars in Santorini are manual and you'll be paying substantially more for an automatic. The roads of Santorini are very narrow so a car can be hard to maneuver around the island, but if you drive cautiously you shouldn't have any problems getting around. Another bonus of driving is that parking is surprisingly easy to come by. The beaches have parking lots and popular Oia offers street parking above the town, though you may have to walk a bit to get to the center of the city from your parking spot. Night parking can be harder to find, particularly if you're staying in Fira, Firostefani, or Imerovigli. If you're spending the night on the island, check with your hotel to see if they have parking spots and if not, where they recommend you park. If flying, renting and dropping off your car at the airport is easiest or taking a taxi to Fira to rent a vehicle. If arriving by sea, the easiest place to rent is in Fira.

4-Wheeler / Scooter

The easiest way for getting around the island if your stomach can handle it is on a 4-wheeler or scooter since it can easily maneuver Santorini's narrow roads and finding parking close to your destination is usually pretty easy. Most people can easily figure out and safely ride a 4-wheeler, even if it's their first time. A scooter takes a bit more practice to get the hang of so if you've never ridden one before and only have a day in Santorini, hold off on renting one for a day when you have more time to master it.

GETTING TO THE TOP OF THE CALDERA

Before you can rent a mode of transportation, however, you must get up the caldera if traveling by sea. Santorini has two ports: Athinios and Skala Pier (the Old Port). The one place it's easy to find a taxi in Santorini is at Athinios, and a taxi is also the fastest way to get up to Fira, which is where it's best to start your day in Santorini due to its central location at the top of the caldera. If you arrive into Skala Pier, you have additional options: a cable car ride or a donkey ride. Choose the cable ride as there have been reports that the donkeys are mistreated and overworked. The cable car is also the best way to get down the caldera at the end of your time on the island. You can also walk up and down the caldera if you're really feeling adventurous, but be warned it's a steep walk and you'll be dodging donkeys along the way.