

ravel

LIKE A

IN GREECE

Where I Stayed - Santorini

- My First stop in Greece was in Santorini. Santorini has several islands, which are Thira, Oia, Imerovigli just to name a few. I stayed at <u>Adronis Suites in</u> Oia and <u>Divine Cave Experience</u> in Imerovigli.
- First, I booked a three night stay at Adronis Boutique Hotel for 1k USD a night. The hotel was beautiful. I stayed in the Petite Suite, which was the cheapest room available.



This hotel definitely passed the test as far as cleanliness, views and hotel staff. However, after 3 days I decided to check out. This hotel is located right next to the blue dome churches which are famous in Santorini. Because of that, literally each day, just to leave the hotel for food, I had to push past crowds of other tourists and homeless people, which was annoying to say the least. However, I recommend Adronis and the island of Oia in particular for any



woman who is just starting her solo travel journey because the amount of tourists are overwhelming; therefore, a woman on her first solo trip wouldn't feel like she's standing out, as everyone else is a tourist as well.

Another thing that a first time female solo traveler may like is that people are partying outside the Adronis hotel in the streets all night long. So again, street traffic, and lots of tourists.



At 2 A.M. I could hear party goers outside cheering etc. To be honest, I was totally over it.

I've lived in three different countries abroad and I really hate too many tourists as I want to have more local experiences. I'm also a true loner, so I don't like too much crowds, noise or people. By day 3, I was happily ready to check out, as this area was very touristy.

Where I Stayed - Sanotini

The next hotel I checked into in Santorini was <u>Divine Cave Experience</u>. This hotel was epic and was my absolute favorite. However, THERE WAS ZERO WIFI SERVICE.

Divine Cave Suites was about 40 minutes away from Oia, and so far away from the crowds and noise that I had finally found the peace I was looking for. The rooms were so immaculate. The hotel is built



to mimic a cave, and from the time you enter the driveway, you know that you're living in the lap of luxury.

Check in wasn't until 3 P.M. and the hotel provided me with a non alcholic welcome drink, had me select the breakfast for the next morning, (which was served in bed each morning) and I waited at the pool for an hour or so until the room was ready.

Mhere J Stayed Santorini

Once the room was ready I was given a tour of my suite, which was The Grand Divine Suite. The Grand Divine Suite costs \$1,100 USD for each night. The suite has steps that take you upstairs to a private jacuzzi, overlooking the caldera. The food was not included, and dinner each night costs about \$40 USD which included grilled shrimp with rice, and a cocktail. My favorite cocktail here was The Divine.

Mhere J Stayed San

I seriously loved everything about Divine Cave Suites and although the wifi was NON EXISTENT, each room comes with a private daybed assigned to each room, and they even arranged for me to go to the spa, and had Rose' wine and a fruit platter for me to enjoy while at the spa. The spa is also free to use after 5 P.M. so each day after 5 until about midnight you can access the spa at no cost.

Where I Stayed-Jos

After staying at Divine Cave Suites for 3 days, I then went to the beautiful island of Ios, and stayed at a the most beautiful resort in my life, which was <u>Calilo</u>. Off all the islands, I loved this one THE MOST. Way better than Santorini Way less crowned, beautiful beaches, and felt like a slice of heaven. I stayed at for three days, and it was the most serene three days of my life . The owner of Calilo purchased 30% of the island of Ios to conserve it, and complete every piece of art displayed throughout the hotel.

Mhere J Stayed-Jos

the hotel has several swings over the pools, and some of the dinner tables are built into the pool, so it really has the feel of a tropical resort. The staff were better than any place I've ever stayed at in my life. And I've been to nearly 60 countries. There were paintings all over the hotel with the word "love". I could go on and one about this place.

Now lets get into the price tag......

Mhere J Stayed-Jos

The room I booked was \$1657 USD!!!! For ONE NIGHT!! But the hotel was so beautiful, and I only live once (I think) so I decided to just go for it. I stayed in the two bedroom suite, called The Afterglow Suite. This hotel is beachfront and is a low key love museum if you ask me.



The company I used for the dress was <u>@santorini flying dress</u> on IG \$400 for one hour. The photographer was <u>@drobotenko.s</u> on IG

ransportation

From Santorini Airport to Adronis Hotel was 50 Euro, which is \$60 USD, which was arranged by Adronis. From there, it was 50 Euro to get to Divine Suites.

ransportation Continued

From Divine it was 50 Euro to the port of Ios. From the port of Ios to Calilo was 70 Euro each way. So in case you haven't noticed, Greece is NOT a budget trip. I purcahsed my ferry tickets to island hop with <u>Ferry Hopper</u>.

Covid Testing To Get Home

I was tested at Divine Cave Suites and the doctor performed my covid test while I was in the jacuzzi. I was given a patient number and the results were recived in 4 hours. The test was 50 Euro.

Things o Jo

I did the four hour Sunset Cruise arranged by Divine Cave Suites for 100 Euro, and it was absolutely amazing. We stopped at several different islands, they fed us dinner, gave us lots of wine, and there was only 10 other people on the boat. The company was called <u>Santorini Sailing Tours</u> if you'd like to book separately. Transportation included.

Things o Jo

The following night, I did horseback riding on the beach, which was a two hour excursion on a black sand beach and cost 90 Euro. Transportation to and from Divine Cave Suites was included in the price.

The hotel also offered a winery experince for 100 Euro but I just wanted to spend the last night in the jacuzzi and watching the sunset. So I didn't experience it for myself.

Things o Jo

Another activity to try is to rent ATV's and drive around the island. The best place to do this, is in a part of Santorini called Thira. I personally did not rent the ATV's but the two girls on my boat tour did, and invited me to their hotel in Thira to ride with them. Thira, just like Oia, is super touristy and is the closest part of the island to the airport and ferry. I saw graffiti, a cannabis shop called Volcano Cannabis Shop, and thought, okay, Thira seems "urban".

Instagrammable hoto ocations

The famous Blue Dome Churches are everywhere, so don't feel pressured to be photgraphed in Oia. We started at 7 am to beat the crowds and there was still a line. Therefore, you can try other blue dome churches in a less touristy place like Imerovigli.

Also, Calilo Hotel in Ios is VERY instagrammable.

Places o Eat

FOR BREAKFAST

When I stayed at Adronis Hotel, I walked next door and had the best praline pancakes with caramel and Nutella, along with eggs and fresh orange juice for \$40 USD every morning.

Places o Eat

FOR LUNCH AND DINNER I ATE AT **DIVINE CAVE SUITES AND CALILO** HOTEL. As I mentioned before, dinner was just as pricey as the hotel rooms. Shrimp with rice was about \$25 USD at Divine Cave Suites, and at Calilo, the food portions were so small that later that night, I went into my luggage to eat my stash snacks that I purchased from the airport because I was starving. Dinner at Calilo was okay, but for the price tag of the room, it

Places o Eat

should've been better. The drinks at Divine Cave Suites and Calilo were also both expensive. The Divine drink was 17 Euro, and the polynesian colada at Calilo was 24 USD!!

Entry Lequirements

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

DIRECTLY FROM THE U.S.

EMBASSY HERE

HERE ARE ADDITIONAL COVID
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS LISTED
BY THE GREECE GOVT
DIRECTLY

(S. Embassy Info

<u>Address: Vasilissis Sofias 91, Athina 115 21</u> <u>Phone: 21 0721 2951</u>