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Your Premier Source for Outdoor Adventures!

The Northwest Passage

Exploratory Naxos to Santorini Sea Kayaking, Greece

Elite Sea Kayaking Adventure

Trip Itinerary

Trip Details:

2010 Dates: September 12-19 **ONE DATE ONLY!**

2011: September 11-18

2010 Cost: \$3,095 (from Naxos, Greece) **Single supplement:** \$475 (if required \$275)

Price includes: Guides, ground transportation, support vehicle, lodging, most meals (breakfasts and all but one dinner), all kayaking equipment, instruction and entry fee into ruins.

Price does not include: Air or ferry to Naxos, ferry tickets during the program, lunches, drinks and one dinner, personal clothing and accessories, full medical, baggage and trip cancellation insurance, airport taxes and gratuities.

Skill Level: 4 – Your level of skill and physical conditioning must be high as you may encounter adverse conditions that will test your abilities. You will test your limits. Trip specific preparation is required and you must obtain the consent of the trip leader to participate.

Documentary Requirements: A valid US passport is required for all US citizens. Non US citizens should contact their nearest Greek embassy for requirements.

Thank you for joining us on this exploratory sea kayaking adventure to the Island's of Naxos and Santorini. For over 25 years, The Northwest Passage has been exploring the farthest corners of our globe. We are overjoyed in your commitment to continue that journey. As adventurous souls you will find the opportunity rewarding on so many levels. The Northwest Passage encourages you to be flexible throughout our journey; please do not hesitate to share questions or concerns.

Day 1 – Arriving by ferry or plane to Naxos, we plan to meet with special attention paid to the arrival times of our elite paddlers. We ask that you arrive before the afternoon so that we can explore the town of Naxos. In the late afternoon, we will introduce our fleet of kayaks and paddling equipment. Depending on the weather, we will then paddle in the Bay of Chora. During our first evening together the group will discuss the route and plan for the week.

Day 2 – After an early start we will paddle north along the shore from the beach of Plaka. The coastline of this rugged island offers amazing views, dotted white sand beaches and tiny islands to weave our way in and around. The planned paddle is 18+ miles to Apollona Bay. Views of the island of Paros dominate our western horizon until we round the northern point and glimpse the Small Cyclades Islands. In the evening we'll enjoy a hearty dinner and peaceful rest in Apollona.

Day 3 – From Apollona we head south toward Azalaz along a 10 mile stretch of shoreline. Steep cliffs, a defining feature of the Naxos coastline, limit boat landing opportunities until we reach Azalaz. After our lunch stop we will paddle to our evening accommodations in Moutsouna. To round off the shorter paddle day we will take a sunset hike to picturesque Mt. Zeus and explore the caves that flank the highest peak on Naxos.

Day 4 – The Small Cyclades dominate our eastern horizon after we depart Moutsouna. A 9 mile paddle brings us to our last landing spot on Naxos Panamoros—aptly named for breathtaking views of the islands of Iraklia and Koufonisi. After a short break, we will discuss our first island crossing, a 4 mile paddle to Koufonisi. Depending on the weather our crossing will take us on a full circumnavigation of Koufonisi. Our evening accommodations will be on Koufonisi with views of Naxos and the Small Cyclades. We'll refuel with dinner on the serene shoreline.

Day 5 – From the island of Koufonisi we plan to spend the day working our way along the shores and crossing open water to Ios. Our intrepid group will embark on three open water crossings, concluding with a 7 mile paddle from Iraklia to Ios. We'll then paddle south along the shoreline of Ios to the beautiful beach at Manganari. As we paddle south along Ios' shoreline we'll catch our first glimpse of Santorini—the endpoint of our most ambitious open water crossing.

Day 6 – Today is the big day! (Well, that depends on the weather.) If conditions are favorable, we'll paddle south through 12 miles of open water to Santorini, and watch the island expand in size and detail as we go. Upon reaching the island, only a short paddle to the protected beach of Finikia remains. However, if weather conditions preclude open water paddling, we'll fill the day with scenic hikes on Ios and possibly a circumnavigation of the island.

Day 7 – To celebrate yesterday's successful crossing we'll explore Santorini's island neighbors to the west, Nea Kameni and Thirasia, or go for a circumnavigation of Santorini itself. However, if the previous day's weather didn't allow for open water paddling, we'll embark on the audacious crossing today. Regardless of the days activities we plan to enjoy a celebration dinner reflecting on the week's adventure.

Day 8 - After breakfast, we'll have a few hours to walk the streets of Thiria and purchase any last minute keepsakes or gifts. We will then transport you to the Santorini airport** by 11:00am allowing you to make necessary connections.

* Note I : This is our intended itinerary. As with any adventure travel, the forces of nature can be unpredictable, causing us to make adjustments and changes to the itinerary. Rest assured that our many years of exploring have provided us with numerous options if changes need to be made. If it is too windy to paddle, various hiking, cultural and historical options will make you glad for the winds.

**Note II: Special attention needs to be paid to travel arrangements. The trip does not begin and end on the same island. Weather delays put your departure location and date at risk. Our office staff is happy to help discuss the ideal travel options to meet your specific needs. Please call or email for additional information.

Trip details:

Our planned accommodations for the week may include inns, rent rooms, windmills or deluxe tent camping. Our trip is only partially supported by van and ferry you should plan to pack kayaks with all of your luggage.

**This itinerary is subject to change.

**We hope to see you on this spectacular adventure.
Any further questions? Feel free to contact us!**

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