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## Sightseeing / Attractions

On Santorini, there are a number of attractions and points of interest that no one should miss in order to come closer to the history, the traditions, the heritage and the importance of Santorini in history.

### **The Archaeological site of Akrotiri**

The prehistoric settlement of Akrotiri is one of the most important sites of archaeological interest in the Mediterranean. After the reconstruction of the rooftop today's visitor can wonder in the city that was destroyed by the great eruption of the volcano at the 16th century BC and admire the buildings, the houses, the roads and the culture developed in Santorini.

### **The Ancient Thira**

On the top of Mesa Vouno Spartans settlers chose to build their city at the 8th century BC. You can visit Ancient Thira today from Kamari. You will admire the ancient theater, the ruins of temples and the agora and the magnificent views to the east side and the island of Anafi.

### **The Volcanoes**

The island of Santorini belongs to the arc of active volcanoes of the Aegean Sea and a walk to the volcanoes that created the unique landscape of Santorini is an experience not to be missed. At the islands of Palea and Nea Kameni you will have the opportunity to walk around, see the crater and swim in the hot springs.

### **The church of Episkopi Gonia**

The church of Episkopi Gonia was built by the Byzantine Emperor Komnenos A and is the oldest church in Santorini, was the seat of the Diocese made in Santorini during the Byzantine period. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and celebrates on August the 15<sup>th</sup>. Admire the carved temple and the important images, while at the courtyard you can relax in the shade of trees.

### **Museums**

The island has a number of museums, public and private, covering all periods of the history and life of Santorini. Visit the important Museum of Prehistoric Thira where the findings of the Archeological site of Akrotiri are and the Archaeological Museum which houses finds from Ancient Thira, and also from the Roman period. Both museums are located in Fira. In the capital of the island you will also find many museums, such as the Foundation P. Nomikos and Santozeum with interesting collections, while in Kondohori is the Folklore Museum. In Oia you will find the Maritime Museum and at the village of Pyrgos the Museum ' Yesterday's Santorini ".

### **Kastelia (Castle Cities)**

In Santorini at the Venetian era were built five castle cities called Kastelia. They were fortresses which defended the inhabitants from pirate raids. The castles are in Skaros in Imerovigli, Pyrgos, at Emporio, Akrotiri and Oia. Today the best preserved castle cities are in Emporio and Pyrgos villages, where in Akrotiri is worth visiting the Goulas (fortified tower), while the remains of the Castle of Oia is the most popular place on the island to enjoy the sunset.

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