

FREE GUIDE · SEASON 2027

The Santorini Cruise Day Checklist

Everything a Fira local wants you to know before your ship drops anchor: timing, real prices and the mistakes that cost cruisers their day.

✔ Before you go ashore

✔ Real prices

✔ 5 mistakes to avoid

STEP 1 · ON BOARD

Before you get off the ship

Santorini is a **tender port**: there's no dock for big ships, so small boats take you ashore. Ten minutes of prep the night before makes the whole day easier.



- [ ] **Check how many ships are in port on your date**
  One ship and four ships are two completely different days. More ships = longer lines, busier streets.
- [ ] **Write down your all-aboard time and your last tender**
  The last tender back is earlier than the all-aboard time. Your ship's times are always the official ones.
- [ ] **Get on an early tender**
  The earlier you go ashore, the calmer the island and the shorter the lines.
- [ ] **Bring cash in small notes and coins**
  For the cable car, the bus and kiosks. Use Greek bank ATMs and choose "without conversion".
- [ ] **Wear comfortable shoes**
  Cobblestones, slopes and steps everywhere. Flip-flops are a bad idea.
- [ ] **Sun protection and a hat**
  Little shade on the clifftop paths, especially from late spring to early autumn.
- [ ] **Save your ship's emergency number in your phone**
  If anything goes wrong ashore, that's the first call. General emergencies in Greece: 112.

STEP 2 · ASHORE

How a smart port day flows

Since 2026 most cruise passengers land at the **Old Port**, right below Fira. From there, the only ways up are the **cable car** or the **588 steps**.

1 · Land at the Old Port and go up straight away

Take the cable car up before the crowds build. The line grows fast once several tenders arrive.

2 · Explore Fira while it's quiet

Walk the caldera path, take your photos, grab a coffee one street back from the cliff edge (cheaper).

3 · Oia? Check the ship count first

The public bus (KTEL) runs Fira ↔ Oia. With 3–4 ships in port, Oia gets packed: decide early and go early.

4 · Eat like a local

A gyros pita in Fira is quick, filling and around €5. Front-row caldera terraces charge for the view.

5 · Head back EARLY

There's only **one cable car** down to the tenders, and everyone heads back at the same time. On busy days the line can take **1–2 hours**. Be in line well before your last tender.



Niko's rule: plan your way back first, then plan your fun. Leave a big buffer, not when it "feels like time". 😅

STEP 3 · MONEY

What your day really costs

Per person, doing it on your own:

Cable car up + down €10 each way	**€20**
Bus Fira ↔ Oia (KTEL) €2.50 each way	**€5**
2 bottles of water Zaros, Avra or Theoni · max €0.60 each	**€1.20**
Gyros pita in Fira a local favourite	**€5**
Total	**≈ €31**

Also good to know: Greece charges a cruise passenger fee that is added to your ship account: €12 per person in April–May and October, €20 in June–September.

💧 The water trick

Kiosks must sell Greek mineral water at a maximum of **€0.60**. Ask for it by brand: **"Éna neró Zarós, parakaló"** (one Zaros water, please). Clifftop terraces can charge €2–3 for the same bottle.

🏧 Cash without losing money

Avoid independent ATMs with high fees. Use a Greek bank's ATM and always choose to be charged **"without conversion"**.

DON'T BE BOB

5 mistakes cruisers make in Santorini



This is Bob.
Bob makes all of them.

1. **Heading back at the last minute**
   One cable car, thousands of passengers, everyone at the same time. Go down early.

2. **Ignoring how many ships are in port**
   Same island, very different day. Check your date and plan around it.

3. **Paying €3 for a bottle of water**
   Ask for Zaros, Avra or Theoni: max €0.60.

4. **Wearing flip-flops**
   Cobblestones and 588 steps. Your feet will remember Santorini.

5. **Confusing all-aboard time with the last tender**
   The last tender leaves before all-aboard. Miss it and the ship can leave without you.

🇬🇷 6 Greek words that open doors

Kaliméra
ka-lee-MEH-ra
Good morning

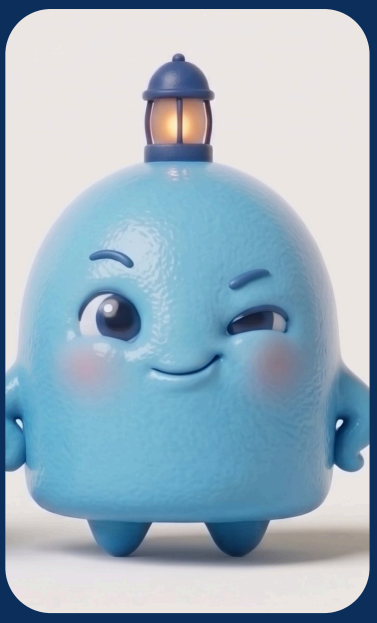
Efharistó
ef-ha-ree-STO
Thank you

Parakaló
pa-ra-ka-LO
Please / You're welcome

Éna neró
EH-na neh-RO
One water

Yiá sas
YAH-sas
Hello / Goodbye

Póso káni?
POH-so KAH-nee
How much is it?



WELCOME TO NIKO'S CREW

Have a friend in Santorini.

AmigoSantorini is a port-day plan made by locals from Fira: the right timing for your ship and date, live updates on the day, and a real person on WhatsApp if something goes wrong.

As a founding member you get:

- 🎟️ Early access before the public launch in February 2027
- 💶 The founder price, reserved for members
- 🗓️ How many ships will be in port on your date
- 🗳️ A vote on Bob's next mistake

Questions? hola@amigosantorini.com

Follow Niko for cruise-day tips · @amigosantorini

Prices and fees checked for the 2026 season and may change. Your ship's times are always the official ones. Not affiliated with any cruise line. Niko and Bob are AI-animated characters.