

# Santorini, greece essay



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Santorini, Greece Santorini is located in the Aegean Sea and is Greece's largest volcanic Cyclades Island. Essentially the remnants of a massive volcanic eruption and outbreak of earthquakes, Santorini is the world's only inhabited caldera. Since then, now crescent shaped, Santorini has been a major contender in the tourism industry by drawing hundreds of new travelers to visit each year. Voted " Best Island" for 2011 by Travel and Leisure Magazine, Santorini is best known for its pristine white wash buildings adorned with turquoise blue door frames and rooftops perched high on the cliffs edge.

As a top destination, visitors come to this magnificent island for its vibrant history, active volcanoes, unique beaches , and family run wineries.

Santorini has a rich and colorful past. Once called Stongelli for its round, circular shape, Santorini was inhabited by the ancient Minoan civilization. The Minoans were warriors, merchants, artists, and experienced sailors who dominated the Mediterranean Sea. They were extremely educated and it is believed that they were the first in Europe to develop a written language.

This thriving metropolis with paved roadways and running water flourished until the colossal volcanic eruption destroyed them. Entombed and preserved under a gentle layer of lava and volcanic ash, today travelers can visit the archeological site of Akrotiri, and get a rare glimpse of this once prosperous society. In addition, artifacts and sculptures excavated from the ancient city are housed and placed on display at the Museum of Prehistoric Thira, a must see for visitors.

Santorini's volcano is one of the most significant volcanoes in the world's history because it is considered responsible for the destruction of the ancient Minoan civilization and for reshaping Santorini into what it is today.

Considered to be the island's most unique and important characteristic, it attracts visitors from all around the world. Guided tours are available for visitors who want to learn about the volcano's history, see amazing lava formations, discover the volcano's crater and truly experience this natural wonder.

Santorini's unique geology definitely impacts the island's landscapes, as it can be seen in the island's beaches. Due to this island's volcanic nature, Santorini is home to some of the world's finest and distinguishable coastlines. Instead of "ordinary" sandy beaches, volcanic red and black pebbles lay on the shores and steep cliffs provide a picturesque ambience. Today, most beaches are organized and lined with sun beds, umbrellas and water sports. The most popular beaches are Perissa, Kamari and the Red Beach.

Near Akrotiri, is some of Santorini's best wine country. Santorini has an extensive history of wine-making traditions and because of its unique geology, the island produces some of today's most elegant and distinctive wines. The volcanic, fertile soil and Mediterranean climate has made the perfect growing conditions. Today, visitors can tour one of the island's several wine facilities, become acquainted with Santorini's distinctive viniculture, gain insight into the production process and have the opportunity to taste a full range of wines.

As Santorini's popularity grows, so do the demands of its visiting guests. To maintain on top, Santorini must always be ready to accommodate the constant change in trends and the evolving tourist. Three new attractions that would continue to support the increase in travelers to Santorini would first be a golf course. Currently there is no comprehensive golf culture in Santorini and adding an 18 hole golf course and driving range would definitely capitalize this particular market. Golf is a major sport and enthusiasts travel all over the world to play.

Santorini's incredible landscape, impressive views, perfect Mediterranean climate, as well as, quality accommodations are all ideal for the game of golf. Another attraction would be helicopters tours/rides. Helicopters are today's fastest and newest developing means of transportations. They are an exhilarating and exciting new level of sightseeing. Santorini is known for its unbelievable landscapes and unique geology and helicopter tours would be just be another way for visitors to experience all that Santorini has to offer.

Lastly, Santorini offers a diverse and delicious cuisine. While its arid volcanic landscape does not lend itself to the production of a wide variety of products, it does provide some distinct and incomparable flavors and original recipes. And a great way to capitalize on the islands unique gastronomy is to provide visitors with cooking classes. Cooking classes are fun, mellow activities that is a fantastic way to give visitors insights into the local culture, regional cuisine and to meet new people.

In an attempt to attract more tourists to Santorini, by keeping up with the demands of its visitors would positively affect the tourism industry.

Undoubtedly picturesque with its spectacular landscape, iconic mountains and stunning sunset, Santorini has truly become a favorite among travelers both foreign and domestic. As the number of visitors continues to grow we will begin to see new changes to the island. New developments and improvements will greatly impact this island's continued efforts to remain a top destination.