

## SANTORINI 21. – 28. MAY 2022

We found out that we were going to take a trip to Santorini in Greece. To get there without having to change planes several times, we had to travel with a tour operator who has direct flights. We chose to fly with [Apollo](#). The company was started in Sweden in 1986 with a branch in Norway from 1998. On the trip we booked, they had chartered a plane from [SAS](#). The plane left Oslo Airport Gardermoen at 06.50, so we drove to Gardermoen on 20 May and parked the car at [Dalen Parkering](#). They have transfer to and from the airport. We spent the night at [Radisson Red, Oslo Airport](#). It is located just a few hundred meters from the terminal.



Here we drive from the apartment in Kongsvinger.



Here I check into the hotel, Radisson Red.



It was a good time to have dinner when we arrived.  
I had lamb chops.



Anne Berit had salmon.



The plane left at the scheduled time.  
The flight time to Santorini was just under four hours.  
We landed there at 11.55.



[Santorini International Airport](#). The airport opened in 1972 and is the largest airport on the Cyclades archipelago.

[Santorini](#) is the largest and southernmost of the islands in the [Cyclades](#) archipelago. The island got its Italian name in the 13th century. Before that it had different names. The old name Thera was used again throughout the 19th century. People lived there before the year 3000 BC. Santorini became part of the [Minoan civilization](#) of Crete. There was a large volcanic eruption on the island in 1628 BC. As a result, a large part of the island sank in the sea and a major tsunami swept across the Mediterranean. It went down with the Minoan civilization after this and it ended around 1100 BC. Santorini is today part of the remaining crater. After the volcanic eruption, the island was uninhabited for a long time. Eventually, [Dorian](#) Greeks settled on the island.

Today there are about 16,000 permanent residents here, but it is a popular tourist destination so in the summer there are also many tourists.

There are a few relics from ancient times on Santorini:

### [Akrotiri](#)

Akrotiri is a Minoan Bronze Age settlement. The settlement was destroyed by the volcanic eruption in 1628 BC and buried in volcanic ash. The site has been investigated and archaeologically excavated since 1967. Akrotiri is the only Minoan settlement discovered outside Crete,

### [Ancient Thera](#)

It is an ancient city that was inhabited from the 800s BC. and until 726 AD. The area is located on a hill, Mesa Vouno, between the villages of Kamari and Perissa. Here are the ruins of shrines, an agora, a theater, a gymnasium, and a cemetery. [Santorini.tips](#)



The location of Santorini in Greece.



Map of Santorini.



Living room in the hotel.

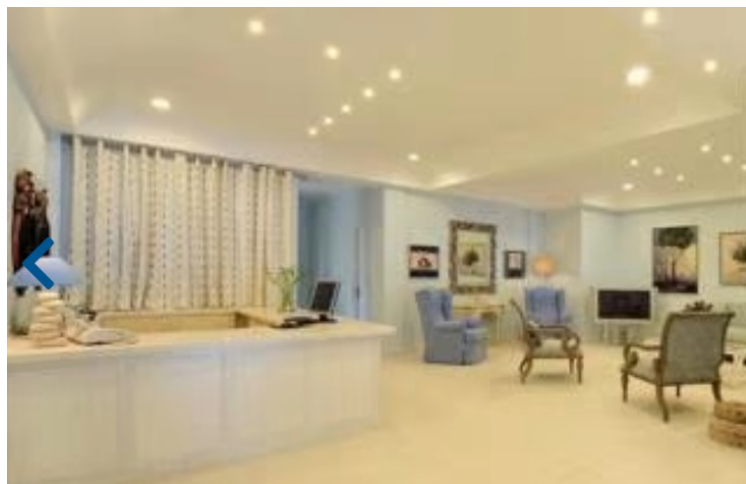


The bedroom with terrace outside.

We had flight only with Apollo and booked the hotel via Booking.com. The hotel is called [Alesahne Beach Hotel](#)

and is located on the beach in [Kamari](#), located east of the island, just south of the airport. Kamari is perhaps the largest resort on Santorini. It is best known for the black lava sand on the beach. It starts at the foot of the Mesa Vouno mountain and heads north towards the airport. There is a promenade along the entire beach.

[Ving.no](#)



From the reception of the hotel.



The view from the terrace of the room.



View south towards Mesa Vouno.



The view to the north.



Views from the seafront. Mesa Vouno in the background.  
It is 385 meters high.



View north from the seafront.



We see an island called [Anafi](#). It is not large and there are just under 300 permanent residents on the island. In recent years, this has also become a popular tourist destination.



The sunrise.



In the bay below Mesa Vouno, several sailboats anchored.



The day we arrived at the hotel there was a cat lying asleep under the table on the terrace. Here it is walking on the roof of the neighboring building.



This is where we had breakfast at the hotel.



View from the breakfast room facing the seafront.



Just below the hotel, on the seafront, is a Greek restaurant, [Taverna Zorbas](#). We thought it was okay to eat here with friendly staff and decent food.



Here I have just ordered food.



On the beach below lay these dogs.



The view from Zorbas Taverna. In the background we see the road that goes in hairpin turns up to Mesa Vouno. It is possible to drive almost all the way up to the ruins of ancient Thera.



They had good Irish Coffee at the tavern.



This is the indoor restaurant at Zorbas. Here it was not often people were sitting.



Isak and Tiffanie had dinner with us one evening. Isak ordered grilled [souvlaki](#) which was slightly burnt. Tiffanie wanted fried cheese, [cheese saganaki](#), but it was [shrimp saganaki](#), the same as I ordered. I also ordered [stifado](#), but the meat was not so good. Besides, there was far too few onions in the dish. This evening the chef was not so lucky with the food.



The hotel we stayed at also has a section on the outside of the boardwalk. Here we often sat in the middle of the day and solved crossword puzzles and sudoku. One day we were visited by Isak and Tiffanie who were walking along the promenade.



This is the seafront outside Zorbas. The entrance to our hotel is in the wall on the right.



Enter the hotel past the pool.



It was my birthday while we were in Santorini. This is a gift from Isaac and Tiffanie. Sun hat, t-shirt, sunscreen and [Ouzo](#).



On my birthday, we took a taxi up to [Fira](#), the capital of Santorini. Here we stand next to this large [church](#).



There was a lot of tourists. Here we look south.



Here we look north.

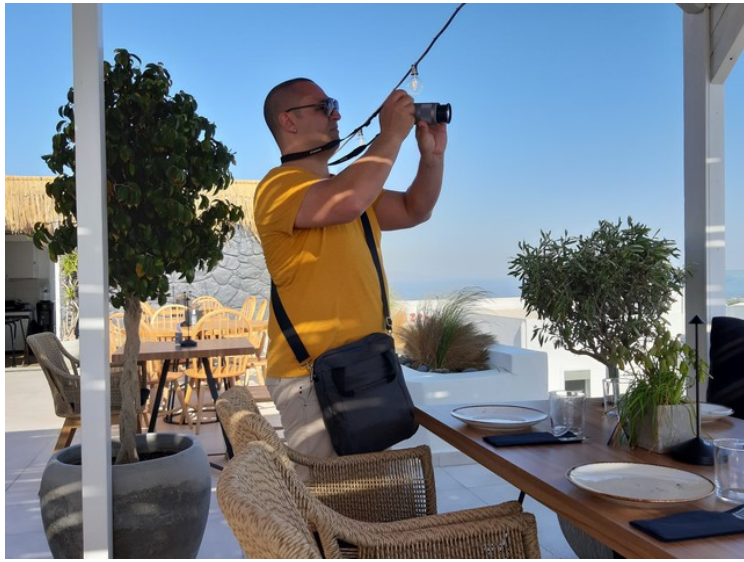
We had booked a table with a good view at a restaurant. We did not find it the restaurant, so I had to ask. It turned out that the restaurant had changed its name. We see the new name at the top right, [The Vine](#).



There were two cruise ships there that day. This is one of them. We see Nea Kameni in the background. It is a volcanic island that has formed over the last 2000 years.



Here we have come up to the restaurant. Tiffanie is a model.



Isak is taking pictures.



The church in the background.



Good view from the restaurant.



We are waiting for the food.



We had a beer while we waited.







Anne Berit had «Cheese Saganaki».



I had «Fried Squid».



Isak and Tiffanie had «Ouzo Platter - variety of Greek local meze».



The wind was quite strong here, so we got quite cold after a while. As a result, we ate our starters, paid, and left.



Here we have moved to a restaurant located by the stairs that go down to the cruise ship quay. It's called «[La Scala](#)»



Before the meal we each got our soup 'on the house'. It was a thin pea soup that was not good.

It started to blow here too, so we had to move one floor up, where we were more sheltered from the wind.



Here I have ordered grilled lobster.  
It was the most expensive dish they had, so I regretted it afterwards, because the lobster was both dry and chewy.



Then we eat.



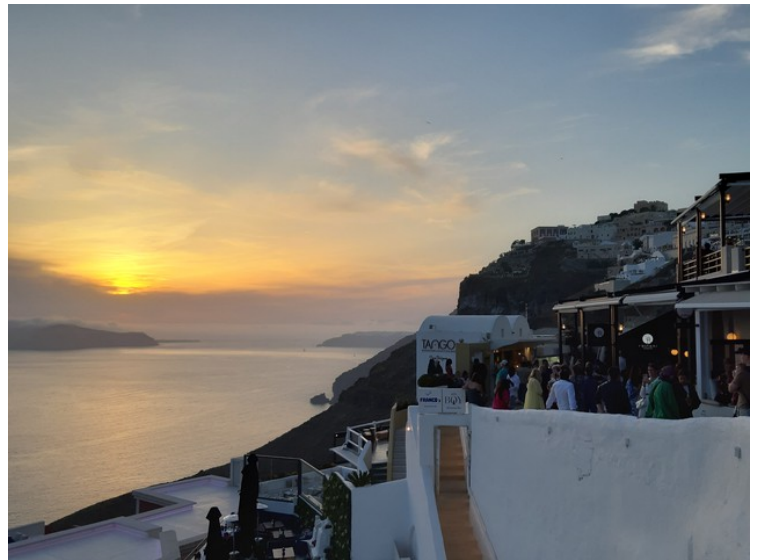
There were many guests at the restaurant.



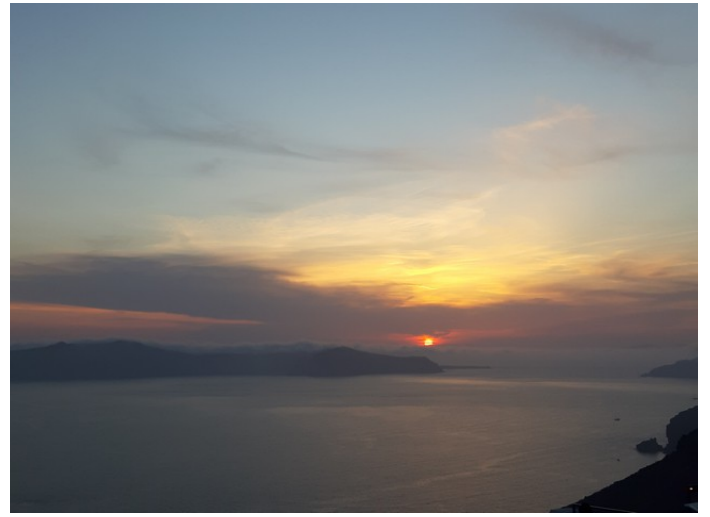
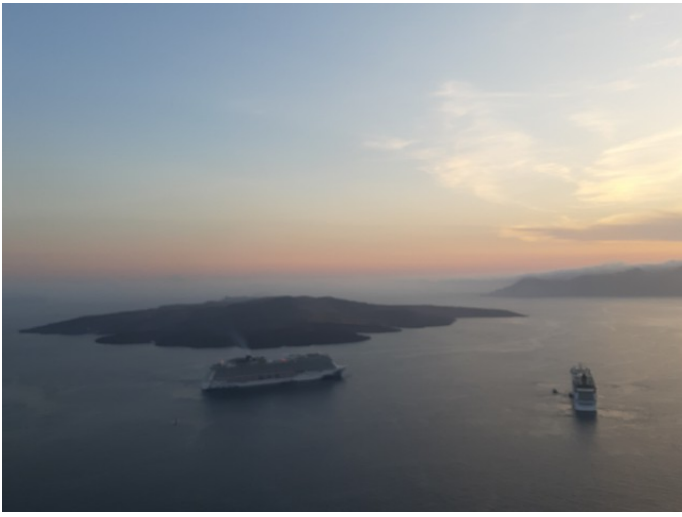
This is the logo.



There are good views from this restaurant as well.

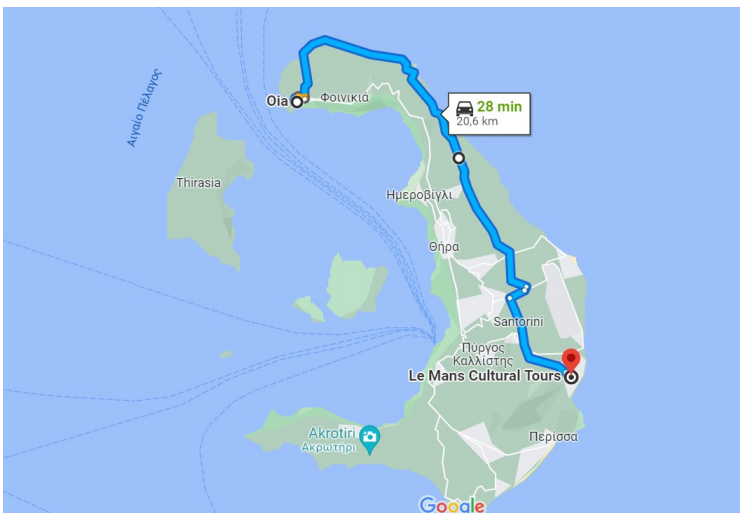


It is soon sunset.



Then we are on our way back to where we have agreed that the taxi would meet us to take us back to Kamari.

We were there early, so here I have sat down and prepared to wait for a good while, but the taxi driver arrived long before the agreed time, so we did not wait many minutes.



The penultimate day we rented a car and we drove a trip to Oia.

There was not much to see along the way.



Oia is located in the far north on the edge of the caldera. The place is one of the most visited places on the island. It is especially popular to get there in the evening to watch the sunset.

[Wikipedia](#)



Here we have come to Oia. There were an incredible number of cars and many tourists here. I had planned to drive back along the caldera edge, but the road was closed, so we had to drive back the same way.



Isak and Tiffanie went for a walk down town while we waited in the car. We drove into a parking lot to wait, but the air-conditioning system was so poor that we had to drive out again to get the temperature in the car livable.



Here we are on our way down from Oia again.



There are quite a few old wind mills here.



Then we were back in Kamari.



After leaving the car in the parking lot, we decided that we should have something to eat. We settled down at the first restaurant we came to, [Mama Meze](#).



A nice entrance portal across the street.



Here we have ordered food.



We ordered some beer. It is called [Volkan](#). It was good.



I also ordered a small bottle of [Kalamatina retsina](#), because Isak and Tiffanie had never tasted retsina.



Retsina tastes good with seafood, so I ordered some small fish for the retsina. Not everyone likes retsina, but I think it's OK, and it's special to Greece.



I had a 'Sea Bass' for main course, so then it became a bottle of white wine from [Argyros](#) to share.

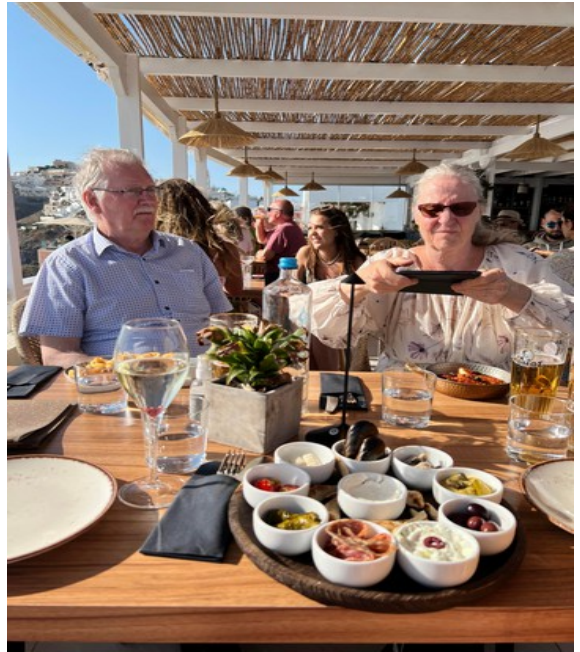


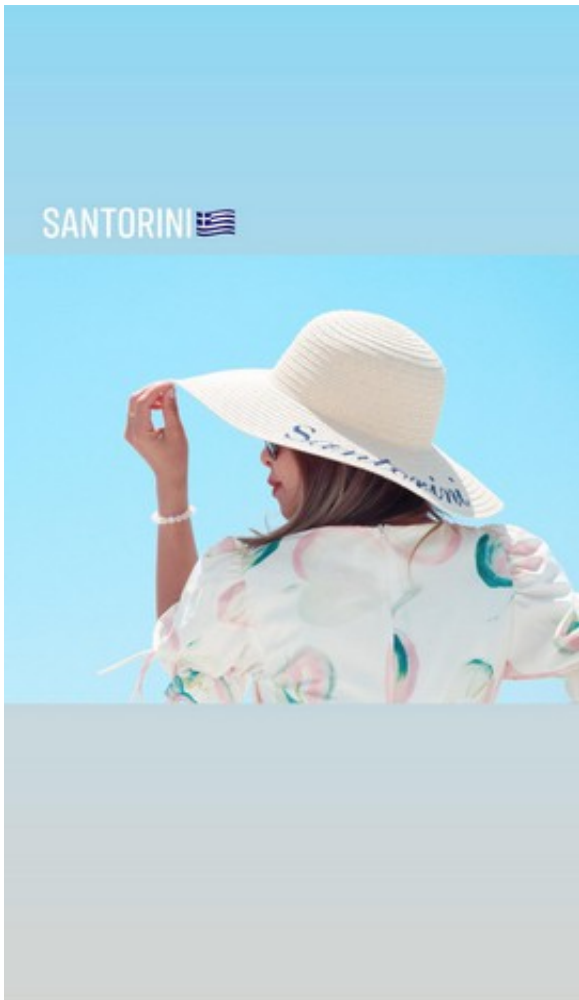
The restaurant owner had a dog that I had to scratch a little behind the ear.



When we went home on Saturday, Anne Berit took this picture of the church in Monolithos. We see it from the airport terminal.

Finally, some of the photos that Isaac and Tiffanie took during the trip.







[Clarion Hotel.](#)

When we went home on Saturday, we ordered a taxi via the hotel and Isak and Tiffanie came up to us and joined the same taxi.

The boarding on the plane was about on schedule. But there was an hour delay due to the slot time allotted, so we sat in the plane for almost an hour before we left.

We had ordered food on the plane. We found that the food served on SAS aircraft is better than the one served on Norwegian.

When we got to Gardermoen we were picked up by Dalen, but when we were going to pick up the keys to the car, it turned out that I had pressed the wrong date when I booked a place for the car. I had pressed the next day. We have never understood why we have to deliver the key when we leave the car and that the car is in a different place than where we left it. The reason is that they do not have enough space near the office, so they move the cars to other places in the area. The day we return, they drive the car back.

So, when we wanted to pick up the car “one day early”, they had not driven the car back, and we had to wait until they got a chance to pick it up. There was quite a lot of traffic at that time, so we were told that we had to wait for a while.

We did not want to wait indefinitely, so we just as well walked to the Clarion Hotel which is right next to Dalen Parkering and got a room there.

We had dinner there. They have a good restaurant.

On Monday we finally got the car. Then it stood right outside the office.