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From Athens, we ventured to Costa Navarino, a sustainability driven destination located in the region of Messinia in the southwest Peloponnese. One of the most unspoiled and breathtaking seaside landscapes, this is a region shaped by 4,500 years of history and maintains a philosophy driven by a genuine desire to preserve the natural beauty and heritage of Messinia. With luxury resorts, four signature golf courses, private residences, more than 40 dining and entertainment venues, and an abundance of sports and experiences, Costa Navarino has established Messinia as a great example of entwining history, culture, sustainability and tourism.

Getting to Costa Navarino from Athens is simple. The road system is modern and easy to navigate. A car transfer will take at most three hours. If you'd like to stop along the way, we have suggestions: Visit the Corinth Canal, an artificial canal that connects the Gulf of Corinth to the Aegean Sea, to walk above the canal and have a snack and some browsing at the shop/vendors in the area. There are also some wineries enroute, so you can stop for lunch and a wine tasting. Or, if you would like to take in some history, ancient Nemea is one of the country's most important archeological sites, boasting the impressive remains of a temple built to celebrate the god Zeus, an ancient stadium that used to host the Nemean games. The site also includes a museum explaining Nemea's rich history and its importance in Greek mythology.

Once our group arrived in the Costa Navarino region, we had the opportunity to stay two nights at both The Romanos and W Costa Navarino.

[The Romanos, A Luxury Collection Resort](#), captures the authentic and exceptional qualities of Messinia through its award-winning architecture, combining grand column-lined walkways with elegant, contemporary design, uninterrupted views of the coastline, and a wonderful backdrop of the golf landscape. Select among 321 exquisite guestrooms – many with individual pools, or indulge in fine living at any of the superb 21 Ionian Exclusive suites and 10 beachfront villas, with dedicated Butler service and a series of elite amenities. Savor refined flavors across splendid venues with menus curated by acclaimed chefs, rejuvenate at the multi-awarded Anazoe Spa, engage in an impressive array of sports, including four world-class golf courses and Europe's first Mouratoglou Tennis Center, and discover the region's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage through authentic local experiences.

From its privileged beachfront location, the luxurious [W Costa Navarino](#) marks the debut of W Hotels in Greece. The new Escape, exclusively for adults and young adults over 12 years old, the hotel opened in August 2022 to bring contemporary design and inspiring energy to the Navarino Waterfront 13-hectare beachfront site. Vivid and bright, with a distinctive design inspired by the region's architecture, W Costa Navarino has 246 stylish accommodations with swim-up rooms,

airy one and two-bedroom suites with their own pools, and fantastic beachfront villas with their private pools set against the stunning Ionian sunset. Playful public spaces, five dining venues, including a vibrant Beach Club, a wellness area with AWAY® Spa and FIT gym to fuel body and mind, together with inventive yet authentic cuisine and welcoming service, create a socially driven destination any time of the day. With the Navarino Agora, a curated marketplace, along with the nearby local villages of Gialova Beach and Pylos, guests get the best of both worlds having resort amenities and easy access to enjoy authentic Greek life.

The Costa Navarino region has a plethora of activities. Our group cycled in between the Kalamata Olive trees to a gem of a beach where we swam in one of the six nicest beaches (ox-belly) in the world. We then hiked up to a viewpoint where we had a delicious Messinian picnic immersed in nature and beauty before riding back to the hotel. Costa Navarino also has many projects to support the local community, one being the Navarino Pet Community. Here the team takes in stray dogs to get them healthy, acclimated with humans and prepare them for adoption. We had the pleasure of spending some time with the current 17 dogs that reside in the rescue.

For those that don't think of Greece as a golf destination, we can prove you wrong. Costa Navarino offers a world-class golf experience with four 18-hole signature courses. No matter if you just want to play one round or every day of your vacation, these courses that are set in diverse natural landscapes offer spectacular views of the sea, olive groves and mountains and the opportunity for fun and challenging play in Greece.

From Costa Navarino we made the just under 3-hour transfer to the Athens airport to take a 55-minute flight to Santorini. Santorini is a legendary island. Travelers can uncover a piece of history and let the magic of the Caldera sweep you off your feet. [Secret Hotels](#) are the epitome of Santorini luxury hotels that will enthrall your senses, one by one when you stay at one of their four properties:

[Santorini Secret Suites & Spa](#) – The luxury cave suites along the Caldera

[Santorini Secret Premium](#) – Panoramic views of the Caldera and a warm, summer residence

[Secret Legend Suites](#) – Minimalistic cave rooms on the Caldera

[Secret View Hotel](#) – Ultimate sunset views and the embrace of a Santorinian vineyard

Upon arrival at our host property, Santorini Secret Suites & Spa, we were warmly welcomed by the dynamic team who made sure we quickly felt at home and introduced us to different areas and villages on this diverse island. Secrets offers “Secret Private Events” that will enhance any experience on the island. We took part in their “Secret Picnic” that was the highlight of our trip. The private picnic can be booked through the Secrets Team and is commissionable to travel advisors. Guests can arrange a tailor-made afternoon or evening, with a 2-hour gourmet dinner on a peaceful Caldera hill, where you can experience the sun setting over the Aegean Sea, away from the crowds. With the assistance of the Secrets Exclusive Team, you will be able to savor delicious, fusion dishes from the Mediterranean cuisine, along with Santorinian wine. Our group enjoyed a new experience that included an afternoon barbecue with a delicious lunch, wine, music and dancing. Other “Secret Surprises” that can be arranged include cooking classes, yacht outings, excursions, wine tastings, and additional private dining.

On our last evening, we had a fantastic dining experience at Secret Suites & Spa's restaurant, Black Rock Restaurant, which took us on a gastronomic journey between the old and new. With

live music, sunset streaked skies, and great company, every stage of our fine dining experience in the awarded restaurant displayed the very best of Greek and Mediterranean cuisines.

From Santorini, we flew back to Athens and got on a plane for the one hour and 40-minute flight to Larnaca (LCA), Cyprus. Cyprus offers the perfect blend of history, culture, beaches and relaxation. In less than 30 minutes from the airport, we arrived at our property, [Parklane, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Limassol](#), the only internationally five-star branded resort located on the southern coast of Cyprus, between Paphos and Larnaca, on a 300-meter-long sandy beach surrounded by palm trees and snuggled by the Mediterranean Sea. Parklane is a rare sanctuary leading to a transformative journey, where children are inspired by the local myths, parents are tantalized by fine local aromas and culinary arts, whereas friends and single travelers are mesmerized by the island's alluring cosmopolitan lifestyle. The resort offers 274 rooms ranging from Deluxe, Superior, Family Suites, Adult-Only Lifestyle Suites and 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom villas to provide luxurious accommodations for all types of travelers.

Our group did not know what to expect when visiting Cyprus, but found we loved the property for families with the offering of family suites, villas and connecting rooms along with the Kid's Club being the best we had ever seen and is noted as the biggest in the Mediterranean. At the same time, the property is great for those traveling without children, as there is an adult-only lifestyle suite section. During the day adults can make use of the large gym, extensive spa facilities and water activities. With fantastic dining options including NAMMOS Limassol, LPM Restaurant & Bar, and the Retail Village at Nammos offering designer shops, including Dior, take care of your mind, body, soul and style throughout your stay.

20 minutes from Parklane guests can explore the modern city of Limassol with restaurants and nightlife. In other directions, you can explore the picturesque villages of either Lefkara or Pyrgos. With Parklane being new, modern and cosmopolitan, we agreed this would be a great stop at the start or end of a Greece trip, or an end to a trip to Dubai (3-hour flight), as this area can easily be thought of as the Mediterranean Dubai.

As our group said our goodbyes, we reflected on the opportunity we had to enjoy luxurious accommodations in four very different destinations throughout Greece and Cyprus. With a variety of landscapes and activities, consistent throughout was the luxurious accommodation, a sense of place and authentic hospitality provided by the locals. Each advisor had clients in mind that would have never thought of visiting some of these areas but will be thankful for their advisor's experience to make recommendations. WanderLuxe will continue to share the tried and true in addition to new-to-you destinations to inspire future travel for your clients to the Mediterranean and beyond.