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Escaping the Crowds

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WHAT TO DO Spring on the mainland tends to be gray and rainy, so head to the sunnier Greek islands in the south. Watch the wildflowers bloom from the rustic tavernas, beautiful beaches and countless gorges of Crete, Greece's largest island. Or enjoy the rare solitude of [Santorini](#)'s seaside hamlets, while taking in the spectacular views of the island's volcano at sunset. Ferry schedules are nearly fully operational now.

Budget Travel Interest Guide

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Multimedia



WHERE TO STAY Even the Greek Islands' most exclusive hotels are dropping their prices. On Santorini, the Astarte Suites (Kaldera Akrotiri; 30-2286-0833-88; [astartesuites.gr](#)), a family-run boutique that overlooks Santorini Volcano, has a pair of junior suites with private verandas and whirlpool tubs encased in Swarovksi crystals that start at 220 euros, or about \$290 at \$1.32 to the euro (jumps to 330 euros, or \$436, after June 1). In Crete, the Elounda

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