

Saronic Sailing



The Argo Saronic Sea is the locale for this cruise which stops at islands near the mainland in the Peloponnese peninsula. The waters here are calm and tranquil for travelers with little sailing experience, as opposed to the high seas of the Cyclades islands, such as Mykonos and Santorini, which are better for seasoned sailors

The Argo Saronic region is near Athens and its ports, and the islands themselves are close to each other. This cruise includes visits to great archaeology sites like Epidavros, the 3rd century BC theatre and ancient Mycenae, home of King Agamemnon. Activities include biking, hiking, swimming and water sports.

Trip Highlights

- Enjoy sea sports on Poros island
- Climb the 999 steps to Palamidi Foretress in Nafplio
- Donkey riding on car-free Hydra island
- Enter King Agamemnon's beehive tomb at Mycenae
- Swim in a pirate's hide-out, an underwater cave on Spetses island

Itinerary

Day 1: Aegina

Welcome to Greece! Get ready to embark on the yacht which will be your party's vacation home for the next eight days. You sail to Aegina island, famous for its pistachios. With bikes on board, you can pedal around the harbor or ambitious bikers can climb up to the Temple of Apollo.

Day 2: Epidavros

Sail to Epidavros with a pit stop at Agistri island for some swimming and snorkeling in the Aegean Sea. At the mainland bike to Ancient Epidavros to tour the 3rd century BC outdoor theatre (seats 15,000) which is still in use due to its impeccable acoustics. Sitting in the last row, you can hear someone whisper from the stage below. Cycle back to port downhill.

Day 3: Poros

Morning sailing to Poros island whose two bays supply all the water sports you will need --- water skiing, snorkeling, little boats, sea kayaking, windsurfing. Poros port will charm your heart with its tall clock tower and pastel colored buildings lining the harbor front.

Start—End Points

The tour starts with your transfer from Athens Airport to the port where you board the yacht. Tour ends in Nafplio. You can have a vehicle transfer back to Athens or Athens Airport (2 to 2 1/2 hours) or you can return to home port with the sailboat, a day long sail. Ask about our Three Day Athens add-on package.

Day 4: Hydra

Morning sailing to Hydra island. Hydra is a car-free island whose only transport is mules, foot or boat. It has an elegant artist's colony on the upscale end. You can wander into the art shops, handmade jewelry stores and clothing boutiques, or take a gentle hike inland and upward, ascending to the Profitas Elias monastery.

Day 5: Spetses

Morning sailing to Spetses island, home of many wealthy ship-builders. Spend the day circumnavigating the island by bike, stopping at the beach with an underwater cave you can swim into. Cars are banned in the harbor town, Dapia. Take a romantic ride in a horse drawn carriage on the cobble-stoned streets along the harbor front.

Day 6: Nafplio

Morning sailing to Nafplio to bike to Mycenae, home of King Agamemnon, with its wondrous circular tombs. He was the ruler who launched the Trojan Wars. Return in time to hike the 999 steps to Palamidi Fortress which offers commanding views of the land and seascapes.

Day 7: Nafplio

Nafplio, modern Greece's first capital, is a gorgeous city with children playing in the plaza and adults sipping drinks in the surrounding outdoor cafes. Bike along a wide stone and dirt path which hugs the sea taking you to Karathona Beach.

Day 8: departures

Vehicle transfer to Athens Airport

Mileage Summary

Support vehicle available for lifts.
Additional mileage available for stronger cyclists.

Total Mileage 40 miles, 64 km
Average Daily Mileage 10 miles, 16 km

Day 1 harbor pedaling, optional 10 miles, 16 km, climb est 300 ft

Day 2 18 miles, 29 km, all downhill 1300 ft. optional bike up the hill.

Day 3 no biking, except to nearby beaches for sea sports

Day 4 no biking, 2 hour hike

Day 5 15 miles, 24 km, small hills

Day 6 24 miles, 38 km almost all flat through orange orchards

Day 7 short ride to beach, 3 miles, 6 miles roundtrip



Tour Price

Per person in euros

8-9 persons — 3380
10-12 persons — 2880
13-14 persons — 2280
15-16 persons — 1980

Note: tour prices based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. Exchange rates found at www.xe.com

Pricing. Costs listed per person are indicative, meaning the tour cost may vary depending on number and age of participants and activities and services desired. Children 12 and under receive 20% discount

Group required. Contact us if you are looking to join one or more families to fulfill minimum group requirements of 10 or more, or if your party has less than eight participants.

Activities. Saronic Sailing has a moderate activity agenda. Additional cycling mileage is available for stronger cyclists. Tour price does not include support vehicle for land-based activities. See Inclusions for details.

Inclusions

- Sailboat with skipper and two crewmen. The traditional wooden schooner is 90 feet long with 7 cabins -- two doubles and one master. Four of the double cabins (measuring 10 x 12 square feet) can sleep three persons, particularly youngsters. If your party is less than 8 persons and not big enough for the schooner, ask us about smaller boats. However, smaller boats cannot hold full size bicycles. You will either need to add a support vehicle to your tour (see Optional Offers below) or if you just want bikes to pedal around port cities, ask us about folding bikes that can fit on smaller boats.
- Bicycle -- road or hybrid,
- Bike gear: water bottles, map holder, rear rack, odometer, helmet, lock. For hygienic purposes we encourage you to bring your own helmet.
- Snorkeling gear
- Guided tours of Epidavros and Mycenae with professional guide
- Entry fees to Epidavros and Mycenae
- Cue sheets with GPS profiles
- Maps
- Trip packet with useful information (e.g., recommended tavernas, points of interest, phone numbers, etc.)
- 1 mobile phone per couple with 10 euros phone card
- CycleGreece jersey
- Gratuities, tips, VAT tax

Exclusions

- Airfare to/from Greece
- Sea sports in Poros on Day 3 (your choice of sports and duration)
- Tour leader/Bike Guide handling logistics
- Childcare
- All meals. An onboard chef costs 300 euros per day, excluding cost of food. You plan your meals with the chef and are welcome to accompany him or her to the fish market and supermarket to select daily fare. Alternatively, there is a fully equipped galley on deck allowing you to cook your own meals if you are not inclined to nightly eating in harbor tavernas.
- Support Vehicle. See Optional Offers below.
- Travel Insurance

Optional Offers

- Support Vehicle. Vehicle carries spare parts, floor pump, ice cooler, water, nutritious snacks, bike tools, first aid kit, day packs, luggage and gives you a lift if you get tired. Bikes can be transported on top rack. Vehicle with bilingual driver, roughly 8 hour day, costs 500 euros per day.
- 3 day Athens add-on package. See page 4

Athens Add-on Package

Highlights

The grand view of the Aegean from the promontory of Temple of Poseidon

Walking tours of the Athens and the Acropolis

Day 1: Athens

Three hour walking tour of central Athens on a route that no other tour operator offers. The itinerary includes noteworthy houses and architecture in the Plaka, Socrates Cave, the Pnyx where democracy was born, Thissio cafes, the unique water clock and lots of interesting facts and anecdotes. (Actual walking for 3 hours).

Day 2: Athens

A three hour walking tour starting with the changing of the guard at Parliament and culminating in the incomparable Parthenon. A professional archaeology guide injects the walk with lively and fascinating insights. (Actual walking is 45 minutes). In the evening you will experience a cultural presentation of traditional Greek music and dance.

Day 3: Athens

An excursion to the magnificent Temple of Poseidon in Sounion at the southern tip of Attika Peninsula. Lord Byron carved his name in the marble but the graffiti cannot mar the temple's geometric precision nor its stupendous views. Bring your swimsuit for a dip in the sea before returning to the city.

Day 4: Departure

Private transfer from your hotel to Athens Airport.

Cost

900 euros per person
80 euros single supplement

Children under 12 receive
20% discount

Inclusions

- 3 nights in 4 star hotel within walking distance of Acropolis with breakfast (based on double occupancy)
- Transfer to Athens hotel at end of Saronic Sailing cruise
- Transfer to airport on Day 4
- 3 hour walking tour of Athens with company guide to areas not generally visited by other tour operators
- 3 hour Acropolis walking tour with professional guide
- Entry fee to Acropolis and surrounding antiquities
- Evening performance traditional Greek music & dance
- Private vehicle half day Sounio Excursion to Temple of Poseidon
- Entry fee to Temple of Poseidon

Exclusions

- all meals except breakfasts
- Travel insurance
- Optional tipping of guide and driver