

Greece: Cyclades Saronic

7-night: Ios to Athens



Ios

Prior to boarding the boat in Ios a visit to Santorini is highly recommended as it's the jewel of the Cyclades. Santorini transport and accommodations are not included in the price of any boat trip and can easily be pre-arranged with Poseidon Charters.

Day 1: Saturday

Arrive at Ios harbour for boarding at 17:00hrs.

The first two-nights are a sleepover in Ios.

Unpack and participate in a welcome and safety briefing. Later head up to the luxury of Liostasis 5-star hotel and spa. Swim in the pool, enjoy a re-arranged massage or simply have cocktails and dinner watching a fantastic sunset over Ios harbor. After dinner explore the hilltop Chora town with its many shops and bars.



Dinner: Liostasis' exquisite menu is prepared by a Michelin star chef and offers an excellent pairing menu, wine list and 5-star service. It is also possible to dine in the harbour at a multitude of restaurants including nice Greek food at Enigma taverna restaurant.

SANTORINI: Visit the UNESCO Heritage village of Oia where accommodations with sea view or the more sought after caldera view, allow panoramic views of the spectacular 6-mile round volcanic crater formed in the eruption of 1500BC. Things to do in Oia town include incredible shopping, art galleries and watching the world-renowned sunset at the northernmost tip of town. Outside of Oia town visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri (1500BC), hilltop settlement of ancient Thira (900BC), volcanic beach of Perissa and the exquisite hilltop Chora town of Pyrgos. Sample excellent wines at many famous vineyards including Roussos, Boutari, Venetsanos and Sigalas which is near Oia and one of the best on the island.

Day 2: Sunday

IOS: This is the day scheduled to tour Ios island. Rent cars or quad bikes to explore the many wonders of the island including Homer's tomb, where the famous writer of the Greek Odyssey and the Iliad was entombed following a shipwreck.

Drive along the coast to popular Milopotas beach for some watersports or remote Maganari beach for a picnic lunch and swim. These are two of the finest beaches in the Aegean.

Head back to the yacht for lunch then take some time to explore the early 2500BC archeological site at Skarkos - awarded the European Union's prize for Cultural Heritage and Conservation in 2008. In the afternoon, check out Pathos Café Bar's 200ft infinity pool. After dinner explore the hilltop Chora town with its many shops, bars and live Greek music.



Dinner: In the hilltop Chora head for a bohemian and lively experience at Lord Byron's restaurant which has fantastic Greek fusion dining in a pub atmosphere. Thai Smile, also in the Chora offers the best Thai food in the Aegean and is great value.



Ios to Iraklia to Skinoussa

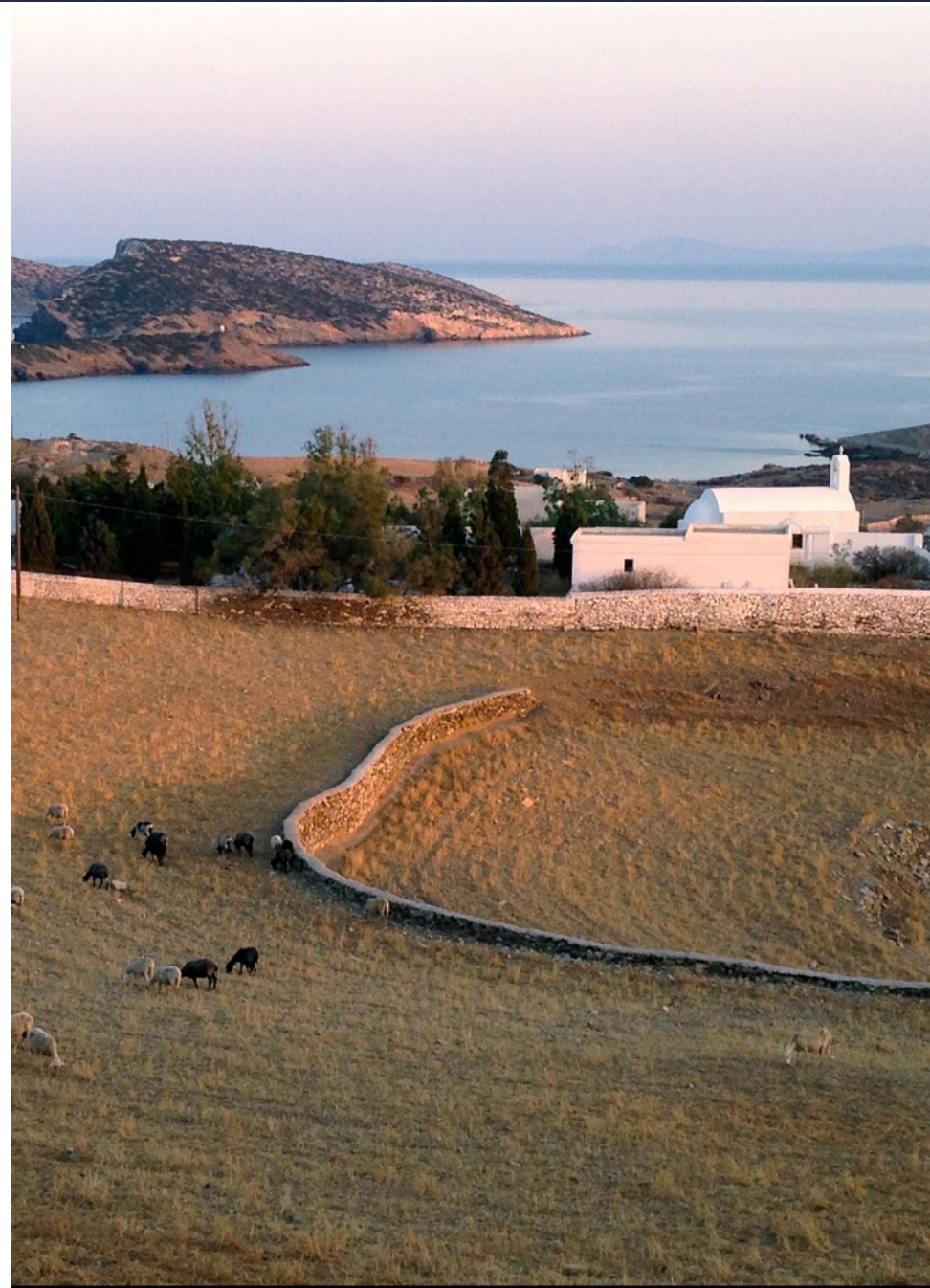
23 miles – 3 hours. Motor then close reach.

Day 3: Monday

IRAKLIA and SKINOUSSA: Venture further east to 'Les Petite Cyclades', a remote group of islands south of Naxos known for quaint coves, beaches and very little traffic. A lunch and swim stop is made at Iraklia island to view a sunken aircraft from World War II, which is 25 feet down in the crystal clear bay. After lunch sail into the tiny fishing cove of Skinoussa, population 147! What is special about this little known island, is the lovely beach, the tiny hilltop Chora town and a fabulous restaurant. After dinner the 15 minute walk down to the yacht is breath-taking, with bright Aegean stars lighting your way and a remarkable silence all around except, for the buzz of the cicadas.



Dinner: Deli taverna restaurant offers a divine 7-course meal and owner Dimitri explains the wonderful island produce and recipes as he serves the dishes; delicious local kalamari, scampi pasta, creamy goat cheese, sun dried tomatoes, arugula salad and the fabulous fava bean puree. The view is also fit for Gods and Goddesses with the setting sun illuminating golden hills sloping to the sea and countless islands in the distance.





Skinoussa to Tigania to Paros

33 miles – 4.5 hours. This leg tends to be close hauled.



Day 4: Tuesday

PAROS: Sail early out of Skinoussa to the azure lagoon of Tigania for a swim and lunch, then move on to Parikia town Paros island, for the night. Navigating the tricky 14ft passage between Paros and Andi Paros is always interesting, before arriving in Parikia and exploring this charming sea-level harbour town. Visit the 4th-century Panagia Ekatontapylani (Our Lady of a Hundred Doors) church. This is the oldest remaining Byzantine church in Greece and has exceptional architecture, religious icons and an exquisite marble baptismal chamber. Wander the bougainvillea-fringed streets and check out a maze of shops offering fashion, jewelry and local handicrafts.



Dinner: Dionysos restaurant is beautifully set in an open-air atrium and is a favorite on the tour. An authentic menu of local Greek dishes is combined with French cuisine to offer a huge variety of meat, seafood, pastas and salads. After dinner there are numerous local pubs for a night-cap before going back to the harbour.



Paros to Delos

24 miles – 3 hours. Typical northerlies don't allow a sail.

Day 5: Wednesday

DELOS: An early departure from Paros allows a 3-hour exploration of sacred Delos, the most important archaeological site of ancient Greece. Delos remains in an excellent state of preservation allowing guest to wander along the Street of the Lions, explore an amphitheater, a stadium, see private palaces and Roman baths. A highlight is to climb up sacred Mount Kynthos, for a divine view of the Cycladic Islands. Eat lunch aboard followed by a swim in the refreshing waters of Delos channel.

Archaeological guides may be available and hired at the entrance at additional cost.

All visitors must leave Delos by 3pm.





Route 1: Delos to Syros

20 miles – 2.5 hours. Beam reach in northerly winds.

Route 2: Delos to Mykonos

6 miles – 1 hour. A short tack in northerly winds.



Day 5: Wednesday (continued)

ROUTE 1 SYROS: The Venetian town of Ermoupoli is the capital of the Cyclades and features neo-classical mansions, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic cathedrals surrounded by pastel coloured houses which cascade down to the harbour. Arriving by yacht the town resembles the coastal Amalfi towns of Italy. Exploring this bustling metropolis in the middle of the Aegean is remarkable, with streets made of marble, ornate architecture, a huge open piazza and the impressive parliament buildings of the Cyclades.



Dinner: Phenomenal Mazi Mazi restaurant offers the most enchanting ambience in its courtyard of hanging vines, cascading Bougainvillea and 19th century stone arches meeting 30ft above the tables. The restaurant features exquisite Greek fusion meals, fine wine and an exceptional cocktail bar.

ROUTE 2 MYKONOS: 20 minutes north of the yacht marina is Mykonos town. Take a short bus or taxi ride to experience the labyrinth of Mykonos town, Little Venice and enjoy great shopping, a vast choice of dining and world famous nightlife.



Dinner: Nikos taverna, the largest restaurant in town offers great daily specials, good service and captures the flavor of Mykonos with its outdoor seating right in the middle of the town. Nearby, Napoli offers excellent thin crust pizzas and pasta. Scandinavian bar offers fun nightlife.

NOTE: Mykonos can be excessively windy and the unfinished yacht harbour, 20-mins away from the old town is tricky to moor due to its poor design. It is accessed by reservation only. The busy harbour has many cargo, cruise ships and ferries docked so it is noisy and has exhaust fumes. The decision to take Route 1 or 2 on a Cabin Charter or Flotilla program is based on weather, the number of yachts on the flotilla and is at the discretion of the Captain and flotilla leader.



Route 1: Syros to Kea

43 miles – 5.5 hours. Motor out of Ermoupolis then a tack to the North tip of Kea

Route 2: Mykonos to Kea

60 miles – 7.5 hours. Motor out of Mykonos then a tack to the North tip of Kea.



Day 6: Thursday

Dependent on Day 5 continue Route 1 or 2

KEA: After a morning exploring, a late lunch and swim stop can be made on the former penal colony island of Yiaros. This can be a challenging passage, but if the conditions are right it is unforgettable. Arriving at the quaint harbor of Vourkari on Kea island, walk around the bay to the deserted ruins of a 3000 BC pre-historic settlement. There is also a delightful beach with tiki bar, a few minutes from the harbour.

Either that afternoon or the following morning, visit the traditional town of Ioulis by pre-arranged transport. After a 45-minute hike see the largest ancient sculpture in Greece, a 21-foot lion sculpted in 600 BC. Later wander through the enchanting old-world town of Ioulis, stopping in at the fascinating archaeological museum which houses the huge, terracotta Venuses of fertility found down at the harbour site.



Dinner: Vourkarion restaurant is a charming traditional Greek taverna which features exceptionally fresh meats, as the owner is a local farmer. Greek delicacies such as lamb chops and mixed grill are served along with a huge range of salads and vegetarian dishes. Aristos taverna, steps from the gangplank, is a sailor's focal point and is known for seafood and lobster spaghetti.



Kea to Athens

43 miles – 5.5 hours. With northerlies a nice beam reach, with north westerlies more close hauled.

Day 7: Friday

CAPE SOUNION: Sail across the Kea channel and moor under the shadows of Cape Sounion and the famous Temple of Poseidon (440 BC). This is a magical place for the last lunch and swim of your charter.



Dinner: Arriving back at Alimos Kalamaki Marina in Athens, celebrate the end of tour with a toast in the cockpit and a Greek fusion meal at Alimonaki restaurant, or return to Edem taverna for a farewell dinner.

Day 8: Saturday

DISEMBARK: Athens at 09:00hrs



NOTE: All itineraries are shown in good faith, but can be changed without notice while on charter due to weather, logistics, safety and technical reasons.