

Greece: Saronic Cyclades

14-night: Athens to Athens





Athens to Aegina

12 miles – 2 hours. The Saronic Gulf area is known for light winds from the south in the spring and from the north in the summer.

Aegina to Poros

10 miles – 2.5 hours. Breezes tend to pick up in the afternoon but generally remain light.

Day 1: Saturday

Saturday is best spent touring the many sites and museums in Athens.

Arrive at Alimos Kalamaki Marina for boarding at 17:00hrs or earlier if you are provisioning for your own charter yacht.

Upon boarding there is time to unpack and a safety briefing or yacht check-in will follow with the skipper or yacht operator. It is important to understand the safety and operational information prior to sailing.

The first night is typically a sleepover in the marina unless early boarding has been pre-arranged.



Dinner: Edem restaurant just outside the marina is a good place for lunch and is our meeting point for Aegean Adventure cabin charter and flotilla guests. Our staff is there from approximately 7pm.

Day 2: Sunday

AEGINA: See the famous Temple of Aphaia (490 BC) by taking a 1.5-hour round-trip hike from the small port. You can also explore the quaint little village and have coffee overlooking the bay. Aegina boasts the best pistachio nuts in the world and they can be found in the local shops. Enjoy a swim in the crystal clear waters of the bay and lunch before getting underway to Poros.

POROS: When viewed from seaward Poros is one of the most beautiful towns in Greece, so a great photo opportunity. After docking explore this bustling little port town and take a hike up to the clock tower seeing bougainvillea, jasmine, cactus, fig and cypress trees on the way. The clock tower offers a panoramic view of the sun setting over the majestic Peloponnese Mountains.



Dinner: Dine at the beautiful Garden taverna, where fresh grilled fish and a dish of baked lamb, potatoes, melted cheese and herbs (traditional kleftiko) are the specialties. Alternatively, busy Oasis taverna at the port, where wonderful fresh fish and barbecued octopus are highly recommended.



Poros to Spathi Bay

7 miles - 1 hour. Motor sailing along the coastline.

Spathi Bay to Hydra

6 miles - 1 hour. In northerly conditions this is a broad reach.

Day 3: Monday

POROS AND SPATHI: The narrow channel between Poros and Spathi provides an excellent photo opportunity of the built up terracotta roofed town. The channel is filled with yachts, fishing boats and at the entrance Bourtzi island features Venetian fort that once defended this narrow passage. Spathi is a great place for brunch and a morning swim, in the translucent waters of this protected sandy bottom bay.

HYDRA: The historic port of Hydra is a Saronic Gulf highlight, as there are no roads or cars on the island. The tiny harbour becomes congested in the summer with yachts regularly rafting three deep, so it is important to arrive early to get a good spot on the wharf. Once docked, explore this famous Venetian town and pick a seaside taverna or café for lunch. Spend the afternoon on a donkey tour or wander the cobblestone streets and stop at art galleries, jewellery, clothing and handicraft shops. To cool off, dive in at Hydra's refreshing swimming area. A one-hour hike through winding Venetian stairways allows a visit to song writer and poet Leonard Cohen's house and a great view of the steep harbor. A more challenging two-hour hike through an enchanting pine forest ends at Profitis Ilias monastery, which offers a fantastic panoramic view of Hydra channel and the surrounding Peloponnese coastline.



Dinner: A great choice for a sunset dinner is Kodylenia's taverna in tiny Kamini harbour. It is a wonderful 20-minute walk south west along the coast or 5-minute water taxi ride from Hydra port. The open-air terrace restaurant overlooks quaint Kamini fishing village and offers an extensive menu of Greek delicacies including fresh fish and giant Hydra Kalamari. Following dinner, cocktails and dancing can be enjoyed at Amalour or Pirate's bar back at Hydra harbour.





Route 1: Hydra to Kolona Bay, Kithnos or Merikas harbour, Kithnos

48 miles – 6 hours. Northerly winds in the summer months and southwesterly air in the spring make this a great sailing passage.

Route 2: Hydra to Kleftiko Bay, Milos

68 miles – 9 hours. Northerly winds in the summer months and southwesterly air in the spring make this a great sailable passage.

Day 4: Tuesday

A choice of two Cycladic island routes can be followed.

ROUTE 1 KOLONA BAY, KITHNOS: Departing Hydra mid-morning, one of the best sails of the trip awaits if the winds are favourable. A beautiful body of the wine dark Aegean sea lies between the Saronic Gulf and Cyclades leading to a spectacular overnight anchorage. Anchor either side of Kolona sandbar and enjoy a late afternoon swim, snorkel or paddle to shore and crawl into the natural thermal hot tub on the beach. The volcanic heated water is 36 degrees Celsius. If the weather does not allow safe anchorage, then yachts moor in the safety of nearby Merikas harbour.



Dinner: Kolona bay is a great place to dine under the Aegean night sky or Yialos Taverna restaurant at Merikas harbor offers wonderful local Greek food.

ROUTE 2 KLEFTICO BAY, MILOS: This long leg from the Saronic Gulf is worth it as Milos is one of the more remote gems of the Cyclades. If weather permits, an unforgettable overnight anchorage at Kleftiko bay surrounded by 100m cliffs is a highlight of this itinerary. Swim, snorkel or kayak in translucent waters through caves and grottos. After dinner the fun continues as the constellations and stars come out. *This remote anchorage is weather dependent and may be done the first or second night at Milos or may not be possible.



Dinner: Dining at anchor under a canopy of Aegean stars and the surrounding cliffs makes for one of the most memorable nights on this itinerary.

NOTE: 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: Kolona Bay or Merikas to Loutra, Kithnos

10 miles – 1.3 hours. Northerly winds in the summer months make this a motor sail north, then a short sail down the coast to Loutra harbor.

Route 2: Kleftiko Bay, Milos to Adamas Harbor, Milos

14 miles – 2 hours. Motor-sail along the coastline and sail into the volcanic caldera.

Day 5: Wednesday

Dependent on Day 4 continue Route 1 or 2

ROUTE 1 LOUTRA: There is time in the morning to swim, kayak or beachcomb at Kolona Bay before a short passage over the top of Kithnos and a lunch time arrival at Loutra. Enjoy an excursion to the quintessentially beautiful Greek hilltop town, Chora. In the afternoon explore the healing volcanic thermal waters of Loutra, as they cascade up under sacred church grounds. Visit the healing centre for a soak in a marble tub, or enjoy the hot thermal waters at the large natural hot tub down at the beach. There is also a spa service at the local hotel and a scuba diving school. The little town of Loutra also offers two lovely beaches and fun restaurants and cafes.



Dinner: A wonderful evening meal on the beach at Sofrano Taverna restaurant.

ROUTE 2 ADAMAS HARBOUR, MILOS: Rent small cars or a minivan to see some of the phenomenal geology of Milos. Visit the spectacular volcanic creek of Sarakiniko and hike around the deep grotto of Papafraga. Later in the day see the charming fishing village of Madrakia and the ancient Roman amphitheatre at Tripiti, where the statue of the Venus de Milos was found. Other sites include the beautiful mile-long Firiplaka beach, charming Pollonia bay and the fascinating geological museum near the harbor.



Dinner: In hilltop town of Tripiti, Ergina's Ouzeri specialize in local Miloan delicacies including thin spicy pitarakia cheese pies, unique traditional lasagna, fresh seafood and goat with herbs in casserole. An exquisite choice at sea level is Yialos taverna at beautiful Pollonia bay that offers fried feta with sesame seeds and honey, fantastic seafood pasta and exquisite salads.





Route 1: Loutra, Kithnos to Serifos onto Sifnos

44 miles – 5.5 hours. A broad reach or run along Kythnos coast and across to Serifos then on to Sifnos.

Route 2: Adamas Harbor, Milos to Folegandros

38 miles - 5 hours. Motor-sail out of Milos sailing between Kimolos and Milos to Poliegos then a nice SE beam reach to Folegandros.



Day 6: Thursday

Dependent on Day 4 continue Route 1 or 2

ROUTE 1 SERIFOS onto SIFNOS: An early morning departure allows for a lunch and swim stop at Psili Ammos beach in Serifos. In the afternoon, a relaxing down-wind run to Sifnos allows guests to explore charming Platy Yialos port. Platy Yialos features a beautiful mile long beach with fine sand and a promenade with cafes, restaurants and a few specialty stores.



Dinner: There is a Greek taverna restaurant and wine bar along the beach, but do not miss the wonderful Italian thin crust pizzas and pastas at Mama Mia's!

ROUTE 2 FOLEGANDROS: Leaving Milos enjoy great views of these unique volcanic land masses. Enjoy a swim stop at the remote, mile-long beach on the western side of Poliegos island before a quick plunge into the aquamarine waters of the 'Blue Lagoon of Poliegos followed by a wonderful sail to Folegandros. At the tiny rustic Folegandros port, take a bus up to see the magical hilltop 'Chora' village, with incredible drop-off views of the coastline and Cycladic islands to enjoy a sunset cocktail at one of the local hotels



Dinner: Choose a traditional Folegandros taverna, there are many to explore in the charming hilltop Chora town.



Route 1: Sifnos to Ios

34 miles – 4.5 hours. Open Aegean north winds normally allow for a spirited broad reach.

Route 2: Folegandros to Ios

20 miles – 2.5 hours. Open Aegean north winds normally make for a close reach.



Day 7: Friday

IOS: An enjoyable morning sail allows for a noon time tie up at Ios harbour, which can get busy in the summer months. Once docked, spend time and be spoilt at the luxurious Liostasi 5 star hotel and spa. Swim in the infinity pool, reserve a massage, facial or pedicure or simply enjoy a cocktail watching the spectacular sunset over Ios harbour and surrounding islands.

For a more active few hours, rent quad bikes or small cars from the port to see Homer's Tomb, popular Milopotas beach for watersports or remote Maganari beach.



Dinner: Liostasi's exquisite menu is prepared by a Michelin star chef and offers an excellent pairing menu, wine list and 5-star service. For a more bohemian and lively experience, Lord Byron's Taverna restaurant is the place to go for fantastic Greek fusion dining in a pub atmosphere. After dinner explore the hilltop Chora town with its many shops and bars.

Optional two-night excursion off the yacht to Santorini

The ferry excursion to Santorini is optional but highly recommended to allow access to 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 8: Saturday

SANTORINI: Ios island is the best access point to Santorini, as Santorini does not have a suitable yacht harbour for most yachts. Take the high-speed ferry for the 40-minute ride to Santorini then pick-up a pre-arranged rental car at the Santorini ferry port, to access accommodations in the UNESCO Heritage village of Oia, the most beautiful town in Santorini. Arriving at Oia, a great lunch spot is at Anemomilos hotel restaurant, which features Greek salad with Santorini's sweet cherry tomatoes and the best moussaka in the Aegean! Pre-arranged 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.



Dinner: There are many excellent tavernas to sample a short walk from accommodations in Oia town. Skala offers good Greek food with caldera view. Karma has Asian fusion in a tranquil setting and a visit to Anemomilos hotel offers great food and very good value. Exquisite, fresh seafood can be found at Sunset taverna a short drive down to Amoudi bay below Oia town.

NOTE: If sailing on the Cabin charter or flotilla program a full Santorini briefing is given in Ios prior to taking the ferry.



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Day 9: Sunday

SANTORINI: A 45-minute drive from Oia town is the entombed Minoan archaeological site of Akrotiri (1500BC), thought to be the 'Lost civilization of Atlantis'. Following this extraordinary indoor site visit the hilltop settlement of ancient Thira (900BC). For lunch and a swim the volcanic beach of Perissa offers miles of black sand a dozens of cafes and taverna restaurants. The exquisite hilltop Chora town of Pyrgos offers wonderful architecture, panoramic views and the divine Pyrgos taverna restaurant and vineyard, which features deep fried tomato 'keftedes' and unique white eggplants -the island specialties. 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.



Dinner: Pyrgos taverna serves a full range of island delicacies in a panoramic dining room overlooking the island. Senior Zorba's offers tasty Mexican fare with a spectacular open-air view of the caldera. Back at Oia there are many other restaurants to choose from, or another visit to Anemomilos hotel restaurant is well worth it for dinner as well.



Ios to Iraklia to Skinoussa

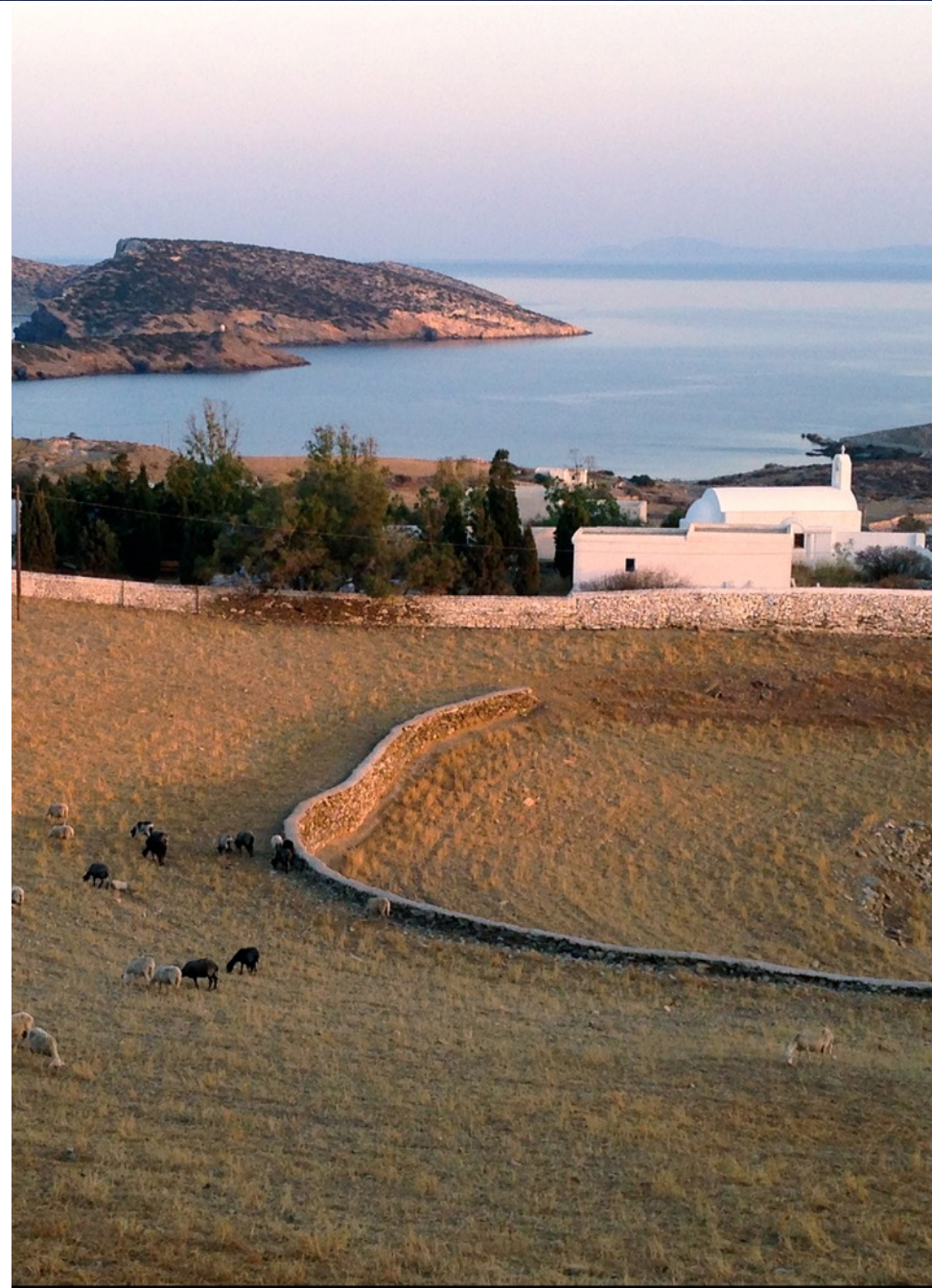
23 miles – 3 hours. Motor then close reach.

Day 10: 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 11: 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 12: 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 12: 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 13: Thursday

Dependent on Day 12 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 14: 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 15: 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.