

# Greece: Saronic Cyclades

7-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

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

## Day 1: Saturday

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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 that you 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

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**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

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**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.





## 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.



## Day 4: Tuesday

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**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 can 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.



## 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.

### Day 5: Wednesday

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**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.





## Loutra, Kithnos to Kea

24 miles – 3 hours. Motor up the east coast of Kithnos and sail close hauled across the Kithnos channel



## Day 6: Thursday

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**KEA:** 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 today 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

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**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

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**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.