

Greece: Saronic Cyclades

7-night: Athens to Ios





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

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

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 Platý Yialos port. Platý 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.



Ios

After disembarking, 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 8: Saturday

DISEMBARK: Ios at 09:00hrs

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.



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.