

# Greece: Saronic Cyclades

7-night: Athens to Santorini







## 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 as per charter contract and transfers.**

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 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.



## Kithnos to Serifos onto Sifnos

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

### Day 5: Wednesday

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**SERIFOS:** An early morning departure allows for a lunch and swim stop at the golden sandy beach of Psili Ammos beach on Serifos.

**SIFNOS** 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 1: Sifnos to Ios

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



## Day 6: Thursday

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**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 to Santorini

32 miles – 4 hours. Open Aegean north winds normally allow for a nice reach. There is a yacht harbour on the Southern coast of Santorini at Vlichada, but Captain's may have access to shore from mooring balls at Amoudi Bay below Oia town or at Thira town.

## Day 7: Friday

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**Santorini:** A pre-arranged rental car allows access to the whole island and the UNESCO Heritage village of Oia, the most beautiful town in Santorini. From accommodations with sea view or the more sought-after caldera view, have 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:** Anemomilos hotel restaurant, which features traditional Greek salad with Santorini's sweet cherry tomatoes and the best moussaka in the Aegean! There are many excellent tavernas to sample in Oia town. Skala offers good Greek food with caldera view. Karma has Asian fusion in a tranquil setting.





## Santorini

After disembarking, exploring Santorini for a few days 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. Caldera view studios, luxury villas, car rental and VIP transfers can all be organized in advance. Santorini has an airport with short flights to Athens as well as Frankfurt, London and other European airports.



## Day 8: Saturday

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**DISEMBARK:** Santorini at 09:00-12:00hrs

**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 at the volcanic beach of Perissa which offers miles of black sand and 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:** Exquisite, fresh seafood can be found at Sunset taverna a short drive down to Amoudi bay below Oia town. Pyrgos taverna in the middle of the island, 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.

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.