

GREECE – THE CYCLADES ISLANDS

8-days / 7-nights island hopping through history with fishing villages, beaches and moderate cycling



The Greek Cyclades, comprising more than 30 islands, is known as the cradle of the first European civilised society, dating back 5,000 years. It is also here that Greece shows its less touristy and mostly unadulterated side. Gleaming white cubic houses with blue shutters and a labyrinthine of lanes and alleyways give a unique yet typical architectural style to the island towns. The coastline has impressive dramatic geological formations, turquoise-blue bays and pristine sandy beaches. Experience the fascinating mix of antiquity and modern times here, and the true beauty of the central archipelago of the Greek Aegean.

Our accommodation is a wooden three masted traditionally styled motor yacht, modernized and comfortable, ideal for bike and boat cruises. The good-sized cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with double or twin beds each cabin has its own shower and toilet. There is room for all guests in the spacious saloon to eat meals inside and to relax. When the weather conditions are fine guests can take their meals outside on the shaded deck area. The spacious sundeck is equipped with cosy mats and is an ideal place to relax.

Our moderate level cycling tours require a basic level of fitness, which can be acquired from steady cycling practise. The bike routes have a length of 20 to 35km and can lead through hilly or mountainous areas - some uphill stretches are included but there is enough time allowed for you to stop and enjoy the scenery. The roads are mostly sealed and each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join the tour guides. E-bikes are available for a supplement, please ask when booking. Free time is set aside each day to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you.

Cost from: \$2945 per person (twin share lower deck cabins) Single cabin supplement from \$965

High season supplement of \$175 per person applies to departures in September

Departs: 25th April; 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th May; 6th, 13th, 20th June;
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th September; 3rd October, 2020

Cruise includes: 7-nights in double / twin or single cabins with own shower/toilet, 2 nights full board on the ship (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner), 5 nights at half board (includes breakfast and lunch or dinner), English and German speaking cycle tour guide, guided cycling tours as described in itinerary, 21-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, museum and archaeological site entries on the group visits.

Not included: Transfer Athens Airport to/from Marina Zeas (group transfers at set times available at extra cost, ask when booking), personal expenses and gratuities, meals on land, drinks (tally sheet onboard to be paid at end of trip), bicycle insurance (can be pre-paid if required, please ask for details), €20 per person for drinking water (paid locally to boat Captain)

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Suggested itinerary – subject to weather and sailing conditions *

Day 1 Saturday: Arrive Athens

Make your way to Marina Zeas, the yacht harbour of Piraeus port (take a taxi or bus or use the train system from Athens airport, or ask about group transfer at set time for extra cost). Check-in is from 2.00pm onwards. There is a welcome dinner on board and time to explore the cafes and nightlife in nearby Piraeus.

Day 2 Sunday: Kythnos Island

cycling @ 25km

Cruising through an early breakfast takes us to Kythnos Island, famous for centuries for its cheese and honey. We begin cycling from the harbour of Merichas to the capital of the island, Chora. The route offers scenic views to the coastline. Chora is a village, situated on a high plateau; its alleyways are decorated with painted flowers and geometric patterns. From there we cycle to the picturesque village of Driopida and then return to Merichas, where we can spend the evening in one of the many traditional tavernas.

Day 3 Monday: Seriphos Island

cycling @ 30km

We cruise to Seriphos, a small island far from the tourist trails, a place of deep valleys, countless bays and small coves with many beautiful sandy beaches. From the harbour town of Livadi we cycle to the Seriphos, where cube-form houses sit beneath a mountain ridge. We continue through rural landscapes to visit the Byzantine monastery of the Archangel Michael. We return to Livadi along a panoramic road this time on the East coast. In the afternoon the ship cruises to Siphnos, where we can relax at the beautiful beach. Overnight stay in Kamares.

Day 4 Tuesday: Siphnos Island

cycling @ 20km

The island of Siphnos, famous for its ceramic artwork, is only inhabited inland, away from the coast, as the coastal cliffs drop steeply into the sea. The cycling begins in the harbour of Kamares and the route leads through a green, hilly terraced landscape into the central highlands. The island's capital Kastro is a defensive settlement built on a steep cliff face (it is a heritage listed and protected town). In the afternoon the ship will bring us to Kea, on a longer cruise with the chance along the way to throw the anchor for a swimming stop.

Day 5 Wednesday: Kea Island

cycling @ 25km

Our starting point for exploring the north-western-most inhabited Cyclades island is the beautiful natural harbor of Korissia. From here we cycle uphill to the capital of the island, Loulis before continuing on for a swim at the white sand beach at Otzias. We return by bike to Korissia and then cruise the Saronic Gulf to the spectacular harbour city of Poros, with its iconic clock tower jutting out over the town and a true Greek island atmosphere.

Day 6 Thursday: Poros Island

cycling @ 25km

Today we ride from Poros City to the Zoodochos Pigis monastery from the 18th century. Afterwards we continue around the island which once Poseidon himself possessed, until arriving at Russian Bay, a sandy beach with turquoise blue water which just begs one to swim. Back in Poros City board the boat waits for a delicious midday meal during a cruise to Ägina.

Day 7 Friday: Ägina Island

cycling @ 35km

Ägina is known well beyond Greece for its incredible pistachio nuts. Today's ride goes up to the Sanctuary of Aphaia, where the well preserved temple towers high and the Aegean Sea can be seen on both sides. We cycle across the island, past the monastery of Nektarios to Ägina City and then take our last cruise back to Piraeus.

Day 8 Saturday: Piraeus

Tour ends after breakfast in Piraeus near Athens.

** The Cyclades Islands are relatively susceptible to wind. Normally this results in only a minor modification of the tour route, however with strong winds we may need to reschedule the itinerary. Our alternative tour takes us to the Argosaronic Gulf, one of the most historic regions of Greece: We cross between the Greek mainland and the Peloponnes to the islands of Ägina, Poros, Kea, Kythnos, and Seriphos and Siphnos. A highlight of this alternative itinerary is a visit to the ancient Epidaurus with the best-preserved amphitheatre in Greece.*



Outdoor Travel offers **Bike & Boat** cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the Lycian Coast of Turkey, Sicily and the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Similar Bike & Boat cruises are available in **Greece** and **Turkey** including **Rhodes and the Dodecanese - Islands of the Sun God, Corfu and the Ionian Islands** and other **Aegean Islands**. Tours depart on selected dates in from March to October each year.

We also have similar tours in Vietnam. **Bike & Barge** cycling cruises are available on many of the canals and rivers of Europe including the Seine, Loire Valley and Burgundy or Provence in France and on the 2-week route between Paris and Bruges through the Somme WW1 battlefield and memorial sites in northern France. We also offer several routes in Holland, Belgium, Austria, Romania and Germany – along the Saar, Danube, Moselle and Rhine – or on the Amalfi Coast or the Venice region of Italy.

Inn-to-inn cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe, North America, Vietnam, China, Japan, South Africa and New Zealand – ask for details

Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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