

GREECE – THE CYCLADES ISLANDS INCLUDING MYKONOS

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



The Greek Cyclades, comprising more than 30 islands, is the cradle of the first European civilised society around 5,000 years ago. It is also here that Greece shows its less touristy and mostly unadulterated side: Gleaming white cubic houses with blue shutters and labyrinth lanes and alleyways give a unique yet typical architectural style to the island towns. The rugged coastlines show impressive geological formations, turquoise-blue bays and fantastic sand beaches. This is your opportunity to experience the fascinating mix of antiquity and modern times with the true beauty of the central archipelago of the Greek Aegean.

Our accommodation is an affectionately restored two masted traditionally styled motor yacht, 23 ft. wide and 102 ft. long modernized with all the comfort requirements of bike and boat cruises. There are 6-cabins below deck and 4-cabins above deck (book early if you want the upper-deck cabins). All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with a French bed (a double & single bunk bed as pictured), one single bed and private 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 eat meals outside on the shaded rear deck area. The spacious sun deck, 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 35 km 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. Free time is set aside each day to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you.

Cost: AU\$2095 per person (twin share lower deck cabins). Single cabin supplement: AU\$1045

Upper deck: Supplement: AU\$85 per person (twin share). Single cabin supplement: AU\$170

Departs: 19th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th June, 8th, 15th, 22nd September 2012

Starts & Ends: Piraeus near Athens

Cruise includes: 7-nights in double / twin or single cabins with own shower/toilet (bed linen & towels provided), 2 nights full board on the ship includes breakfast, lunch & dinner, 5 nights at half board includes breakfast & dinner, English & German speaking cycle tour guide with 6-guided cycling tours as described in itinerary, 21-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, museum & archaeological site entries on the group visits.

Not included: Personal expenses & gratuities, meals on land, drinks – tally sheet onboard to be paid at end of trip etc, transfer Athens Airport – ship on request (@ €40 each way). There are some helmets available but we highly recommend you bring your own or buy a helmet for this trip.

CALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL ON 1800 331 582 FOR DETAILS OR RESERVATIONS



Suggested itinerary – subject to weather & sailing conditions

Day 1 Saturday Arrive Athens

Make your own way to the port of Marina Zeas in Piraeus (you can take a taxi or bus or use the train system from Athens airport). Check-in is from 2pm onboard your traditional wooden ship. Dinner on board. Overnight stay in Piraeus.

Day 2 Sunday Kythnos Island

(Cycle route approx. 25 km)

Cruising through an early breakfast takes us to Kythnos Island, famous for its cheese and honey since ancient times. The first cycling trip, which will start in the harbour of Merichas leads us to the capital Chora. The route offers many 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 today's cycling leads us to the picturesque village of Driopida. We then return to Merichas, where we can spend the evening in one of the cosy tavernas.

Day 3 Monday Seriphos Island

(Cycle route approx. 35 km)

In the morning we cruise to Seriphos, a small island far from the beaten tourist trail. It is a place of deep valleys, countless bays and small coves with plenty of beautiful sandy beaches. From the harbour town of Livadi we cycle along a winding road to the main town of Seriphos, whose 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

(Cycle route approx. 20 km)

The island of Siphnos, famous for its ceramic artwork, is only inhabited away from the coast, as its coast drops steeply into the sea. The cycling begins in the harbour of Kamares and the route leads through a green, hilly terraced landscape to the central highlands. The island's capital Kastro, is a defensive settlement built on a steep cliff face and is a listed and protected town. In the afternoon the ship will bring us to Syros, where we can relax in one of the numerous cafes on the harbour promenade.

Day 5 Wednesday Syros and Mykonos Island

(Cycle route approx. 30 km)

Syros is the capital of the Cyclades. The town of Ermoupolis offers visitors an unforgettable views, built on two hills it is very different from the other Cycladic towns. Pastel coloured houses, many of which have classical facades dominant the townscape. We cycle along the coast of Syros which is full of bays and coves along the entire southern half of the island to the beautiful beach of Galissas and then past the convent of Saint Barbara back to Ermoupolis. In the afternoon we continue by boat to Mykonos, where the picturesque main town with its famous windmills and its white cube-formed houses is great for a stroll. We may even see the mascot of Mykonos in the maze of laneways, the pelican Petros.

Day 6 Thursday Delos Island and Tinos Island

(Cycle route approx. 25 km)

In the morning we have chance to visit the ancient sites on the island of Delos, where according to Greek mythology the god Apollo and his twin sister Artemis were born. After lunch we cross over to Tinos. There we visit the famous Evangelistria church in Tinos town. Today's cycling takes us along a high road to the mountain village of Tarambados, a village full of walled dovecotes with fine filigree architecture which dates from Venetian times. Overnight in Tinos town.

Day 7 Friday Kea Island

(Cycle route approx. 12 km)

In the morning we cruise the ship to Kea, the most westerly inhabited Cyclade islands, to the wonderful natural harbour of Korissia. From here we cycle to the white beach of Otzias, a jewel of the Mediterranean - for a refreshing swim before we visit the picturesque town of Ioulis which is situated in the mountains. The *smiling lion of Kea* was chiselled from stone here in the 6th century BC. We sail to Piraeus and moor overnight.

Day 8 Tour ends in Piraeus

Tours end after breakfast.

Please note: 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 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, Hydra, Spetses and the Methana peninsula. A highlight is a visit to the ancient Epidauros with the best-preserved amphitheatre in Greece.



Other Bike & Boat cruises available in Greece – ask for full itinerary details:

Rhodes from Marmaris departs: 21 Apr, 5, 19 May, 22 Sep, 6 Oct, 2012

Corfu & Ionian Islands departs: 21,28 Apr, 5,12 May, 23,30 Jun, 7,14 Jul, 8,25 Aug, 29 Sep, 6,13,20 Oct 2012

Greek Islands & The Aegean departs: 31 Mar, 7, 14, 21, 28 Apr, 5, 12 May, 22, 29 Sep, 6 Oct, 2012

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece & Turkey. We also have similar tours in Vietnam and along the coast of Italy including Tuscany, Sicily, Puglia & from Venice.

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

Inn-to-inn cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe, Australia & New Zealand - ask for details

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

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102