

GREECE – SOUTHERN AEGEAN BIKE & BOAT 2008

You will spend one week discovering the Dodecanese Islands in the Southern Aegean by bicycle and in a comfortable two-mast motorised sailing boat. Let yourself be mesmerised by the many things these different islands offer: the exciting yet tranquil Rhodes, the towering volcano crater in Nissiros or the charming simplicity of Symi. Your beautiful boat will carry you to one of the prettiest ports of the island, giving you the opportunity to relax next to the sparkling waters and enjoy the pleasant sea breeze. During the bike tours your tour guide will point out the most interesting and idyllic spots of the islands. Let yourself be transported back in time to personally experience the history that envelops the Aegean. Whether it be the stormy Poseidon, the Knights of St John, or the famous sponge divers from Symi- they all left their mark on the islands in the form of myths and historical buildings for you to discover.

Our easy to moderate graded cycling tours are all-inclusive. They require a basic level of fitness, which can be acquired from steady cycling practise. The day-tours of up to 65 km will take you through partly hilly or mountainous terrain. There will also be extended climbs. Most of the streets are paved. You are free to set aside a time each day to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you. We will travel mostly on sealed roads (rarely travelled outside the holiday season) and each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join the two tour guides.

Greece - Southern Aegean: \$1930 per person (twin share).

Single supplement: on request

Departs: 26 Apr, 3*, 10, 17 May, 27 Sep, 4, 11*, 18, 25 Oct 08

Starts & Ends Marmaris

Cruise includes: 8-day-trip on a motor yacht with a crew of four - double / twin or single cabins with shower/toilet, Full board on the ship includes breakfast, lunch & dinner, English speaking tour guide & 6-guided cycling tours as described in itinerary, Bed linen & towels, 21-g geared trekking bike rental with bike bag.

Not included in tour: Personal expenses & gratuities, meals on land, drinks – tally sheet onboard to be paid at end of trip etc, Museum entries, Transfer Dalaman Airport – ship on request

We highly recommend you bring a bike helmet on this trip.

***Please be aware that the tour from 03.-10.05.08 will end in Bodrum instead of Marmaris and the tour from 11.10.-18.10.08 will begin in Bodrum instead of Marmaris. The course of both tours varies a little bit from the above mentioned: On of the planned bike tours on Rhodes will be replaced by a bike tour on the island of Kos.**

SUGGESTED ITINERARY – subject to weather & sailing conditions

Day 1 (Sat) Marmaris (Boarding)

Individual arrival from the Turkish airports of Izmir or Dalaman. Transfer to the harbour with the handing over of the cabins from 2 pm. First dinner on board. The final participants arrive on board in the late evening.

Day 2 (Sun) Island of Rhodes, Rhodes City

(approx. 10 km/6.3 mi. by bike)

After breakfast crossover to the city of Rhodes, which last approx. 4 hours. After arrival the bikes will be adjusted to you and you will undertake an exciting voyage of discovery with your tour guide through the 2400-year-old island's history. The deer and the hind at the entrance of the port of Mandraki will be the first occasion to use your photo camera. One still wonders whether or not the famous Colossus of Rhodes has ever stood here. From here the tour continues to the ancient part of the hill of Monte Smith with the huge stadium and the sanctuary of Apollo. Subsequently you will traverse the crusade town with its imposing walls of the fortress.

Day 3 (Mon) Island of Rhodes

(approx. 65 km/40 mi. by bike)

Today you will mainly cycle along quiet side streets along the coast towards the village of Lindos. Along the way you will stop off in a tavern where you can enjoy a typically Greek meal. Lindos is one of the most beautiful villages of entire Greece. After a very last ascent you are will have an unforgettable view on the ship that waits for you in the small bay as well as on the idyllic town with its white cubic houses and its narrow alleys which is dominated by the walls of a medieval fortress of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and the remains of the ancient acropolis. Overnight stay in Lindos.



All Reservations Call 1800 331 582

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Day 4 (Tue) Island of Rhodes, Lindos – Plimiri**(approx. 35 km/22 mi. by bike)**

After breakfast the cycling trip leads you again to the south of the sunny island right along the coast of the island to Plimiri. During a coffee break in one of the cafés straight at the sea you will have a chance to see the Bahriyeli that is on its way to Plimiri where the boat will await you with a savoury lunch. The afternoon's crossing lasts 6 hours and gives you the opportunity to relax on board your ship and to sun bathe on deck. You will stay overnight in Livadia on the island of Tilos, a charming port with numerous tavernas, mainly frequented by sailing yachts.

Day 5 (Wed) Island of Nissiros**(approx. 40 km/25 mi. by bike)**

Early in the morning the ship will bring you to the volcanic island of Nissiros. Today's cycle tour takes you to Nikia, a town which is built directly on the edge of the crater and has a wonderful view over the volcano. You will be spellbound by the white houses and the numerous pebble mosaics and you mustn't miss the chance to enjoy a Greek coffee in the village square. From here you will cycle on to the volcanic crater with its steaming sulphur springs and then finally back to the small harbor town of Mandraki, whose charm has attracted visitors for centuries. In the afternoon you cross over to the island of Symi, where the Bahriyeli anchors in the bay of the Byzantine monastery Panormitis, which is dedicated to Michael the arch angel.

Day 6 (Thu) Island of Symi**(approx. 25 km/15 mi. by bike)**

After breakfast you will set out on your bike to cross over the island. The destination for the cycling tour is Symi town. Along the way you will be constantly surprised with new and wonderful views. Shortly before you begin the descent to the town you will enjoy a picnic high above the deep blue bay. The main town of the island reaches deep into the mountains with its classical buildings, which are remnants of the former riches of the sponge divers on the island. In the evening your guide will accompany you up the almost 500 steps to the highest point of the town. From here you will have a breathtaking view of the harbor and the deep bay.

Day 7 (Fri) Island of Symi and Marmaris**(approx. 10 km/6,3 mi. by bike)**

In the morning the last short cycle tour leads you to an idyllic bay where you have the opportunity to take a refreshing swim in a quiet cove. The crossing from Symi to Marmaris in the afternoon takes approx. 5 hours. After the last dinner on board you say goodbye to your tour guides and the crew of the Bahriyeli.

Day 8 (Sat) Marmaris Disembarkation and departure

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to the airport.

THE BOATS... The individual boat can vary, but all are renovated to a comfortable standard. For example:

The BAHRIYELI - On the Turkish south coast a Bahriyeli is a synonym for greatest possible comfort and best material. The three-masted ship reaches the sky and the well shaped hulk resists the waves easily. On the ship 8 to 12 spacious cabins with heating/air-conditioning and shower/toilet are available. The tasteful furnished saloon invites you to enjoy your meals and linger around. The sun decks offer you the opportunity to relax and to sunbathe. The crew members understand their job perfectly well and therefore know how to pamper the guests with all kind of delicacies.

Fitness

The bike routes require a basic level of fitness, which you can acquire by steady cycling. The day-tours of up to 65 km will take you through partly hilly or mountainous terrain. There will also be extended climbs. Most of the streets are paved. You can choose to spend a whole or half-day on board the boat whenever you want. You can decide every day for yourself, whether you would like to cycle individually, using the maps provided, or join one of the tour guides (or individual participants).

Bringing Children:

We believe that only children in a good physical condition and of a minimum age of 10 and previous bicycle tour experience are able to master the bike-tours on their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1.40 m (4.6 ft.).