

GREECE – THE CYCLADES ISLANDS **PREMIUM PLUS TOUR WITH E-BIKE** 8-days / 7-nights island hopping with fishing villages, beaches, history and moderate E-Bike 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 labyrinth 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.

We visit the relaxed, peaceful island of Kythnos, where we may have the chance to sample its famed cheese and honey. Seriphos, Syros and Kea offer far-reaching views, sandy beaches, distinctive architecture and traditional tavernas. We cycle round Poseidon's island of Poros and visit the temple of Aphaia on Ägina.

Our accommodation is on one of two Premium Plus boats. These are wooden three-masted traditionally styled motor yachts, 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. Guests can use the spacious saloon to eat meals inside and to relax. When the weather conditions are fine guests can dine outside on the shaded deck area. The spacious sundeck is equipped with mats and is an ideal place to unwind.

Our moderate cycling tours require a basic level of fitness, which can be acquired from steady cycling practise. E-bikes are an ideal way to neutralise the steeper hills, though of course you will still be pedalling. The bike routes are 25 to 35km mostly on sealed roads and have elevation gain of 350-700m per day. You may choose to use a standard hybrid bicycle instead, bearing in mind that the cyclists on E-bikes will set the pace. Each day you can decide to join the group and tour guides, cycle independently using the information and maps provided, or take a break from cycling and relax onboard the boat.

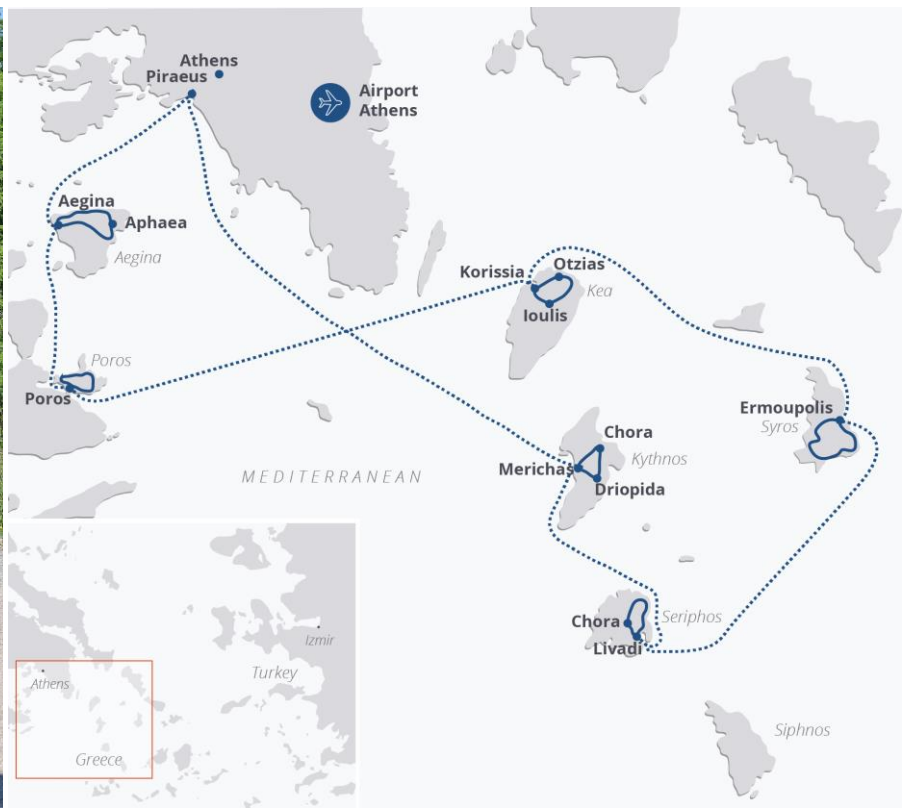
Cost from:	\$5330 per person (twin share)	Single cabin supplement from \$2320
Upgrade boat from:	\$5680 per person (twin share)	Single cabin supplement on request

Departs: 19, 26 April; 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 May; 7, 14, 21 June; 23, 30 August; 6, 13, 20, 27 September 2024

Cruise includes: 7 nights in comfortable below deck cabins with own shower/toilet, 2 days full board on the ship (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner), 5 days at half board (includes breakfast and either lunch or dinner), English and German speaking cycle tour guide, guided cycling tours as described in itinerary, E-bike hire, museum and archaeological site entries on the group visits.

Not included: Transfer Athens Airport to/from port (group transfers at set times available at extra cost, ask when booking), personal expenses and gratuities, meals taken ashore on half board days, drinks, other entrance fees, beach towels for ashore use, bicycle insurance (available for additional cost)

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Suggested itinerary – subject to weather and sailing conditions *

Day 1: Arrive Athens

Make your way to the port area of Piraeus/Palaia Faliro (take a taxi or bus or use the train system from Athens airport or ask about group transfer at set time for extra cost). Embark your ship from 2.00pm onwards. After settling into your cabins, there is a welcome dinner on board. Overnight in Athens.

Day 2: 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: Seriphos Island – Syros 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 Seriphos town, 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 Syros, where we can stroll the old town, harbour promenade or relax at a café.

Day 4: Syros Island

cycling @ 34km

Ermoupolis on Syros is the capital town of the Cyclades and is built on two hills, quite different from the other Cycladic towns. Pastel coloured houses, many of which have classical facades, dominate 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 the ship brings us to Kea, on a longer cruise with the chance along the way to throw the anchor for a swimming stop.

Day 5: Kea Island

cycling @ 25km

Our starting point for exploring the north-western-most inhabited Cycladic island is the beautiful natural harbour 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: Poros Island

cycling @ 25km

In ancient times the island was dedicated to Poseidon, God of the sea. We circumnavigate the island, riding from Poros city to the Zoodochos Pigis monastery from the 18th century, then continue to Russian Bay, a sandy beach with turquoise blue water which just begs one to swim. Back in Poros city we board the boat for a delicious midday meal during a cruise to Aegina.

Day 7: Āgina Island

cycling @ 35km

Āgina is known well beyond Greece for its incredible pistachio nuts. We cycle 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 Āgina city and then take our last cruise back to Athens.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Piraeus/Palaia Faliro 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 the itinerary may need to be rescheduled. The alternative tour takes you through the Argosaronic Gulf, one of the most historic regions of Greece: crossing between the Greek mainland and the Peloponnese to the islands of Āgina, Poros, Hydra, Spetses and the Methana peninsula. A highlight of this alternative itinerary is a visit to the ancient Epidauros 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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