

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 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 labyrinthine 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 feet wide and 102 feet long, modernized with all the comfort requirements of bike and boat cruises. There are six cabins below deck and four cabins above deck (book early if you want the upper-deck cabins). All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with a double bed and in some cabins a French bed (a double and single bunk bed as pictured), all with 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 take their meals outside on the shaded rear 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: \$2550 per person (twin share lower deck cabins) Upper deck supplement \$190 per person
Single cabin supplement lower deck from \$780, single cabin supplement upper deck from \$1140

Departs: 11th, 18th, 25th May, 1st, 8th June, 31st Augsut, 7th, 14th, 21st September, 2019

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, 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 for drinking water (paid locally to boat Captain)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



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 onboard. There is a welcome dinner on board and time to explore the cafes and nightlife in nearby Piraeus.

Day 2 Sunday: Kythnos Island

Cycling @ 25 km

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 @ 30 km

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 @ 20 km

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 @ 25 km

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 @ 25 km

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 @ 35 km

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.

** 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 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.*



Other Bike & Boat cruises available in Greece and Turkey in 2018 – see our website for details: **Rhodes and the Dodecanese - Islands of the Sun God** departs on selected dates in March, April, May, June, September and October. **Corfu and Ionian Islands** departs on selected dates in April and October. **Aegean Islands** departs on selected dates in March, April, May, June, September and October.

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. 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 and Germany – along the Saar, Moselle and Rhine – or in 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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