

## GREECE & TURKEY – CYCLADES & DODECANESE ISLANDS

8-days / 7-nights with moderate cycling from Bodrum to Naxos PREMIUM GUIDED cycling cruise



Situated in the Aegean Sea, with mainland Greece to the west and north and Turkey to the east, the Aegean Islands are made up by seven different clusters of islands which are all unique in their own way. Two of these clusters, and probably some of the most spectacular and contrasting are the Cyclades and the Dodecanese which we explore by bike and boat on this guided holiday. In both the Cyclades and the Dodecanese, the jagged coasts are characterised by impressive geological formations, turquoise blue sea and unique sandy beaches.

The Greek Cyclades, comprising of more than 30 islands, are known as the cradle for the first European civilised society, dating back 5,000 years. It is here that Greece reveals one of the most quintessential aspects - gleaming with white cubic houses, blue shutters and a labyrinthine of lanes and alleyways that give a unique yet typical architectural style to the island towns. The Dodecanese islands on the other hand are known for their medieval castles, Byzantine churches, beaches and ancient archaeological sites.

Our journey takes us to the Cyclades Islands of Amorgos, Naxos and Paros, as well as the Dodecanese islands of Kalymnos, Astypalaia and Kos. This tour is a wonderful combination and cycling and sailing where you can experience many different aspects of Greece. We sail on a comfortable PREMIUM motor yacht built in the style of a traditional Turkish *gulet*, with 15 spacious cabins, all air-conditioned and with an ensuite shower and toilet. There is a roomy saloon for meals inside, an outside shaded rear deck and a spacious sun deck for relaxation.

These cycling tours are graded as moderate with some challenging short climbs. The routes average between 25 to 40km per day mostly on sealed roads and on uphill stretches time is allowed for you to stop and enjoy the scenery. You are always welcome to have a rest day to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you. You may also like to upgrade to an e-bike – ask when booking about cost and availability.

**Cost from:**     **\$2595** per person (twin share lower deck)                     Single cabin supplement \$965  
                           Upper deck Supplement from \$265 per person                 Single cabin upper deck supplement \$1355  
                           High season supplement from \$175 per person applies to selected departures

**Departs:**         2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> May; 13<sup>th</sup> June; 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> September; 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020

**Cruise includes:**     7 nights in double/twin or single cabins with ensuite, 7 nights at half board (breakfast and either dinner or lunch daily), English and German speaking cycle guide with cycling tours as per itinerary, multi-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, museum and archaeological site entries on the group visits.

**Not included:**         Transfers to/from the ship in Bodrum (available at extra cost from Bodrum airport – please ask when booking), personal expenses, gratuities, bottled drinking water (flat rate €20 for the week), other meals and drinks, bicycle insurance (can be pre-paid if required, please ask for details). Some bike helmets are available on board but we recommend you bring or buy a helmet for this trip.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**Suggested itinerary** – subject to weather and sailing conditions, itinerary may operate in reverse

**Day 1 Saturday: Arrive Bodrum – Kalymnos Island**

Make your way to the port in Bodrum by 2.00pm. A group transfer from Bodrum airport at a set time is available at extra cost if required, ask us for details. At 4.00 pm the ship sails to the island of Kalymnos where we spend the night.

**Day 2 Sunday: Kalymnos Island – Amorgos Island**

**Cycling @ 30km**

Our first day of cycling starts in the harbour of Pothia, a town with traditional houses, coloured doors and wooden balconies. Pothia was known in the past and still today for the local sponge trade, so you can find many stalls selling them. We cycle across the island, characterised by dramatic mountain cliffs (that attract hardy climbers from all over the world), spectacular skeletal crags towering over the glistening blue water and fertile green valleys covered in olive groves and scattered with bee boxes for honey. We make our way to the other side of the island to Kalymnos and in the afternoon enjoy the sea breeze whilst crossing by boat to Amorgos Island.

**Day 3 Monday: Amorgos Island**

**Cycling @ 25km**

The island of Amorgos is located at the eastern edge of the Cyclades and bordering the Dodecanese islands, and is picture perfect with white and blue architecture and a relaxed atmosphere. On today's bike tour we cycle from the charming bayside town of Ormos Aigiali across the island to Katapola passing the island capital, Chora.

In the afternoon we return to the boat to cross over to the island of Naxos usually in time for sunset at the Apollo Temple. The old town of Naxos is a true highlight with its towering fortress, winding streets and stunning harbour. A wonderful place for a stroll in the evening.

**Day 4 Tuesday: Naxos Island**

**Cycling @ 35km**

After breakfast we ride through an untouched mountain landscape around the island of Naxos. We visit a beautifully sanctuary, the Temple of Demeter, situated on a hilltop. The temple was built of marble and it was converted into a church in the 6th Century. The temple, is a wonderful example of classical Greek architecture, and was named after the Greek goddess, Demeter who was the protector of harvest and agriculture.

Back in Naxos Town, we re-join the ship for the crossing to the picturesque port of Naoussa on Paros Island, a photographers dream. Take a stroll through the winding streets with its shops and taverns. Sit under an umbrella at a terrace beside the harbor to round off an eventful day.

**Day 5 Wednesday: Paros and Astypalaia Island**

**Cycling @ 30km**

Paros is green and lush compared to some nearby islands. It is famous for radiant white, translucent marble which is much sought after. Today we ride from Naoussa to the island capital, Parikia with a visit to the famous church, *Panagia Ekatontapyliani*. The name *Ekatontapyliani* means 'the Church with 99 doors'. According to legend, the 100<sup>th</sup> door is a secret door that will appear and open when the church of Hagia Sofia in Constantinople will become Orthodox again.

We continue across Paros Island to the small port of Piso Livadi, where we re-join the ship and sail to continue to our next overnight port, beautiful Astypalaia island.

**Day 6 Thursday: Astypalaia Island**

**Cycling @ 20km**

Astypalaia, the westernmost Dodecanese Island, is known as the bridge to the Cyclades. This lovely island is stunning with white villages, colourful fields and stone walls covered with flowers in spring and early summer and deep blue sea. We cycle from the main town of Chora with its winding streets and pretty cafes, a town dominated by a row of traditional red and white windmills along the skyline and the ruined 13<sup>th</sup> Century Venetian castle (the *Fortezza*) to Analipsi with an almost constant view of the sea. Our ship awaits in Analipsi for a crossing to the popular tourist town of Kos.

### Day 7 Friday: Kos Island to Asklepieion or Embros thermal springs

Cycling @ 15 or 25km

Our final day cycling has an option of two routes. The first is a ride to Asklepieion, one of the most important healing centres of the Roman world, home to Hippocrates, known as the father of modern day medicine. The complex was made up of ruined baths, temples, treatment rooms, a theatre and a library. For those looking for a longer ride, the route goes to the Embros thermal springs for a relaxing bath.

In the afternoon we cross back to Bodrum for the final evening meal with your guides, crew and fellow guests.

### Day 8 Saturday: Bodrum

Tour ends after breakfast in Bodrum. You may like to pre-book a transfer to Bodrum airport at extra cost.



**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece and the coast of Turkey, the Amalfi Coast and Sicily and the Aeolian islands of Italy.

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

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