



## SARONIC JEWELS

3 islands, legendary Peloponnese sites  
guided with vehicle support

**August 26 – Sept 2**

Groups of 8+ riders, choose your own date for a guided tour

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Circumnavigate the entire island of **Spetses** with a pit stop at a pirate's sea cave

Climb the 999 steps to **Palamidi**, a 17th century Venetian fortress in **Nafplio**

Attend a wine tasting session of the famous **Nemean** wines led by a local expert

Enter King Agamemnon's remarkable beehive tomb at **Ancient Mycenae**

Listen to a stage whisper from the highest tier at 3rd century BC **Epidavros Theater**

### DESCRIPTION

**Cycle guided tour to Hydra, Spetses, Poros, Epidavros, Nafplio.**

In the southeastern Peloponnese Peninsula is found the Argo Saronic region where everything encourages you to pedal at a gradual pace, or siga-siga (slow, slow) as the Greeks say. We bicycle, swim, smell the lemons, shop for quality souvenirs and take enlightening archaeology tours of legendary antiquities.

The tour introduces you to three islands, two World Heritage Sites, the incredibly lovely city of Nafplio which you will rate your favorite. The region is known for its Nemean wines where wine-making from ancient days continues to inspire and delight visitors.

During the tour you will also get in the kitchen to learn how to make a traditional Greek meal, and then you will get to eat it. There will also be a Greek spirits night of liqueur flavors you've probably never tried before and whose tastes are unique to Greece. Learn a few handy phrases during a one hour Greek language lesson, and then you can greet the locals.

We recommend you take the [Athens Add-on](#) which precedes the Saronic Jewels tour. You will immerse yourself in the culture of Athens and Attica region with exciting activities: Historic Central Athens bike tour (90% traffic free), Acropolis & Acropolis Museum with professional guide, Temple of Poseidon coastal cycling, Attica wine tasting, Temple of Artemis.

### DETAILS

<b>2018 Dates</b>	Aug 26-Sept 2
<b>Duration</b>	7 nights, 8 days
<b>Add-ons</b>	Athens, see Add-on tab
<b>Arrival City</b>	Athens

<b>Arrival transfer</b>	see Extras tab
<b>Tour Start Point</b>	Athens
<b>Tour End Point</b>	Athens or Athens Airport Hotel
<b>Minimum Age</b>	18
<b>Minimum Pax</b>	8
<b>Maximum Pax</b>	14
<b>Total Mileage</b>	279 km or 173 km for standard route
<b>Highest Elevation</b>	767 feet 234 m
<b>Rating</b>	Moderate – see <a href="#">Rating System</a>

## **ITINERARY**

Due to morning departure on Day 1 prepare to arrive at least one day early to Athens to test ride your bike.

Bike mileage listed for each day is that day's standard bike route. Depending however on the cycling level of the participants, routes may vary by adding mileage or minimizing mileage with vehicle transfers.

### **Day 1 Hydra island**

We pick you up at your Athens hotel and transfer you to Piraeus port for the two-hour hydrofoil transfer to car-free Hydra, an elegant island attracting high-end artists whose paintings, jewelry and clothes fill the local shops. As Hydra is also bike-free, the day's activity is a hike up to a monastery offering tremendous views. **hike 6 km, 3.7 miles, from sea level to 1561 feet, 476 meters**

### **Day 2 Spetses island**

We take a 30 minute hydrofoil from Hydra to Spetses where our bicycles are waiting in time for us to pedal to lunch at a seaside taverna. Then it's a spin to the lighthouse built in 1831 and thereafter to the Laskarina Bouboulinas Museum, the national heroine who commanded her own fleet during the Greek Revolution. **Light warm-up 10-16 km, 6-10 miles**

### **Day 3 Spetses island**

Spetses is so small you can circumnavigate the island by bike in a couple of hours. At a half-way point enjoy swimming at a beach with a marvelous sea cave accessible from the water or from a hole in the earth. Honeymooners hire horse drawn carriages in Dapia, the romantic harbor town. **24 km, 15 miles**

### **Day 4 Poros island**

Return to the Peloponnese mainland by water taxi and hug the coast eastward on mostly flat terrain to reach Galatas, the port opposite Poros, from where you take a ten minute ferry to the island. Put on your aprons for dinner to prepare your meal in a traditional Greek cooking class. **57 km, 35 miles**

### **Day 5 Epidavros**

The morning is spent enjoying Poros harbor, its shops, museum and weaving workshop. Return to the mainland by ferry to bike to the coastal town of Epidavros. The route has spectacular views overlooking the Aegean Sea. **39.30 km, 24.40 miles**

### **Day 6 Nafplio**

A gradual climb brings us to Ancient Epidavros, the 3rd century BC outdoor theatre seating 13,000 spectators with impeccable acoustics. Epidavros was the most famous healing center in ancient Greece, focusing on mind, body and spirit. Continue biking to Nafplio, the first capital of modern Greece, and the prettiest city in the Peloponnese. **48.50 km, 29.80 miles**

### **Day 7 Nafplio**

Bike Nafplio to Ancient Mycenae on mostly flat back road. Tour Mycenae with a professional guide. After lunch cycle back to Nafplio. Pre-dinner wine tasting of famous Nemean wines. **46.60 km, 30 miles**

### **Day 8 departure to Athens**

One hour vehicle transfer to Corinth Canal where you get to bike across the canal's bridge. Follow the coastal road cycling to Nea Perama to take the short ferry to Salamina island site of the famous Battle of Salamis when the Greeks forever repelled the Persians from Greece. End the tour with a ferry from Salamina to Piraeus. **53.60 km, 33 miles**

### ***ICOST & INCLUSIONS***

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

<b>Saronic Jewels Cost</b>	2750 euros per person
<b>Saronic single supplement</b>	750 euros
<b>Athens Add-on</b>	1550 euros per person
<b>Athens Add-on single supplement</b>	450 euros

See [daily exchange rates](#)

### **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

**Accommodations:** 3-4 star hotels, primarily family owned and operated, ranging from boutique hotels to seaside upscale hotels. Tasteful, clean, air-conditioned, private bath, abundant hospitality, comfort. All accommodations are standard doubles with option for upgrade. All accommodations serve breakfast, usually buffet style. Tour prices are based on double occupancy. Check single supplement price for a single room.

**Sea transfers:** Piraeus to Hydra (hydrofoil), Hydra to Spetses (hydrofoil), Spetses to Kosta port on mainland (water taxi), Galatas port on mainland to Poros (ferry or water taxi), Poro to Galatas (ferry or water taxi).

**Bikes:** Specialized road bike or hybrid bike. Triple chain ring, 27 gears. Road bike has carbon fiber fork. Hybrids have front suspension. Electric bike or carbon Tarmac bike are available as an upgrade on request. Regular pedals or toe clips on request. You are welcome to bring your own clip-in pedals and shoes. See [Our Bikes and Gear](#)

**Bike gear:** helmet, water bottles, handlebar pouch, odometer

**Support vehicle:** (“sag wagon”) with bilingual driver who is also a bike mechanic. Vehicle carries spare parts, spare fully pumped wheels, floor pump, ice cooler, water, nutritious snacks, bike tools, first aid kit, day packs, luggage and gives you a lift if you get tired.

**Tour Leader / Bike Guide:** the Tour Leader handles all the tour logistics and bikes with the group.

All Meals: Breakfasts are included at each hotel. Lunches — you choose from the menu. Dinners eaten at trusted establishments within walking distance of the hotel. Dinner consists of 2-3 appetizers and a salad shared by the group and chosen by us. You are offered an entrée choice, usually a meat, fish or vegetarian dish. Dessert, house wine, water or a beverage for those who don’t drink wine. Lunches — you choose from the menu.

**Cue sheets**

**Maps of the region**

**Trip packet:** Useful and interesting information about the region

**Archaeology tours:** Private one hour archaeology tour with professional licensed guides at Epidavros and Mycenae.

**Entrance fees:** Entrance fees to Epidavros and Mycenae.

**Wine Tasting:** Nemea wine tasting with local expert

**Traditional Greek Cooking Class:** Takes place in Poros, led by local cook

**CycleGreece jersey:** Short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

Gratuities & VAT taxes

## **TOUR EXCLUSIONS**

- Airfare to/from Greece
- Transfers Athens Airport to Athens — see Extras tab
- Travel insurance — see Extras tab
- Tips for CycleGreece guides and drivers, at your discretion

## **TAKE NOTE**

- Participants are required to sign our [Waiver](#)
- Participants are required to agree to the [Booking Agreement](#)
- Travel Insurance is required as a condition for participation in a CycleGreece tour

***See the website for more details about ACCOMMODATIONS, EXTRAS, ADD-ONS, MAP and BOOKING AGREEMENT***

***CYCLEGREECE***

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