



## SARONIC JEWELS

3 islands, legendary Peloponnese sites  
guided with vehicle support

*April 29 – May 7, 2020*

*August 29 – September 6, 2020*

*Tour destinations: Athens, Hydra island, Spetses island, Poros island, Epidavros, Nafplio*

### DESCRIPTION

The Argo Saronic region in the southeast corner of the Peloponnese Peninsula is 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 spring tour and follows the fall 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, walking food tour of Greek cuisine.

### DETAILS

<b>2020 Dates</b>	April 29 – May 7, Aug 29 – Sept 6
<b>Duration</b>	9 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

<b>Minimum Age</b>	18
<b>Minimum Pax</b>	8
<b>Maximum Pax</b>	14
<b>Highest Elevation</b>	767 feet 234 m

**Rating** Moderate – see [Rating System](#)

## ***ITINERARY***

### **Day 1 Athens**

Welcome to Historic Central Athens for the first day of the tour. The meeting point of the tour is Acropolis pedestrian walkway. Today is for relaxing, adjusting to jet lag, meeting fellow cyclists on the tour and getting fitted for your road bike and test riding it on the Acropolis walkway. Welcome dinner in the Plaka.

### **Day 2 Hydra island & Spetses island**

Everyone is transferred 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. Late afternoon sea transfer to adorable Spetses island hike 6 km, 3.7 miles, from sea level to 1561 feet, 476 meters

### **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 where pirates hid out. In the evening, you're treated to a private tour of the Laskarina Bouboulinas Museum, the national heroine who commanded her own fleet during the Greek Revolution  
**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**

Hop on the ferry again back to the Peloponnese mainland to bike to the serene 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 Athens**

One hour vehicle transfer to Ancient Nemea, one of the four sites where athletic games were held (the most famous being Olympia), and the one with the finest stadium entrance. From Nemea cycle to Ancient Corinth, the Roman ruins where St. Paul preached. Farewell dinner in Athens

**31.50km, 19.50 miles**

### **Day 9 Departures**

## ***COST & INCLUSIONS***

### **Cost in euros based on double occupancy**

**9 Days Tour** 2850 euros per person

**Single Supplement** 850 euros

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

**8 nights 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.

**5 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), Poros to Galatas (ferry or water taxi).

**Bikes:** Specialized road bike. Triple chain ring, 27 gears, carbon fiber fork. Carbon Tarmac bikes are available as an upgrade for 400 euros. Electric bikes are available as an upgrade for 300 euros. Regular pedals or toe clips on request. You are welcome to bring your own clip-in pedals and shoes. See [Our Bikes](#) and [Our 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.
- \* 7 lunches — you choose from the menu.
- \* 8 dinners consisting of 2-3 appetizers and salad chosen by us and shared by the group. You are offered an entrée choice, usually a meat, fish or vegetarian dish. Dessert, house wine or beer, water or beverage.

**Bike Routes:** Options (1) RideWithGPS App tour routes to upload to your iPhone or Android with voice narration – bring your own bike mount (2) GPX tracks to download to your device – bring your own bike mount

**Cue sheets and cue sheet holders** turn by turn directions plus distance/elevation profiles

## Map of the region

**Trip packet:** useful and interesting information about the regions, packing tips, general travel info for Greece

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

**Entrance fees:** Entrance fees to Epidavros, Mycenae, Nemea.

**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

**CycleGreece lite backpack:** 17" x 13", 43cm x 33cm

## Gratuities & 13% VAT taxes

## TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- \* Airfare to/from Greece
- \* Transfers between Athens Airport and Athens — [see Extras tab](#)
- \* Travel insurance — [see Extras tab](#)
- 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, Maps, Booking Agreement and Waivers*

**CYCLEGREECE**

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