



ARGO SARONIC SELF-GUIDED

Islands, Antiquities, Rural Roads

DESCRIPTION

The Argo Saronic region lies in the southeastern “finger” of the Peloponnese Peninsula, a stimulating region to cycle which Lonely Planet named the [#1 European destination](#) in 2016.

In this predominantly rural region you bike directly to two four historical sites, Ancient Corinth, Ancient Nemea, the Epidavros Theatre and the beehive tombs at Ancient Mycenae. Enjoy healthy Mediterranean food and local hospitality. You immerse yourself in slow-moving Greece where most of the route is on back roads with negligible traffic.

Your favorite mainland town will be Nafplio, modern Greece’s first capital, with elegant neo-Classical Venetian homes and a towering 17th century fortress, the Palamidi. You will also be endeared to the little islands of Spetses and Poros, both of which are low key and easy to discover on two wheels.

Before or after your self-guided tour, we recommend booking the [Athens Add-on](#) that immerses you in the culture of Athens and the 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

Dates	choose your dates
Duration	7 nights, 8 days standard tour — opt for more days or less days (minimum 5 days)
Add-ons	yes, Athens – see Add-on tab
Arrival City	Athens
Arrival transfer	see Extras tab
Tour Start Point	Piraeus port
Tour End Point	Poros island to Piraeus port
Minimum Age	18
Total Mileage	394 km, 245 miles for standard 8 day tour
Highest Elevation	608 m 1994 feet (or 496 meters, 1627 feet with transfer)
Rating	Active to Moderate – see Rating System

ITINERARY

Arrive at least one day early to Athens to test ride the bikes.

During the tour leave your luggage in the hotel and it will be transferred to your next destination.

The itinerary below is standard, but it can be changed to add days or delete destinations. For example, we encourage you to consider staying 3 nights on Spetses so that you can take the day boat to Hydra island lovely.

Day 1 Corinth

We meet you in the morning at Piraeus port to give you the bikes and take your luggage. Take the 40 minute ferry to Salamina island, the site where in 480 BC the Greeks trounced the Persians in the famous Battle of Salamis. Cycle across the island (**13 km, 8 miles**) to a second 10 minute ferry to get back on the mainland. Follow the old National highway along the coast to the Corinth Canal and then to your seaside hotel on Kalamaki Beach in Isthmia. **49km, 30 miles**

Day 2 Nemea

On today's ride bike from your hotel to Ancient Corinth where St. Paul preached the Corinthians. Option to ascend the archaic Akrokorinthos Fortress with magnificent 360 degree views of two gulfs. Final destination is Ancient Nemea, one of the four sites in ancient Greece where Games were held (also Olympia, Isthmia and Delphi). Enjoy a picnic lunch at a Nemean winery. **50.40 km, 31.30 miles**

Day 3 Nafplio

Leaving Nemean region, bike to Ancient Mycenae, home of King Agamemnon who launched the Trojan War. His beehive tomb will astound you. Take time to visit the Lion's Gate and cistern. Bike to Nafplio, the prettiest city in the Peloponnese and modern Greece's first capital **43.30 km, 27 miles**

Day 4 Nafplio

Cycle to 3rd century BC Epidavros Theatre, a World Heritage Site with impeccable acoustics. Stand on the last tier to hear a whisper from center stage. Stop to explore an unheralded ancient Mycenae Bridge. On the way back stop at Vivari beach for swimming and lunch at a seaside taverna. **72.55 km, 44.50 miles**

Day 5 Spetses island

The route from Nafplio to Spetses (via Kosta port) is the most challenging of the tour but also exhilarating to reach the top of the climb at 608 m, 1994 feet, total biking **83 km, 51 miles**. Or our luggage transfer driver can meet you at Karnezeika village for a vehicle transfer to the summit and then bike the rest of the way to Kosta port to catch a 10 minute water taxi to Spetses. **With transfer 60 km, 37 miles**

Day 6 Spetses island

Bike the only loop road around adorable little Spetses island which is basically car-free. Half-way around the island stop to swim inside a pirate's sea cave. Perhaps you'll opt for a romantic jaunt in a horse-drawn carriage, so popular on the island. **24 km, 15 miles**

Hydra Option: Stay 3 nights on Spetses and with the extra day take the morning 30 minute boat to elegant Hydra island and return that evening. Lots to do, including a four hour roundtrip hike up to a monastery.

Day 7 Poros island

Take the short water taxi from Spetses back to the mainland to hug the southern coast to Galatas port for the short 10 minute ferry to Poros, an island with several great beaches. The route is flat until the last 13 km and then there's a steep 4 km climb. Visit a traditional weaver on Poros. **59 km, 37 miles**

Day 8 Depart

Leave the bikes and bike gear on Poros and take a 1 hour Flying Dolphin hydrofoil to Piraeus port in Athens. Daily departures with morning, afternoon and evening choices.

COST & INCLUSIONS

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

1-2 riders	2450 euros per person
3,4 riders	2220 euros per person
Single Supplement	750 euros

See [daily exchange rates](#)

TOUR INCLUSIONS

7 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.

5 luggage transfers: Piraeus to Corinth > Corinth to Nemea > Nemea to Nafplio > Nafplio to Spetses > Spetses to Poros

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 350 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: 2 water bottles, helmet, handlebar pouch, odometer, lock, rear rack on request.

Bike tools: hand pump, patch kit, tire irons, spare tube, multi-tool. One set per group.

GPS device: Oregon 450 with programmed routes, arrow indicating route and turns. Bike mount for GPS. One device/mount per group.

Cue sheets: turn by turn directions plus distance/elevation profiles

Bike Routes: Options (1) RideWithGPS 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 (3) we provide you a Garmin Oregon 450 GPS device with programmed routes, no narration, plus bike mount.

Meals: Breakfasts are included at each hotel. Picnic lunch on Day 2. Buffet dinner at hotel on Day 1. Home cooked gourmet meal with organic ingredients from garden and wine tasting at hotel on Day 2

Map of the region

Mobile phone: one per couple with 10 euros phone card.

Trip packet: useful and interesting information about the region

CycleGreece jersey: short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

CycleGreece lightweight backpack: 17" x 13", 43cm x 33cm

Gratuities, tips and 24% VAT taxes

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- International airfare to/from Greece
- Transfer from Athens Airport to Athens on arrival
- Transfer from Piraeus port to your next destination on Day 8
- Athens hotel – we can assist with recommendations and/or bookings
- All meals except daily breakfast, 1 picnic lunch, two dinners
- Ferry from Piraeus to Salamina island on Day 1 — 3 euros
- Ferry from Salamina to mainland on Day 1 — 70 cents

- Water taxi between Spetses and mainland — 20 euros one way
- Water taxi or ferry between Poros and mainland — 3 euros one way
- Private licensed guides at archaeology sites – we can arrange professional guides on request at 120 euros per group for one hour tour, excluding entry fees of 12 euros per person per site
- Additional GPS device — 50 euros per device
- Travel insurance – required or proof that your medical insurance applies in Greece. We are official agents of Travel Guard and can book your policy or provide a quote.

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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