



CYCLADES SELF-GUIDED

one stunning island after another

DESCRIPTION

The most romantic and even swashbuckling destination for an adventure biking is the Cyclades, hopping by boat from one island to the next. Like a family with look-alike siblings, the islands share a blue and white appearance: impeccably white-washed houses surrounded by blinding azure waters. But, also like family members, each island has its own personality, attractions and individual quirks.

On the eight-day tour, you can acquaint yourself with four to five islands – Syros, Mykonos, Paros, Antiparos, Naxos all for cycling, while the sacred ancient sanctuary of Delos island is car-free, bike-free. Or you can opt to become more intimate with two to three islands, such as, Paros and Naxos which have the most cycling routes to choose from.

No matter which Cyclades islands you choose to spend most of your time, they are all winners, each and every one a romantic destination. We guarantee you will return home with fond memories of sublime beauty, an easy-going lifestyle and the region's incomparable light which the British novelist Lawrence Durrell once likened to "the naked eyeball of God."

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. If you only have one day in Athens, check out the one-day bike rides available at [Athens Day Tours](#)

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 add-on
Arrival City	Athens, at least one day before tour departure
Arrival transfer	see Extras tab
Tour Start Point	Piraeus port to Syros island (standard tour)
Tour End Point	Naxos island
Minimum Age	18
Total Mileage	280 km, 174 miles for standard tour. Ride options offer additional mileage or less mileage.
Highest Elevation	496 meters, 1627 feet
Rating	Active. See Rating System

ITINERARY

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

Bike mileage listed for each day is that day's standard bike route. Depending on your party's cycling level, most daily routes can vary by adding mileage or minimizing mileage.

The itinerary below is standard, but you can opt to spend more overnights on certain islands if your vacation is cycle oriented, such as Paros and Naxos which have numerous bike route choices. Or you can opt for more overnights on other islands, such as Mykonos or Syros, if you're more inclined to sight see. The best thing about the Cyclades islands is that each one is an absolutely winning destination.

An important factor to remember about ferry hopping is that the Boats Rule. Your itinerary is dependent on ferry schedules which do not, as some foreigners may think, run at all hours nor between all islands. Because ferry schedules dictate your arrival and departure time to each island, this affects your cycling schedule. Bikers are limited to ferries since most high speed boats tend not to accommodate bicycles because they lack hulls for vehicles.

Day 1: Syros

Depart from Piraeus an early morning ferry to Ermoupoli, the picturesque capital of the Cyclades. Admire the neoclassical buildings, an opera house and the casino adjacent to a church. Walk up to Ano Syro, the charming medieval, carfree neighbourhood. Take a gentle warm-up ride to [Ousyra Winery](#) for wine tasting. **37.30 km, 23 miles**

Day 2: Syros

The cycling route takes you counterclockwise on a loop of the southern portion of the island. A half dozen or beaches beckon you to stop en route but wait till Vari Beach which is the best spot for lunch and swimming. **36 km, 22 miles**

Day 3: Mykonos

Mykonos is a dazzling mecca for beaches, parties and shopping. Minimal cycling routes, but many desire a peek of this famous island with its truly beautiful whitewashed harbor town. Cycle to the relatively quiet Elia Beach. **24.20 km, 15 miles**

Day 4: Paros

Take the morning boat to ancient Delos island, a World Heritage Site sanctuary with no cars or roads. A mid-afternoon ferry lands you in Paros at Parikia port with its charming windmill roundabout. Bike the back road to your seaside accommodations in Naoussa. **10.50 km, 6.50 miles** After hotel check-in, bike to the isolated tip of the island to take a forty minute hike on a raw beauty dirt path to Korakas Lighthouse built in 1887. **4.47 km, 2.7 miles**

Day 5: Paros

Lots of cycling options. Make a loop around Paros, stopping at the delightful Valley of the Butterflies atop a hill in a surprisingly woody area. **56 km, 35 miles**. Or take a short ferry to Antiparos island to bike to the famous Antiparos Cave and get another work-out walking up and down its 400 steps. **61 km, 38 miles** (long version)

Day 6: Naxos

A morning ride to Lefkes, the highest town in Paros and perhaps its prettiest with colorful homes and shops. 21.60 km, 13.40 miles. A short 45 minute ferry transfer brings you to Naxos, the greenest of the Cycladic islands. Afternoon biking options: Agia Anna Beach **11 km, 6.80 miles** or the olive oil museum in Eggares **18 km, 11 miles** or Alyki pine forest **45 km, 28 miles**

Day 7: Naxos

A morning ride inland to see an impressive kouros unfinished in its quarry. Continue to Halki an adorable little village famous for its kitron liqueur made from lemon leaves. Bike further to Aria springs and hike to Za Cave. **48.60 km, 30 miles** For ambitious cyclists, challenge yourself to circle the island **82 km, 51 miles**

Day 8: Departure

Whether you are leaving Naxos by boat or air, you have time for a morning ride to Dimitra Sanctuary to see the restored pagan temple and Byzantine church. Start the ride by 8:30 am and there's time enough to shower before check-out at noon and head to the port or airport. **35 km, 21.80 miles**

COST & INCLUSIONS

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

1-2 riders	2380 euros per person
3-4 riders	2160 euros per person
Single Supplement	800 euros

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. See [Accommodations tab](#) to request more info about tour's accommodations

Ferry transfers: Pireaus to Syros, Syros to Mykonos, Mykonos to Paros, Paros to Naxos.

Luggage transfers: 4 luggage transfers on each overnight island to and from the ports

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 [Our Gear](#)

Bike gear: 2 water bottles, helmet, handlebar pouch, odometer, lock, rear rack on request For hygienic purposes we encourage you to bring your own helmet.

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

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.

Cue sheets turn by turn directions plus distance/elevation profiles

Maps of the region

Meals: Breakfasts are included at each hotel.

Trip packet: useful and interesting information about the region

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

CycleGreece jersey: short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

Gratuities, tips and 24% VAT taxes

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

International airfare to/from Greece

- Transfers from Athens Airport to Athens – see [Extras tab](#)
- All meals except breakfast
- Departure flight or boat from Naxos to Athens or to other destinations at tour's end
- Excursion to Delos island (about 40 euros)
- Additional GPS device, 50 euros per device
- Travel insurance – see [Extras tab](#)

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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