SACRED SITES

cycle directly to legendary ruins in the Peloponnese

May 30-June 9, 2027 and August 26 – September 5, 2027

Tour destinations: Athens, Nafplio, Vytina, Olympia, Lampeia, Kalavryta, Kalamaki Beach

DESCRIPTION

Sacred Sites on this tour: Ancient Corinth, Ancient Nemea, Ancient Mycenae, Epidavros Theatre, Ancient Olympia

Overnight Destinations: Athens, Nafplio, Vytina, Olympia, Lampeia, Kalavrita, Kalamaki Beach

Rural cycling prevails. Tour highlights include 3rd century BC Epidavros Theatre, once the largest healing center in the ancient world and Ancient Mycenae where King Agamemnon ruled who launched the Trojan War. Athletic competitions were held in four cities; on this tour you visit three of them — Olympia, Nemea, and Isthmia, but regrettably no time for Ancient Delphi.

In 2016 Lonely Planet named the Peloponnese peninsula the #1 European destination in 2016. Outside magazine once named our Sacred Sites tour one of the "6 Best Cycling Tours in Europe." In 2022 Boston Globe named Peloponnese "Best Kept Secret in Greece."

After a vigorous bike tour, take the Hydra Island Escape for three nights of pure R & R.

DETAILS

2027 Dates	May 30-June 9 and Aug 26 – Sept 5
Duration	10 nights, depart Day 11
Add-ons	Hydra island, see Add-on tab
Arrival City	Athens
Arrival transfer	yes, see Extras tab
Tour Start Point	Athens
Tour End Point	Athens
Minimum Age	18

Minimum Pax	8
Maximum Pax	14
Total Mileage	630.30 km, 391 miles
Highest Elevation	4091 feet, 1247 meters
Rating	Advanced See **Rating System**

ITINERARY

2027 Sacred Sites 10 nights, depart on Day 11

Day 1 Athens

Arrival to Athens, one of the world's oldest capital cities. The welcome dinner takes place in the Plaka, the center of historic central Athens.

Day 2 Kalamaki Beach

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, pausing for a photo op at the Corinth Canal and then on to your seaside hotel on Kalamaki Beach in Isthmia. **49km, 30 miles**

Day 3 Nafplio

Cycle to three archaeology sites in one day! Bike to Ancient Corinth where St. Paul preached and then to Ancient Nemea, site of one of four Olympic-style games. Finally, cycle to Ancient Mycenae for private tour with professional guide. After the tour, bike to Nafplio, the prettiest little city in the Peloponnese and modern's Greece's first capital. **83 km, 51 miles**

Day 4 Nafplio

Bike to the 3rd century BC healing site of Epidavros Theatre for a private tour with professional guide. Stand in the center and whisper; someone on the last tier can hear you! **53.60 km, 33 miles.** Dinner is a Greek cooking class where you prepare the food with a local chef, including wine tasting.

Day 5 Vytina

Today is the hardest day of the tour, but the most rewarding. You are biking deep into the Arcadia Mountains, an adorable region brimming with tradition, history and mythology. Highest ascent is 4347 feet, 1325 meters. **95 km, 57 miles**

Day 6 Olympia

From Vytina to Olympia there's a thrilling descent hugging the Lousios Gorge. You are now leaving the Arcadia Mountains to lower elevations. The biking route is flatter but with several hills too. At the end, before you know it, you are cycling past the ancient Olympic Stadium. **82 km, 51 miles**

Day 7 Lampeia

Morning tour with professional guide at ancient Olympia whose Temple of Zeus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Afternoon biking we return to the mountains, traditional villages, goat herds, gushing water sources. Lunch is at Foloi, a rare oak forest inhabited by centaurs! **54 km, 33.50 miles**

Day 8 Kalavryta

Start the day learning about bees in a honey tasting session with a local beekeeper. Bike Lampeia to Kalavrita, cycling a mountain ridge with lunch at a special river side taverna with fresh trout. After a guided tour inside the fascinating Cave of the Lakes, a steep 15 km climb ensues approaching Kalavrita. **76.50 km, 47.50 miles**

Day 9 Kalavryta

Today is a special ride to a special site. No spoilers here — you have to cycle the route to find out what is to be found in a little village called Plataniotissa. **57.20 km, 36.80 miles**

Day 10 Athens

Except for an hour ascent, the rest of the route is a thrilling downhill descent from the mountains to the sea following the flat coastline to Xylokastro Beach for lunch. After lunch vehicle transfer to Athens. **72.60 km 45.5 miles**

Day 11 Departures

COST & INCLUSIONS

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

10 Days Tour	3660 euros per person
Single Supplement	700 euros

TOUR INCLUSIONS

10 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

Bikes: Specialized Allez road bike with drop handlebars or Trek FX2 with flat handlebars. Upgrade to a carbon road bike 400 euros for this tour. Upgrade to an electric bike Yucatan 12 with Yamaha motor for 400 euros this tour. Regular pedals or toe clips. 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, 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: Tour Leader handles all the tour logistics and rides with the group

All Meals:

Breakfasts are included at each hotel

9 lunches — you choose from the menu

10 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

Archaeology Guide: Private tour with professional guide at Epidavros Theatre, Ancient Mycenae, and Ancient Olympia

Entrance fees: Ancient Nemea, Epidavros Theatre, Mycenae, Olympia, Cave of the Lakes

Cooking Class: includes wine tasting with local Nafplio chefs

Honey Tasting Session: Honey tasting at a honey farm in Olympia

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

Color copies of Distance Elevation Profiles

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

CycleGreece jersey: short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

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

Gratuities & VAT taxes

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

* Airfare to/from Greece

* Transfers between Athens Airport and Athens — see Extras tab

* Alcoholic beverages (other than house wine and beer)

* Drinks and coffee at café pit stops

* Travel insurance – required.

* 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, Booking Agreement, Waiver

CYCLEGREECE

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