ARGO SARONIC SELF-GUIDED

Islands, Antiquities, Rural Roads

DESCRIPTION

The Argo Saronic region lies in the southeastern "finger" of the Peloponnese Peninsula which has hills but no mountains. The bike routes are easier than other tours.

In this predominantly rural region you bike directly to 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. A big thrill will be one night in Mycenae staying at the acclaimed and newly renovated Heinrich Schliemann house. 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 4 night tour.
Arrival City	Athens
Arrival transfer	yes, see Extras tab
Tour Start Point	Piraeus port
Tour End Point	Poros island to Piraeus port
Minimum Age	18
Total Mileage	371.40 km, 230.70 miles for standard 8 day tour
Highest Elevation	608 m 1994 feet (or 496 meters, 1627 feet with transfer)
Rating	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 Kalamaki Beach

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, taking a photo op pit stop at the Corinth Canal, and then to your seaside hotel on Kalamaki Beach. **49km, 30 miles. Total mileage: 62 km, 38.50 miles**

Day 2 Mycenae

First stop is Ancient Corinth where St. Paul preached the Corinthians. Next destination is ancient Nemea, one of the four sites in ancient Greece where Games were held (also Olympia, Isthmia and Delphi). Final destination is Mycenae village to stay at the remarkable Heinrich Schliemann House where the excavator of Ancient Mycenae lived in 1876. **62.70 km, 39 miles**

Day 3 Nafplio

Bike to Ancient Mycenae, home of King Agamemnon who launched the Trojan War. The beehive tombs (tholos) will astound you. The route from Mycenae to Nafplio passes through orange groves and small villages. So much eye candy in Nafplio, the prettiest city in the Peloponnese and modern Greece's first capital **22.70 km 14 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 option to detour to Vivari beach for swimming and lunch at a seaside taverna. **58 km, 36 miles or option to return via Vivary Beach 76 km, 47 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 of 27.50 km 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 55.50 km, 34.40 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 Island Option: Lots to do in car-free, artist-friendly elegant Hydra island, including a three hour roundtrip hike up to a monastery. **Option #1** Stay 3 nights on Spetses and with the extra day take the morning 30 minute boat to Hydra and return by boat that evening. **Option #2**. Take a water taxi or express ferry back to Kosta port on the mainland, and bike to Metochi port 37 km, 23 miles. Park the bikes in Metochi's guarded parking lot and take a 20 minute water taxi to Hydra. Spend the night in Hydra, return to Metochi next day, and bike to Poros from there, 20 km, 12 miles.

Day 7 Poros island

Take the short water taxi or express ferry from Spetses back to the mainland at Kosta port and 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. Option on Poros for a traditional Greek cooking class. **59 km, 37 miles**

Day 8 Depart

Departing Poros take a 1 hour boat to Piraeus port in Athens. Daily departures with morning, afternoon and evening choices. If you have time, option to cycle a morning 15km loop around Poros island.

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 Kalamaki Beach > Kalamaki to Mycenae > Mycenae to Nafplio > Nafplio to Spetses > Spetses to Poros

Sea transfer: Poros to Piraeus

Bikes: Specialized road bike. Triple chain ring, 27 gears, carbon fiber fork. Carbon Tarmac bikes are available as an upgrade for 50 euros a day. Electric bikes are available as an upgrade for 50 euros a day. 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, lock, rear rack on request.

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

Color copies of Distance Elevation Profiles

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

Meals: Breakfasts are included at each hotel. Buffet dinner at hotel on Day 1.

Map of the region

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 breakfasts and dinner on first tour night
- 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 -- 25 euros one way or Ferry Express for 3 euros
- Water taxi or ferry between Poros and mainland -- 1.50 euros
- Private licensed guides at archaeology sites – we can arrange professional guides on request at 170 euros per group for one hour tour, excluding entry fees of 20 euros per person per site
- Travel insurance – required to participate in a CycleGreece tour.

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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