

# Argo Saronic Self-Guided



In the southeastern Peloponnese Peninsula is found the Argo Saronic region 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 two islands, two World Heritage Sites, the incredibly lovely city of Nafplio which you will rate your favorite and overnight in a winery where wine-making from ancient days continues to imbue Peloponnese wines with a unique cachet and bouquet.

## Trip Highlights

- Circumnavigate the island of Spetses
- Climb the 999 steps to Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio
- Wine tasting at a Nemean winery
- Enter King Agamemnon's beehive tomb at Mycenae
- Listen to a stage whisper at the ancient Epidavros

## Start—End Points

Tour starts Day 1, 10:00 am in Athens near the Acropolis to fit and test the bikes. You take an early afternoon boat to Spetses where the bikes arrive later that day. Tour ends in Nemea, south of Corinth from where you are transferred to Athens or Athens Airport.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Spetses

Spetses is a small, classy island with beautiful mansions built by 19th century shipping magnates and wealthy merchants. The island has only one town which is car free. Children ride bicycles and honeymooners take horse drawn carriages along its romantic harbor.

### Day 2: Spetses

Spetses is so small that you can circumnavigate it by bike in a couple of hours. At a half-way point stop to swim at an appealing beach which has the added attraction of an underwater sea cave easily accessible from the water or by steps into an opening on land. If figs are in season, it is a divine pleasure to eat them right off the trees.

### Day 3: Poros

Hop a water taxi to the Peloponnese mainland, bikes and all, then cycle along the coast pausing for a Greek coffee in the pleasant town of Ermioni. The route ends with a ten minute ferry which puts you back on another island, Poros, whose harbor town is surrounded by olive trees, lemon trees and pine trees. The highest point on Poros (for ambitious bikers) is up to the Temple of Poseidon.



## Day 4: Epidavros

The best leg of today's route is a stretch of road that looks down on the sea and has no towns or villages until arrival to coastal Epidavros town. The waters near your family run hotel are pure and clean and inviting for swimming. In the evening a half hour walk along the bay takes you into Epidavros town where everyone dines outside along the sea front.

## Day 5: Nafplio

A roughly one hour climb brings you to Ancient Epidavros, the 3rd century BC outdoor theatre seating 15,000 spectators with impeccable acoustics. Stand at the stage, whisper, and those high in the last row will hear you! Elegant Nafplio, the first capital of Greece, will woo you with its neo-Classical mansions, artistic shops and wholesome charm.

## Day 6: Nafplio

After one hour's cycling amongst quiet orange groves you arrive at ancient Mycenae where the ruler who launched the Trojan War, King Agamemnon, is buried in a beehive tomb that never fails to startle visitors with its architecture of precision. On your return to Nafplio don't fail to climb the 999 steps to the Palamidi, the formidable Venetian fortress.

## Day 7: Nemea

Your bike ride ends at a winery where you experience the rhythms of vineyard life and taste the famous Peloponnese wines. Nearby for ambitious cyclists is Ancient Corinth and a short, steep ascent to the imposing Akrokorinthos Fortress, offering stupendous panoramic views of the surrounding gulfs.

## Day 8: departures

### Exclusions

- Airfare to/from Greece
- Transfers from airport to Athens
- boat or water taxi from Spetses island to mainland (Kosta port) (10-15 minutes)
- boat or water taxi to/from Poros island (Galatas port on mainland)(5-10 minutes)
- Meals except breakfast
- Travel Insurance

### **Tour Price** in euros per person

- 1 person—2570 euros
- 2 persons—1730 euros
- 3 persons—1550 euros
- 4 persons—1460 euros

### Inclusions

- Accommodations in 3-4 star hotels ranging from boutique hotels to family run guesthouses. Tasteful, clean, air-conditioned, private bath, abundant hospitality, comfort. All accommodations come with breakfast. Tour price based on double occupancy.
- Ferry transfer from Athens (Pireus port) to Spetses island
- 4 luggage transfers 2 bike transfers including your transfer from Nemea to Athens or Airport on Day 8
- Specialized road or hybrid bike. Your choice. Triple chain ring, 27 gears. Road bike has carbon fiber fork. Hybrids have front suspension.
- Bike gear: odometer, 2 water bottles and cages, map holder or handlebar pouch, rear rack on request.
- Bike tools and part: hand pump, tire irons, spare tube, bike tool with spoke truer, patch kit, spokes.
- Maps
- Cue sheets with GPS profiles
- Trip packet with useful and interesting information
- Mobile phone(1 per couple)
- CycleGreece jersey
- Gratuities, tips and VAT taxes

**Note:** tour prices are based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. Exchange rates found at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## Mileage Summary

Total Miles 146 miles 212 km. Average Daily 24 miles, 35 km

Day 1 testing bikes around Acropolis

Day 2 15.5 miles, 25 km, slight hills, hug coastline, highest ascent 328 feet

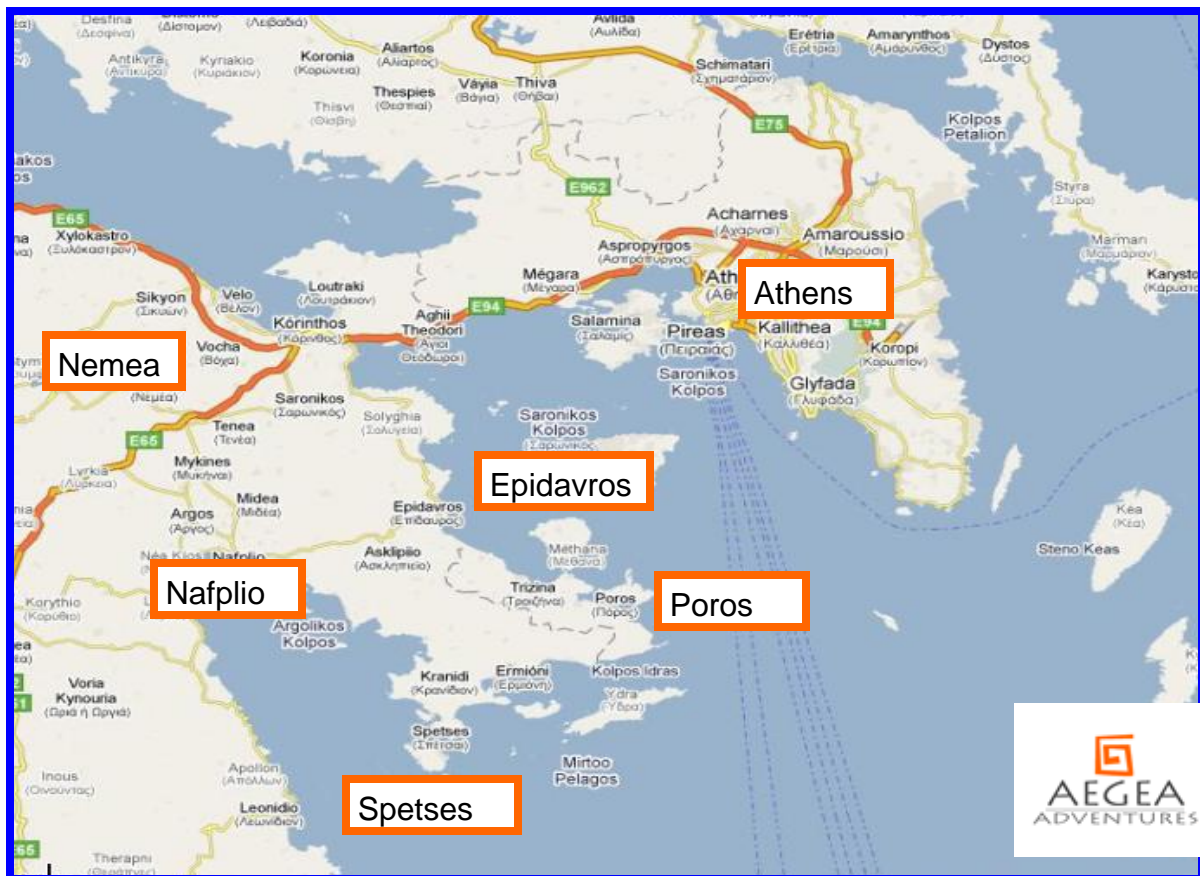
Day 3 37 miles, 60 km, 4 hours hug the coast, mostly flat, 1 tough climb of 820 feet

Day 4 24 miles, 39 km hug the coast, 3 hours starts flat but has 2 big climbs, highest 738 feet

Day 5 27 miles, 43 km about 8 miles to Ancient Epidavros climbing to 1150 feet, then mostly downhill to Nafplio

Day 6 25 miles, 40 km, primarily flat with two ascents at the end of about 400 feet

Day 7 18 miles, 30 km easy, fairly flat route, negligible climbs



## Athens Add-on Package

### Highlights

The grand view of the Aegean from the promontory of Temple of Poseidon

Walking tours of historic Athens and the Acropolis

Traditional Greek dance performance

### Day 1: Athens

Morning transfer from Nemea to your hotel located within crawling distance of the Acropolis. In the afternoon we take you on a three hour walking tour of central Athens on a route that no other tour operator offers. The itinerary includes noteworthy houses and architecture in the Plaka, Socrates Cave, the Pnyx where democracy was born, Thissio cafes, the unique water clock and lots of interesting facts and anecdotes. (Actual walking for 3 hours).

### Day 2: Athens

A three hour walking tour starting with the changing of the guard at Parliament and culminating in the incomparable Parthenon. A professional archaeology guide injects the walk with lively and fascinating insights. (Actual walking is 45 minutes). In the evening you will experience a cultural presentation of traditional Greek music and dance.

### Day 3: Athens

An excursion to the magnificent Temple of Poseidon in Sounion at the southern tip of Attika Peninsula. Lord Byron carved his name in the marble but the graffiti cannot mar the temple's geometric precision nor its stupendous views. Bring your swimsuit for a dip in the sea before returning to the city.

### Day 4: Departure

Private transfer from your hotel to Athens Airport.

### Cost

900 euros per person  
80 euros single supplement

### Inclusions

- 3 nights in 4 star hotel within walking distance of Acropolis with breakfast (based on double occupancy)
- Transfer to Athens hotel on Day 8
- Transfer to airport on Day 11
- 3 hour walking tour of Athens with Aegea guide to areas not generally visited by other tour operators
- 3 hour Acropolis walking tour with professional guide
- Entry fee to Acropolis and surrounding antiquities
- Evening performance traditional Greek music & dance
- Private vehicle half day Sounio Excursion to Temple of Poseidon
- Entry fee to Temple of Poseidon

### Exclusions

- all meals except breakfasts
- Travel insurance
- Optional tipping of guide and driver

