

Saronic Family Cycling



Highlights

- Lion's Gate at Mycenae, Europe's oldest monument
- 999 steps to the 17th century Palamidi fortress, built by the Venetians
- Underwater sea cave on Spetses island
- 3rd century BC Epidavros Theater able to seat 15,000
- Climb to the Clock Tower on Poros island

Trip Duration

8 days

Start & End Points

Start in Athens to test the bikes, vehicle transfer to Piraeus port for 2 hour ferry boat to Spetses.

End in Nafplio with vehicle transfer to Athens (less than 2

Southwest of Athens is the Peloponnese Peninsula. In its southeastern "finger" you find the Argo Saronic Gulf. There is an abundance of mythology coming from this region and superb archaeology sites that kids of any age will enjoy. The region is "slow moving" especially in the summer where the favorite activities are sea-related.

We recommend morning biking when the sun is still low and you can finish by noon. But if anyone gets tired, the "sag wagon" is there exclusively to assist you. There are several available riding options for different biking levels, including one for mom or dad who may want a longer cycling ride.

All the accommodations are located within walking distance to the sea or have a swimming pool. The towns are all child-friendly and easy to negotiate for older youngsters getting out and about on their own.

The Argo-Saronic region is popular with Athenian families escaping on weekends for the fresh smell of the air and salt water, wild rosemary and oregano. We predict your family will have a memorable and exciting vacation in this gentle region.

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. You will savor the seaside dining where the waves lap at your feet.



Day 2: Spetses

Spetses is so small 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 coastline with Hydra island on your right. A ten minute ferry ride puts you back on another island, Poros, whose harbor town is surrounded by olive trees, lemon trees and pine trees.

Day 4: Poros

Within easy peddling distance, bike to nearby Neorio and Askeli beaches for a schmorgasbord of sea sports, including water ski, jet ski, windsurfing, sea kayaking and sailing – and simple swimming, too. The highest point in Poros harbor is the Clock Tower which has terrific views and on the island itself, the Temple of Poseidon.

Day 5: Epidavros

The best part of the cycling route today is along a stretch of road that looks down on the sea and has no towns or villages until arrival to coastal Epidavros. In the evening stroll along the bay take the half hour walking path into town where everyone eats outside along the sea front.

Day 6: Nafplio

A rest from cycling for today, unless there are some eager beavers who want to cycle up to 8 mile, 1150 foot climb to Ancient Epidavros. Here amongst shady trees is the 3rd century BC outdoor theatre seating 12,000 spectators still with impeccable acoustics. Elegant Nafplio, the first capital of Greece, will bowl you over with its mansions and charm.

Trip Price

Trip price depends on the number in your party, level of accommodations, extent of services requested and optional activities sought. See “Pricing” link on website and “Vacation Profile Contact Form”

Note: tour prices are based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. Exchange rates found at www.xe.com

- ◆ 1240 euros per person
- ◆ 992 euros for children under 12
- ◆ 2720 euros for support vehicle with driver for up to 8 persons.

Pricing Example: 2 families each with 2 children over 12 and vehicle.
Total cost per family: 6120 euros

Basic Inclusions:

- ◆ 3 and 4 star hotels
- ◆ daily breakfast
- ◆ ferry tickets to Spetses
- ◆ support vehicle with driver
- ◆ bicycles with accessories
- ◆ maps and cue sheets
- ◆ day to day itinerary with activities and logistics
- ◆ pre-tour trip packet with info about Greece, the region you will visit, recommended places to eat, phone numbers and other useful information geared for families.

Exclusions:

- ◆ International air fare
- ◆ meals except breakfast
- ◆ entry fees to archaeology sites

Upgrades

- ◆ 5 star hotel available in Nafplio
- ◆ business class on Spetses boat

Optionals

- ◆ private archaeology tours with professional guides in Epidavros and Mycenae
- ◆ transfers to/from airport
- ◆ personal bilingual Aegea guide



Day 7: Nafplio

Today offers quiet cycling on flat rural roads full of orange groves and some windmills. You come to Mycenae where King Agamemnon is buried in an unusual beehive tomb. He is the leader who launched the famous Trojan War. On your return to Nafplio don't fail to climb the 999 steps to the Palamidi, the formidable Venetian fortress.

Day 8: Departures

Vehicle transfer to Athens, 2½ drive.

Cycling Summary

- Day 1 Spetses** test bikes, take boat to Spetses
Day 2 Spetses 25 km/15 miles, flat with slight hills
Day 3 Poros
Short Option: 20km/12 miles flat,
Middle Option: 30km/18 miles flat
Long Option: 55 km/34 miles flat and an 820 foot climb
Day 4 Poros casual ride to local beach
Day 5 Epidavros
Short Option: 18 km/11 miles downhill
Long Option: 39km/24 miles, one big climb of 623 feet
Day 6 Nafplio
Short Option: 13km/8 miles
Long Option: 43 km/27 miles, highest climb 1150 feet
Day 7 Nafplio
Short Option: 21km/13 miles, all flat except one 3km climb
Long Option: 42 km/26 miles, all flat except one 3km climb

Travel Times

Families usually travel July and August. It is hot in the Argo Saronic during these months, so cycling should be done early in the morning.

The Bikes

Road bikes or hybrid bikes, your choice. Specialized brand. Both are light weight with triple chain ring, 27 gears, carbon fiber forks.

Go to the Cycling page of Aegea's website for a link to see bike photos and specifications for road and hybrid bikes.

For children 6-9 years old, there are tag-alongs — bikes with one wheel that attach to the adult's seat post.

For youngsters, mountain bikes their size.

Also available, a Burley trailer for tots.

