

GREECE

THE ARGOSARONICS BY YACHT

CHARTERLINK
Private Yacht Vacations

ARGOSARONIC GULF

The Argosaronic Islands are one of Greece's **most accessible and rewarding yacht charter destinations**, located just southwest of Athens in the Saronic Gulf and round the headland towards to Argolic Gulf. This island group includes favorites such as Aegina, Poros, Hydra, Spetses, Agistri, and the surrounding Peloponnese coastline. **Unlike the Cyclades**, the Argosaronic region offers relatively **short cruising distances, sheltered waters, charming harbors, and a relaxed atmosphere**, making it ideal for those **seeking shorter sailing legs**; or Cyclades based charters needing **an alternative cruising destination when the Meltemi winds make the Cyclades unpleasant** to impossible to charter.

Rich in history, culture, and authentic Greek character, the region combines **picturesque island villages with elegant waterfront towns, ancient ruins, and crystal-clear anchorages**. Hydra is famous for its preserved stone mansions and complete absence of motor vehicles, while Spetses offers cosmopolitan charm and naval history. Poros welcomes visitors with its colorful waterfront and pine-covered hills, and Aegina is known for its ancient Temple of Aphaia and world-renowned pistachios. Along the mainland coast, destinations such as Epidaurus and Nafplio provide opportunities to explore some of Greece's most important **archaeological and historical sites**.

The Argosaronic region is also celebrated for its **excellent cuisine**. Traditional tavernas line the harbors, serving **freshly caught seafood, grilled meats, local cheeses, olive oil, and seasonal produce**. The nearby **Peloponnese wine regions** produce outstanding wines that pair perfectly with the local gastronomy. English is widely spoken throughout the area, particularly in tourism-related businesses, making **travel straightforward and enjoyable** for international visitors.

The **sailing conditions are generally among the most comfortable in Greece**. Protected by the surrounding mainland and islands, the Saronic Gulf experiences more moderate winds than the Cyclades. During summer, the **prevailing Meltemi winds** that affect much of the Aegean are typically weaker here, creating pleasant sailing conditions and calmer seas. While stronger northerly winds can occasionally reach the region, **itineraries are rarely impacted to the same extent** as elsewhere in Greece. This combination of reliable sunshine, manageable sailing conditions, and diverse destinations makes the Argosaronic Islands one of the most **versatile cruising grounds** in the Mediterranean.

July and Aug: Busiest and hottest months, with brisk winds. (77° - 92°F with water temperatures from 76° - 80°F)

June and Sept: Shoulder season with warm - mild weather. (70° - 86°F with water temperatures from 72° - 75°F)

May and Oct: Quieter, mild conditions with chilly waters. (61° - 77°F with water temperatures from 66° - 72°F)

Language: Greek (**English widely spoken in tourist areas**)

Time zone: Eastern European Time (EET), UTC+2 (summer: UTC+3)

Electricity: **230V, plugs type C and F**

Tap water is generally safe on the mainland and in larger towns, though bottled water is commonly used on many islands.

Euro is the currency.

Intl. Flights in/out Athens.





ARGOSARONIC CIRCUIT

7 NIGHTS (RETURN CIRCUIT)





ATHENS

Athens, the historic capital of Greece, is a city where ancient civilization and modern energy exist side by side. Dominated by the iconic Acropolis, this vibrant metropolis is widely regarded as the cradle of Western civilization and democracy. The UNESCO-listed Acropolis and its crowning jewel, the Parthenon, offer a remarkable glimpse into Greece's classical past, while the surrounding neighborhoods blend centuries of history with contemporary culture, lively cafés, and bustling city life.

To fully appreciate Athens, a guided tour of the Acropolis and the nearby Acropolis Museum is highly recommended. Wander through the charming streets of Plaka, often referred to as the "Neighborhood of the Gods," or explore the vibrant district of Monastiraki, known for its markets, rooftop bars, and views of the ancient monuments. For a broader perspective, climb Lycabettus Hill for panoramic views across the city, stretching all the way to the Saronic Gulf.

Athens has also emerged as one of Europe's most exciting culinary destinations. Fine dining enthusiasts can enjoy innovative Greek cuisine at acclaimed restaurants such as Varoulko Seaside and Hytra, while traditional tavernas throughout Plaka and Psyrri serve authentic local specialties in atmospheric settings. From fresh seafood and grilled meats to world-class olive oils and regional wines, Athens offers an exceptional introduction to Greek gastronomy.

Whether you choose to spend a single night or several days before or after your yacht charter, Athens is well worth exploring. The city offers a wide selection of luxury hotels, boutique properties, and historic accommodations, many within walking distance of its most famous landmarks. With its unique combination of ancient wonders, vibrant neighborhoods, and outstanding cuisine, Athens provides the perfect beginning or ending to a yacht charter through the Argosaronic Gulf.



AGISTRI

Agistri is one of the smallest and most tranquil islands in the Saronic Gulf, offering a peaceful escape defined by crystal-clear waters, pine forests, and an unhurried Greek island atmosphere. Largely untouched by mass tourism, the island is known for its natural beauty, secluded coves, and charming waterfront villages. With its emerald-green hills meeting turquoise seas, Agistri provides a striking contrast to the larger and more developed islands of the region.

To fully appreciate Agistri, exploring the island's coastal villages is highly recommended. Skala and Megalochori offer traditional tavernas, relaxed cafés, and picturesque harbors, while the pine-covered coastline is perfect for swimming, paddleboarding, or simply enjoying the scenery. The island's network of quiet roads and trails also makes it ideal for walking or cycling, allowing visitors to discover hidden beaches and viewpoints away from the waterfront.

Agistri is also a destination for simple yet exceptional Greek dining. Fresh seafood, locally sourced ingredients, and traditional family-run tavernas define the culinary experience here. Many restaurants sit directly on the water's edge, providing beautiful sea views and a relaxed atmosphere that perfectly captures the spirit of island life. Long lunches featuring grilled fish, Greek salads, and local wines are a highlight of any visit.

Whether you choose to stop for a leisurely lunch, spend an afternoon swimming in its crystal-clear bays, or enjoy a peaceful overnight anchorage, Agistri offers a welcome retreat from the busier destinations of the Saronic Gulf. With its natural beauty, authentic character, and laid-back charm, Agistri is a wonderful example of the understated appeal that makes the Argosaronic islands so special.



EPIDAUROS

Epidauros is a charming seaside town nestled along the northeastern coast of the Peloponnese, offering one of the most picturesque anchorages in the Argosaronic region. Surrounded by rolling hills, citrus groves, and fragrant orange blossoms, the waterfront is lined with inviting cafés, traditional tavernas, and small boutiques, making it a delightful place to wander ashore. The sheltered bay provides calm waters and beautiful views, particularly in the golden light of late afternoon and sunset.

To fully appreciate the area, a short drive inland leads to the world-renowned Ancient Epidauros archaeological site, one of the most important cultural landmarks in Greece. The highlight is the magnificent Ancient Theatre of Epidauros, built in the 4th century BC and widely regarded as the finest preserved ancient Greek theatre in existence. Famous for its near-perfect acoustics, visitors can stand at the center of the stage and hear even the faintest sounds carried effortlessly to the highest rows. Originally constructed as part of a sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, the site attracted visitors from across the ancient world seeking medical treatment and spiritual guidance.

Beyond the theatre itself, the archaeological complex includes temples, baths, treatment rooms, and the remains of one of antiquity's earliest healing centers, offering a fascinating glimpse into the sophistication of ancient Greek medicine and architecture. Today, the theatre continues to host performances during the summer months, allowing visitors to experience the venue much as audiences did over two thousand years ago.

Back in the town, waterfront dining is a highlight, with fresh seafood, traditional Greek dishes, and relaxed harborside tavernas providing the perfect setting for a leisurely evening ashore. Enjoy a peaceful night at anchor in the bay, surrounded by the scent of citrus trees, the charm of this welcoming coastal town, and the remarkable history that lies just beyond its shores.



POROS

Few harbors in Greece make such an immediate impression as Poros. Built amphitheatrically above a bustling waterfront and separated from the Peloponnese mainland by a narrow stretch of water, the town combines the energy of a lively sailing hub with the timeless character of a traditional Greek island community.

Take time to wander through the narrow streets that climb from the waterfront into the heart of the old town. As you make your way uphill, you'll discover whitewashed alleyways, hidden courtyards, and sweeping viewpoints overlooking the harbor below. A walk up to the island's famous clock tower is well worth the effort, rewarding visitors with panoramic views across the channel and surrounding coastline. Listen out for the ringing church bells that echo across the harbor throughout the day, adding to the unmistakably Greek atmosphere that makes Poros so special.

For those looking to explore beyond the harbor, renting a scooter is a great way to discover the island. A small bridge connects the bustling town center to the larger, pine-covered part of Poros, where quiet roads wind through forests, secluded coves, and scenic viewpoints that offer a glimpse of the island's more peaceful side.

Poros has long been a favorite destination for sailors, and its lively waterfront reflects a rich nautical tradition. The harbor comes alive in the evenings as yachts, fishing boats, and local ferries share the waterfront, creating a vibrant yet authentically Greek atmosphere. Along the promenade, visitors will find everything from traditional tavernas serving fresh seafood and classic Greek dishes to modern cafés and cocktail bars overlooking the water.

As evening falls, the harbor lights begin to reflect across the calm waters of the channel, creating one of the most enchanting settings in the Saronic Gulf. Enjoy a relaxed evening ashore, soak in the island's welcoming atmosphere, and experience the unique charm that has made Poros a favorite stop for generations of sailors and visitors alike.



SPETSES

Arriving in Spetses feels like stepping into a different era of Greek island life. The island's heyday came during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when a powerful merchant fleet brought great wealth to the island and helped establish its reputation for grand sea captains' mansions, rich naval history, and refined elegance. Today, that legacy remains visible throughout the town, giving Spetses a character unlike anywhere else in Greece. The island has long been a favourite retreat for Athenians and international visitors alike. Unlike most Greek islands, private cars are largely restricted, creating a relaxed pace of life where horse-drawn carriages, bicycles, and scooters remain an integral part of the island's charm.

Take time to stroll along the beautiful waterfront promenade that stretches around the historic harbor. Elegant mansions, boutique shops, cafés, and waterfront bars line the route, while narrow side streets reveal hidden courtyards and glimpses of traditional island life. Horse-drawn carriages clip-clop through the town throughout the day, adding to the island's timeless character and offering a memorable way to explore. For those wishing to venture further, scooters and bicycles provide easy access to secluded beaches, pine forests, and quiet corners of the island beyond the main town.

Spetses played a significant role in the Greek War of Independence, and its maritime heritage remains visible throughout the island. A visit to the former home of Laskarina Bouboulina, one of Greece's most celebrated naval commanders, offers fascinating insight into the island's proud history. Along the old harbor, traditional wooden fishing boats share the waterfront with elegant yachts, creating a distinctive blend of old-world charm and modern Mediterranean glamour.



NAFPLION

Often regarded as one of the most beautiful towns in Greece, Nafplion combines Venetian elegance, Ottoman influences, and Greek charm in a setting that feels worlds away from the bustle of Athens. As Greece's first capital after independence, the town is rich in history and architecture, with neoclassical buildings, flower-filled squares, and narrow cobbled streets creating an atmosphere that invites exploration at a leisurely pace. Set along a picturesque waterfront and backed by dramatic hills, Nafplion offers a perfect blend of culture, history, and coastal beauty.

Take time to wander through the old town, where hidden courtyards, boutique shops, lively squares, and inviting cafés await around every corner. Dominating the harbor is the small island fortress of Bourtzi, one of the town's most recognizable landmarks, while high above the town stands the imposing Palamidi Fortress. Visitors willing to climb its famous staircase are rewarded with spectacular views across the Argolic Gulf and the surrounding countryside. The waterfront promenade is equally enjoyable, offering a scenic walk beneath the fortress walls and along the edge of the sea. Unlike many destinations that reveal themselves quickly, Nafplion rewards those who take the time to explore, with reminders of its remarkable past woven throughout every street and square.

Nafplion also serves as an excellent gateway to some of Greece's most important archaeological treasures. The ancient city of Mycenae, home to the legendary King Agamemnon, lies just a short drive away, while the remarkably preserved theatre of Epidauros is easily accessible for a day excursion. Together, these sites provide a fascinating insight into the foundations of Greek civilization and are among the most significant historical attractions in the country.

Combined with its waterfront setting and easy access to some of Greece's most important archaeological sites, Nafplion offers one of the most enriching cultural experiences in the region and is widely considered one of the highlights of the Greek mainland.



PORTO HELI

Set on a sheltered natural harbor along the eastern Peloponnese coast, Porto Heli has earned a reputation as one of Greece's most exclusive seaside destinations. Often referred to as the "Greek Riviera," the town attracts yacht owners, international visitors, and affluent Athenians seeking a more relaxed and understated luxury experience. Surrounded by crystal-clear waters, rolling hills, and elegant villas, Porto Heli offers a sophisticated atmosphere while retaining the charm of a traditional Greek coastal town.

Take time to stroll along the waterfront promenade, where cafés, boutiques, and restaurants overlook a harbor often filled with yachts and local fishing boats. The town itself is relaxed and easy to explore on foot, while the surrounding coastline offers beautiful beaches, secluded coves, and excellent swimming opportunities. Scenic roads winding through the surrounding countryside reveal olive groves, hidden bays, and impressive hilltop views across the Argolic Gulf, making the area particularly enjoyable to explore by scooter or car.

Porto Heli is also the perfect place to slow down and enjoy life on board. Spend the afternoon swimming in the calm, protected waters, relaxing on deck with a book, or enjoying a cocktail on the flybridge as the sun begins to set. As evening approaches, your crew will prepare another memorable dinner, showcasing fresh local ingredients and the personalized service that makes a yacht charter so special. With its sheltered anchorage, beautiful scenery, and relaxed atmosphere, Porto Heli provides the ideal setting to unwind and enjoy quality time with family and friends.



HYDRA

The moment you arrive in Hydra, it becomes clear why the island has captivated artists, writers, and travelers for generations. Built around a stunning natural harbor and protected from modern development, Hydra is one of the most distinctive destinations in Greece. Cars and motorcycles are prohibited, creating a uniquely peaceful atmosphere where life moves at a slower pace and traditional island character has been carefully preserved.

Take time to wander through the maze of stone alleyways that climb from the harbor into the hillside above. Elegant stone houses, hidden courtyards, boutique galleries, and spectacular viewpoints await around every corner. Donkeys remain an important part of daily life on the island and are often seen transporting luggage, groceries, and supplies through the narrow streets where vehicles cannot go. For guests staying ashore, they are often the first thing you'll notice upon arrival. The animals are carefully regulated and remain an essential part of the island's transportation network, contributing to the unique character that makes Hydra unlike anywhere else in Greece.

Hydra's creative spirit is one of its defining features. Over the decades, the island has attracted painters, writers, musicians, and creatives from around the world, many of whom have chosen to make Hydra their home. Art galleries, workshops, and cultural events can be found throughout the town, while the island's striking architecture, dramatic coastline, and exceptional quality of light continue to inspire generations of artists. This vibrant creative community gives Hydra an atmosphere that feels both sophisticated and authentically Greek.

The island's rugged coastline is dotted with secluded coves and beautiful anchorages where yachts can tie stem-to-shore, creating a private retreat surrounded by crystal-clear water and dramatic scenery. Whether you choose to remain in town and enjoy the lively waterfront atmosphere or retreat to one of these peaceful bays for swimming, paddleboarding, and a sunset dinner on board, Hydra offers some of the most memorable cruising grounds in the Greek islands.



AEGINA

Aegina is one of the most charming and accessible islands in the Saronic Gulf, offering a wonderful blend of history, authentic Greek island life, and beautiful coastal scenery. Just a short sail from Athens, the island is known for its picturesque waterfront, neoclassical architecture, and relaxed atmosphere. The bustling harbor town is lined with cafés, tavernas, and local shops, while the island's interior reveals traditional villages, olive groves, and the pistachio orchards for which Aegina is famous throughout Greece.

To fully appreciate Aegina, a visit to the remarkably preserved Temple of Aphaia is highly recommended. Perched on a pine-covered hill, this ancient sanctuary predates the Parthenon and offers sweeping views across the Saronic Gulf. Another highlight is the historic monastery of Agios Nektarios, one of the largest and most important pilgrimage sites in Greece. For those seeking a more leisurely experience, the waterfront streets of Aegina Town and the traditional fishing village of Perdika are perfect for exploring on foot.

Aegina is also a destination for excellent local dining. Fresh seafood features prominently on most menus, often served just steps from the water, while local pistachios appear in everything from desserts and pastries to artisanal products sold throughout the island. Traditional tavernas in Perdika and along the harbor offer authentic Greek cuisine in relaxed and welcoming surroundings, making long waterfront lunches a highlight of any visit.

Whether you choose to spend a few hours ashore or enjoy the seclusion of anchoring out, Aegina rewards visitors with its unique combination of history, culture, and island charm. With beautiful swimming spots, fascinating archaeological sites, and a vibrant yet unpretentious atmosphere, Aegina provides the perfect start or finish to the Argosaronic Islands and the timeless appeal of the Greek islands.