

# Greece - The Gulf of Corinth and the Ionian Islands by Bike and Boat Tour (2025) Guided or Individual Self-Guided 8 days / 7 nights



Join us on a fascinating journey! On this Bike & Boat tour we explore both the Greek mainland as well as the impressive Ionian Islands. Along the way we get a first-hand experience of the scenic and cultural diversity in Greece as we travel by bike and on board the two-masted motor sailer, the Panagiota.

The Ionian Islands show Greek at its greenest, unspoiled scenery and centuries of Venetian influence characterize this yet little-known archipelago. The glistening blue waters of the Ionian Sea, the mountainous landscape of Ithaca, the bird-sanctuary island, Lefkas, the mini-island of Meganisi, and the small island of Paxos covered in olive groves all play part in a wonderfully relaxing vacation. Famous sites such as Delphi and Aegina are just some of the highlights of the tour. The passage through the Corinth Canal is sure to become an unforgettable memory.



# <u>Itinerary Day to Day</u> Athens to Corfu Day 1 Athens/Piraeus (Marina Zeas) - (Embarkation)

Individual arrival at Marina Zeas (Piraeus). It is possible to check in on the Panagiota from 2 pm. Dinner on board and overnight stay in the harbour of Piraeus.

# Day 2 Piraeus – Aegina Island – Corinth Canal – Galaxidi (aprx. 22 mi./35 km)

In the morning we sail to Aegina, an island famous for its pistachios even beyond Greek borders. Here our first cycle tour takes us to the exceptionally well-preserved temple of Aphaia, enthroned high above the azure sea. In the afternoon, we sail through the Isthmus of Corinth, completed in 1893, though plans for its construction date back to Julius Caesar. This 3.9 mi./6.3 km long, 79 ft./24 m wide, and 26 ft./8 m deep canal connects the Aegean Sea with the Gulf of Corinth and saves travellers sailing from Athens to Corinth the 258 mi./400 km long trip around the whole Peloponnese peninsular. If weather conditions are fine, we continue sailing to Galaxidi, otherwise overnight stay in or near Corinth.



# Day 3 Galaxidi - Delphi – Nafpaktos - Mesolongi

In the morning, a transfer shuttle collects us from Galaxidi and takes us to the famous ancient site of Delphi, which rests at the foot of the Parnassus mountain range. It was here the ancient Greeks came to worship Apollo, the god of the light, and to consult the oracle. A visit to Delphi is a truly unforgettable experience not only due to the many temples, treasuries, the well-preserved theatre, and the stadium, but also thanks to the incredible hill-side location and views of the surrounding mountains. In the afternoon, the bus takes us to the harbour of Nafpaktos where we have time for lunch and a short stroll through the beautiful town before another short bus ride brings us to Mesolongi. The boat meets us here and we stay the night.



### Day 4 Mesolongi – Ithaca Island (aprx. 21 mi./35 km)

In the morning, a longer crossing takes us to Ithaca. If the weather is good, guests can take a swim break on the way before docking at the port of Vathy. In the afternoon we explore the legendary Ithaca by bike. Ithaca is a mountainous, scenic island where you can enjoy the unique charm of the Ionian Islands away from the tourist crowds. Beautiful olives, deep blue sea and friendly locals – on Ithaca, time seems to have stood still. Spectacular views await you on this round trip! Overnight stay in Vathy.

# Day 5 Meganisi Island – Lefkas Island (aprx. 11 mi./18 km + optional 6 mi./10 km)

During breakfast we cross the sea to Meganisi. Our bike tour takes us along a panoramic route on quiet island roads through the three villages of this lovely island and gives you a good impression of the traditional island life of the locals. At the beach of Spartochori, we have time for a coffee and



swimming break. In the afternoon, the journey continues to Nidri on Lefkas, where guests have the opportunity (if desired) to cycle through rustic olive groves to the hidden waterfall of Nidri. Overnight stay in Nidri.

# Day 6 Nidri – Lefkas town – Paxos Island (aprx. 19 mi./30 km)

Today's bike tour leads through the impressive mountains of Lefkas to the island capital of the same name. On the way you can enjoy spectacular views before enjoying a well-deserved coffee in the mountain village of Karia. In the town of Lefkas, the Panagiota awaits us for a longer crossing to Paxos, during which you have plenty of time to relax. You can spend the evening in one of the cozy taverns in the unique natural harbour of Gaios.



### Day 7 Paxos Island (aprx. 14 mi./23 km)

Paxos, the smallest of the seven Ionian Islands, is so densely covered in olive trees the whole island seems to glisten a wonderful silver green colour. Our morning tour leads us around the whole island. There is plenty of time to enjoy a swim in the sea at one of the many beaches. In the afternoon, the Panagiota takes us to Corfu. The last evening on board concludes with a communal dinner and last gettogether in a cosy atmosphere with crew, fellow travellers, and tour guides.



# Day 8 Corfu Island/Corfu city (Disembarkation)

After breakfast check-out and individual return home or extended stay on Corfu Island.

#### **Corfu to Athens**

#### 1st Day (Fri) Corfu/Corfu city (Embarkation)

Individual arrival by plane and subsequent transfer to the ship. It is possible to check in on the Panagiota from 2 pm onwards. Dinner on board and overnight stay on Corfu.

#### 2nd Day (Sat) Paxos Island (aprx. 15 mi./23 km)

Cast off! In the morning we sail to Paxos, the smallest of the seven Ionian Islands. This tiny island is so densely covered in olive trees the whole island seems to glisten a wonderful silver green colour. Our morning tour leads us around the whole island. There is plenty of time to enjoy a swim in the sea at one of the many beaches. Later, we can enjoy the evening in a cosy tavern in the unique natural harbour of Gaios! Overnight stay on Paxos.



### 3rd Day (Sun) Lefkas town - Nidri (aprx. 19 mi./30 km)

Our day begins with a longer sail to the town of Lefkas. During the crossing we pass by the original swing bridge which connects the island of Lefkas to the Greek mainland. Today's tour leads us across the island's fascinating mountain landscape to the lively harbour of Nidri. The island of Skorpios, once the private haven of shipping magnate Aristotle Socrates Onassis, can be seen from our mooring. The night is spent in Nidri.

# 4th Day (Mon) Ithaca Island - Mesolongi (aprx. 12 or 17 mi./20 or 28 km)

Early in the morning we cruise to the island of Ithaca for our day's bike tour. This hilly island with its spectacular scenery is said to have been home of the mythical king Odysseus. During the ride we get to enjoy the special character of the Ionian Islands off the beaten tourist track: gnarled olive trees, crystal clear water and friendly islanders – time appears to stand still on Ithaca. We then board the boat once more for a longer sail to Mesolongi in the Corinthian Gulf, where we spend the night.

### 5th Day (Tue) Mesolongi – Delphi – Galaxidi

A transfer bus will pick you up in the morning to take you to the medieval town of Nafpaktos. There you can take a short stroll through the enchanting old town with its Venetian harbour and fortifications. Afterwards, the journey continues by bringing us to the famous site of Delphi at the foot of the Parnassos Mountains. In Delphi, the god of light, Apollo, was once worshipped and the oracle was consulted. The many beautiful temples & treasure houses, the well-preserved theatre & stadium, but particularly the breath-taking hillside location of the sanctuary make a visit to the Delphi an unforgettable experience. Afterwards, your transfer bus takes us to the picturesque port of Galaxidi, where we spend the night. For those would are interested, one can bike to a nearby beach in the afternoon and enjoy a swim in the sea! Overnight stay in Galaxidi.

# 6th Day (Wed) Galaxidi – Corinth Canal – Aegina Island (aprx. 12 mi./ 20 km)

Today we lift anchor early and the journey continues towards the Isthmus of Corinth. The impressive passage through the Corinth Canal, which was completed in 1893 and whose construction was already planned by Julius Caesar, is one of the absolute highlights of this trip. The passage is 6.3 km long, 24 meters wide and 8 meters deep and it connects the Aegean Sea with the Gulf of Corinth. It saves passengers from the nearly 400 km long trip around the Peloponnese. From the Saronic Gulf, we set course for the island of Aegina. In the afternoon, we enjoy a coastal bike tour to the quaint fishing port of Perdika. In the evening, the old town of Aegina entices visitors to take an extended stroll.



# 7th Day (Thu) Aegina Island – Piraeus/Marina Zeas (aprx. 19 mi./30 km)

The island of Aegina is also known beyond its borders for its pistachios. In the morning, our last bike ride from the island's capital take us past the Monastery of Saint Nektarios and to the well-preserved Temple of Aphaia, perched high above the blue sea. Our ship waits for us in the town of Aegina for our last crossing to Athens/Piraeus where we round off our Greek adventure with a final cozy dinner on board.

# 8th Day (Fri) Athens/Piraeus (Disembarkation)

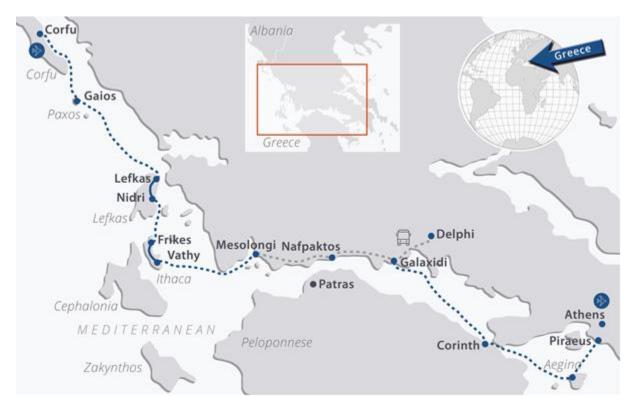
After breakfast check-out and individual return home or extended stay in Athens.

#### **Itinerary changes**

We reserve the right to make changes to the planned itinerary due to changing wind and weather conditions as well as organizational requirements.



Route



Participants require a high level of fitness for this tour. The daily routes vary in length 12 - 25 mi./20 - 40 km and lead through hilly to mountainous terrain. The tours can, however, be completed without any time constraints. Participants will also need to master long and steep climbs, during which it is of course bikes can be pushed. Most of the roads we cycle along are asphalted and with low traffic. You are free to set aside a half or full day to swim or spend time on board the boat, instead of taking a planned cycle-tour. **Group riding pace:** On our regular cycling tours, the cyclists on regular bicycles determine the pace. We ask guests who have reserved an e-bike to be mindful of this and to acknowledge that the regular cyclists need time to rest and take longer to climb the hills. We thank you for your understanding. **Requirement to wear a helmet** Helmets are mandatory on our bike tours. It is advised to bring your own, well fitted, helmet with you as our rental helmet numbers are limited (reservation required).



Dates and Prices- all prices in Euros and subject to confirmation on booking

Dates 2025	Comments	Base tour price
		Per person in a twin cabin below deck
02.05. – 09.05.2025	ION2 (Corfu-Athens)	1,999 euro (Panagiota)
09.05. – 16.05.2025	ION1 (Athens-Corfu)	2,099 euro (Panagiota)
30.05 06.06.2025	ION2 (Corfu-Athens) / Pentecost	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
06.06 13.06.2025	ION1 (Athens-Corfu) / Corpus Christi	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
27.06. – 04.07.2025	ION2 (Corfu-Athens)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
04.07. – 11.07.2025	ION1 (Athens-Corfu)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
22.08. – 29.08.2025	ION2 (Corfu-Athens)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
29.08. – 05.09.2025	ION1 (Athens-Corfu)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
19.09. – 26.09.2025	ION2 (Corfu-Athens)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)
26.09. – 03.10.2025	ION1 (Athens-Corfu)	2,199 euro (Panagiota)

Participants Minimum: 14 Maximum: 20

#### Included services

- 8-day trip on a motorized yacht with crew
- 7 nights in a twin cabin below deck with shower/toilet
- 2 x full-board and 5 x half-board on board
- Drinking water on board
- Guided bike tours and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Overview-maps for the daily bike tours (on board)
- Entrance fee to museums and archaeological sites (group visit only)
- Transfer to Delphi
- Passage through the Corinth Canal
- Bed linen and towels
- English-speaking tour guide



#### Additional optional services (on request)

- Surcharge for an above deck cabin: 350 euro/person
- Double cabin for single use below deck, surcharge: 50% on the tour base price (limited)
- Double cabin for single use above deck, surcharge: 50% (tour base price + above deck surcharge x 1.5) (limited)
- Special dietary requests (lactose free / gluten free / vegan), surcharge: 70 euro (must be communicated in advance, payment on board)
- Rental bike with Ortlieb pannier: hybrid bicycle: 80 euro/week; e-bike: 245 euro/week
- Limited liability protection for rental bikes (theft and damage): hybrid bicycle, rental trailer bike or children's seat: 20 euro/week; e-bike: 30 euro/week (not covered: grossly negligent damage)
- Collective transfer (available on embarkation/disembarkation days only): between Athens airport and the boat in Marina Zeas / between a hotel in Athens city and the boat in Marina Zeas / between Corfu airport and the boat / between boat and a hotel in Corfu city: price on request
- Additional nights in Athens and on Corfu Island: price on request

#### **Extension programs**

- 3-day extension module Athens; available pre and post tour (incl. transfers: Airport Hotel + Hotel - boat, 2 nights in a 3 or 4 star hotel, entrance to the Acropolis), 1 evening meal in the Tavern 'To Kafeneion' excl. drinks, 1 guided tour of your choice: either Athens by e-bike tour, Athens foodies tour or mythological walk in Athens, brochure on further recommended activities in Athens): 3\* Hotel: 550 euro/person in a double room; 770 euro/person in a single room; 4\* Hotel: 650 euro/person in a double room; 870 euro/person in a single room
- 4-day extension module on Santorini: available pre or post tour (incl. transfers between Santorini airport or ferry port and the hotel, 3 nights in a 3-star boutique hotel, 1 guided tour of your choice: either sea kayak tour or e-bike tour or a culinary caldera walk, brochure on further recommended activities on Santorini) - Standard: Room with land view / Deluxe: Room with sea view - April-June & October: Standard: 670 euro/person in a double room; 1,090 euro/person in a single room; Deluxe: 750 euro/person in a double room; 1,190 euro/person in a single room // July-September: Standard: 790 euro/person in a double room; 1,230 euro/person in a single room; Deluxe: 870 euro/person in a double room; 1,320 euro/person in a single room



3-day extension module Corfu; available only post tour (incl. transfers: Airport – Hotel + Hotel - boat, 2 nights in a 3 or 4 star hotel, 1 guided tour of your choice: either culinary & cultural Corfu town walking tour or kayak tour on Corfu's east coast or sunset hike on Corfu's west coast, brochure on further recommended activities on Corfu): 3\* Hotel: 530 euro/person in a double room; 610 euro/person in a single room; 4\* Hotel: 660 euro/person in a double room; 850 euro/person in a single room

### Not included in the basic tour price

- Journey to Greece
- Beverages on board (tally sheet; to be paid to the captain)
- Meals and beverages ashore
- Entrance fee for sights not included in the tour price
- Beach towel for ashore use (if needed)
- Tips for tour guides and crew

#### **Price reductions**

- With three persons sharing a cabin (limited availability), we offer a 200 euro discount per person (not combinable with other discounts).
- Children up to the age of 16 receive a discount of 200 euro on the tour base price (double occupancy, not combinable with other discounts).



#### **Comfort Ship PANAGIOTA**



The Panagiota, our latest finding in Greece, is an affectionately restored two-masted motor yacht, which is 7 m wide and 23 m long. It was built in 1990, modernized in 2001 in conformity with the requirements of cruises and completely renovated again in 2019. 6 cabins below deck and 4 cabins above deck are at the guests' disposal. All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with a French bed 1.4 m wide, one single bed and private shower and toilet. There is room for all guests in the spacious saloon to have the meals, to regenerate or to spend some time with new friends. When the weather conditions are fine the guests can have the meals outside on the shaded rear deck. The spacious sun deck, equipped with cozy mats, invites to have a sun bath and to relax.





#### **Bikes**

Four frame sizes insure optimum riding comfort for all of our guests between 1.50m – 1.90m. Our women's bikes are available in 46 or 52cm frame sizes, the men's bikes are available in 56 and 60cm frame sizes. 21 Gears.

### Ladies Hybrid & Men's Hybrid







Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

www.okcycletours.com



# THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR