



LIFESTYLE HOLIDAYS - GREECE

Ionian Islands Bike & Sail – 8 days ex Corfu



On the Ionian Islands off the west coast of Greece, Hellas shows her greenest side: Pure nature, the crystal clear blue shimmering Ionian Sea and centuries of Venetian influences dominate the archipelago of the Ionian Islands. From Corfu, which was the dream island of the unforgettable Austrian empress Sissi, this journey will lead you to regions which are not very well known abroad. Discover the famous island of Ithaca which is said to have been the home of Odysseus, you will never forget the green bird of sanctuary island of Lefkas, the fantastic mountain world of Kefallonia and the beautiful olive woods of the small island of Paxos. Enjoy your stay on board the two-masted wooden motor yacht Panagiota and enjoy the excellent Greek cuisine.

See nature at her purest

From Corfu, which was the dream island of the unforgettable Austrian empress Sissi, this journey will lead us to regions which are not very well known abroad. Discover the famous island of Ithaca which is said to have been the home of Odysseus; you will never forget the green bird sanctuary island of Lefkas, the fantastic mountain world of Kefallonia and the beautiful olive woods of the small island of Paxos.

Easy-going cycling

The biking routes have a length of 20 to 50 km and lead through hilly or mountainous areas. The routes reach an elevation of 300 to 700 m. Some uphill stretches are included. The roads are mostly asphalted. You can always choose to skip a bike tour and spend the time sunbathing and relaxing on the ship instead.

Be pampered by excellent Greek cuisine

Our accommodation or floating hotel is on-board a wooden motor yacht. The cabins have air conditioning and private bathroom facilities. Our on-board chef is a member of the crew and will prepare breakfast and one to two warm meals daily. Catering includes 5 x half board and 2 x full board and starts with the evening meal on check-in to the breakfast on departure day.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1. Arrival on the Island of Corfu

Please make your own way to The Island of Corfu and board the yacht from 2pm onwards. We are moored here tonight so there is plenty of time to explore the town. Dinner will be on board our boat.

Meals: Dinner

Cycling: None



Day 2. Corfu Island to Sivota to Lefkas Island

In the morning we will sail over to Sivota, where our first bike ride starts. We cycle to Parga, a pretty village with a medieval fort, which towers over the old town. It is also the only tourist area on the western coast of the Greek mainland. Here the boat is waiting to take us to Nidri on Lekas Island. On our way we pass the original swing bridge which connects Lefkas with the Greek mainland.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 28 km (17 mi.)

Day 3. Islands of Lekas and Cephalonia

Today's cycling route takes us from Nidri to some nearby waterfalls where there may be enough water for a refreshing morning swim. Along quiet roads and through the mountains past Sivros, we cycle to the harbour of Vasiliki, which has a historical town centre well worth exploring. After a short sail, we anchor at Porto Katsiki, one of the most famous swimming beaches in Greece. Then the boat takes us to Fiskardo, where we spend the night. The harbour town on the Northern point of the island charms visitors with its colourful houses and numerous cafés and bars along its picturesque promenade.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Cycling: 29 km (17 mi.)

Day 4. Ephalonia Island

Today's bike ride is from Fiskardo to Sami. We cycle along the high road of the west coast of the island, where we will have lots of unforgettable sights, such as the panoramic view down to Myrtos beach. We continue on through the interior of the island and finally reach the eastern coast of Cephalonia with its harbour of Sami. On the way we will visit the stalactite and stalagmite caves of Melissani, which can only be viewed from row boats. Later in the afternoon we cross to Ithaca.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 39 km (24 mi.)

Day 5. Islands of Ithaca and Meganisi

Ithaca, the homeland of the mythical king Odysseus is a hilly island with a beautiful landscape. On today's ride we experience the typical character of the Ionian Islands as we are well away from the beaten tourist track. There are gnarled olive trees, crystal clear waters and friendly islanders – time appears to stand still on Ithaca. From Frikes the Panagiota takes us to the small island of Meganisi. On the way we pass the private island of the influential ship owner Aristoteles Onassis. Meganisi is a tiny island with lots of charm, which we will explore in the afternoon by bike.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 21 km + 13 km (13 mi. + 8 mi.)



Day 6. Mytikas to Lefkas town

This morning we cross over to Mytikas on the Greek mainland. From here we ride along the coast and then on some hilly roads, passing through mountain villages until we reach Lefkas town. In the afternoon we sail to Paxos Island, whose unique natural harbour in Gaios creates a special island atmosphere. We can spend the evening in a cozy tavern in Gaios.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 49 km (30 mi.)

Day 7. Islands of Paxos and Corfu

Paxos, the smallest of the seven Ionian Islands is a grove of olive trees, which gives the island its wonderful silver green colour. On today's bike ride we will circle the island and have our first swim in the Mediterranean at one of its many beaches. After lunch the boat brings us back to Corfu town, where, after dinner on board, you end your tour with a leisurely evening in this romantic historical town centre.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cycling: 23 km (14 mi.)

Day 8. Depart from Corfu Town

After breakfast we check out and transfer to the airport for our return home or maybe a holiday extension on the Island of Corfu.

Meals: Breakfast

Cycling: None

Tour Information



Accommodation:

Ship PANAGIOTA (shower/toilet in every cabin)

The Panagiota, our latest finding in Greece, is an affectionately restored two masted motor yacht, which is 7m wide and 31m long. It was built in 1990 and modernized in 2001 to conform to the requirements of cruise boats. There are 6 cabins below deck and 4 cabins above deck available to guests. All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with a double bed, one single bed and private bathroom. There is room for all guests in the spacious saloon to have meals, relax and spend time with new friends. When the weather conditions are fine the guests can have their meals outside on the shaded rear deck. The spacious sun deck is equipped with comfortable mats, which provide an inviting place to relax.

Catering:

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares breakfast and one or two warm meals a day. The catering starts with dinner on the arrival day and ends with breakfast on the departure day.

Language on Tour:

Our tours are generally catered for in German as the first language and English secondary. If you are English speaking please do not be alarmed, as English is widely spoken by our crew and most German nationals. One of our guides is available on the daily tours to translate into English for non-German speaking tour participants.

Alterations:

We reserve the right to make alterations to this itinerary, which will normally be due to wind and weather conditions or organisational requirements.

Bike Hire:

Our 21-gear-trekking-bikes are basic bicycles that are available in four different frame sizes: 46 cm and 52 cm for ladies, 56 cm and 60 cm for men. All bicycles are equipped with a Shimano drive chain, Shimano V-brakes with strong "bite", 28 inch hollow chamber rims with quick release, safety mudguards and a comfortable Selle Royal touring saddle. For the duration of the tour we supply you with a waterproof saddle bag by Ortlieb, a practical way of carrying drinks, bathing gear, camera etc.

Please note: Should you not want to be without your own saddle (please bring the saddle only without the seat post) or your own click pedals, please bring them with you and let your tour guide attach them to your rental bicycle.

Tour Information



Included in the tour price:

- 7 nights on a motor yacht in a double/twin cabin with ensuite
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Bed linen and towels
- English speaking tour guide
- Bike hire: 21-speed trekking bike with pannier
- Return transfers between Corfu Airport & Corfu town (on days 1 & 8 only)
- Cycling maps for each day's tour are available on board
- Entries to museums and archaeological sites (group visits only)

Tour Grade

This tour is graded **3/4** moderate (on a scale of 1-10 with 9/10 being extreme).

Not included in the tour price

- International Flights and/or Travel Visas (where applicable) or Travel Insurance
- Single Supplement (for single travellers wanting sole occupancy of a cabin)
- Surcharge for above deck cabin: € 50/person
- Drinks & snack bars on board
- Meals eaten Ashore
- Tips for the tour guides and crew
- Transfers between Corfu Airport & Corfu town (unless on days 1 & 8)

Fitness Required

An average level of fitness is required; you will need to be doing some form of exercise two-three times a week on the build up to this tour.