

Cycling Safaris

Greece - Ionian Islands Odysseus' Homeland from/to Corfu Guided Tour 2024

Guide cycling with group | 110 mi/175 km | 7 nights / 8 days
Tour starts and ends on Fridays

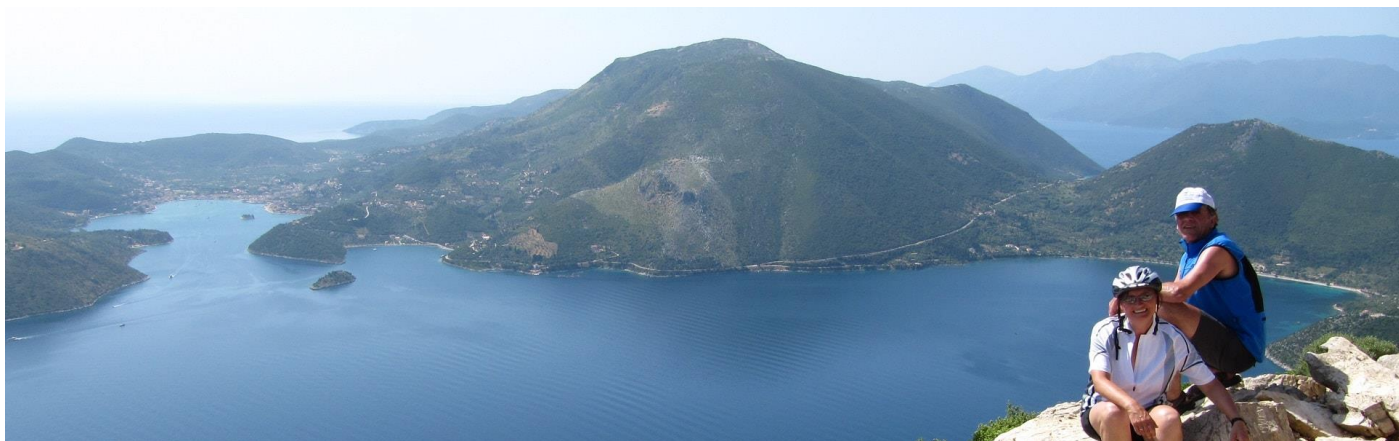
On the Ionian Islands off the west coast of Greece, Hellas shows her greenest side: Pure nature, the crystal clear blue shimmering Ionian Sea and centuries of Venetian influences dominate the archipelago of the Ionian Islands.



From Corfu, which was the dream island of the unforgettable Austrian empress Sissi, this journey leads us to regions which are not commonly known abroad.

Discover the famous island of Ithaca which is said to have been the home of Odysseus, the unforgettable green bird sanctuary island of Lefkas, the fantastic mountain world of Cephalonia and the beautiful olive woods of the small island of Paxos.

Enjoy the stay on board of the wooden motor yacht and let yourself be pampered by the excellent Greek cuisine and the coziness of the ship!



TOUR ITINERARY

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

Individual arrival by plane and transfer to the ship. Check in on the Panagiota from 2 pm on. Dinner on board. Overnight stay in Corfu.

Day 2 (Sat) Corfu Island - Sivota - Parga - Lefkas Island (approx 18 mi / 28km)

Cast off! In the morning we cross over to Sivota on the mainland of Greece. There our first cycle tour starts and leads us to Parga beautifully situated below a Venetian fortress which towers over the old town. Here the boat awaits us to take us on a long cruise to Nidri on Lefkas Island. On our way we pass a witty swing-bridge which connects Lefkas with the Greek mainland. You spent the night in the lively harbour of Nidri.

Day 3 (Sun) Lefkas Island (approx 21 mi / 35km)

After breakfast we start with a short tour to a waterfall nearby Nidri. With a bit of luck enough water will tumble for us to have a refreshing swim. Afterwards we continue on quiet roads over the hills via Siyros to the picturesque harbor town of Sivota. Here we board the boat and cruise to Fiskardo on the Island of Kefalonia. Situated on the northern tip of the island, the harbor town enchants with its colorful houses and many cafes and bars along the lively waterfront promenade.

Day 4 (Mon) Cephalonia Island (approx 25 mi / 39km)

After breakfast, we leave Fiskardo by bike and climb an impressive mountain road on the west coast of Kefalonia, from

which we are met by awe inspiring views over the Assos peninsula and the famous Myrtilos beach. After the climb we turn inland and cross the island. Shortly before the end of the bike tour we visit the Melissani stalactite cave on board a small row boat and marvel at the incredible blue tones created by the unique cave formations, sun and water. In Sami the boat welcomes us and once on board, sets off for Vathy on Ithaca.

Day 5 (Tue) Islands of Ithaca (approx. 13 or 17 mi / 20 or 28 km)

In the morning we cycle on the Ithaca Island. The homeland of the mythical king Odysseus, is a hilly island with a beautiful landscape. On today's cycle route we can enjoy the typical character of the Ionian Islands away from the beaten tourist track: gnarled olive trees, crystal clear water and friendly islanders – time appears to stand still on Ithaca. Decide for yourself, if you are up for the challenge of a true hill climb, or, if you would prefer the leisurely alternative of a panoramic ride at half the height. The Panagiota awaits our arrival in Frikes before setting off to the small island of Meganisi.

Day 6 (Wed) Islands of Meganisi and Paxos (approx. 10 mi / 17 km)

Meganisi is a tiny island with lots of charm, which we explore in the morning by bicycle. The panoramic tour takes us along lonely island roads and through the three villages of the island, which give us a good impression of the traditional island life of the Greeks. At Spartochori beach we can enjoy a coffee and a swim in the sea. In the afternoon we sail to Paxos Island, whose unique natural harbor in Gaios creates a special island atmosphere. We can spend the evening in one of the cozy taverns of Gaios.

Day 7 (Thu) Islands of Paxos and Corfu

(approx 14 mi / 23km)

Paxos, the smallest of the seven Ionian Islands is a grove of olive trees, which gives the island its wonderful silver green color. On today's cycle trip we circle the island. We can have our last swim in the Mediterranean on one of the many beaches. After lunch the Panagiota will take us back to Corfu City where we can explore the city once more before enjoying a last evening meal on board together with friends, guides and crew reflecting on the experiences of the week.

Day 8 (Fri) Corfu town (Disembarkation)

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

Changes:

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

Requirements:

The cycle routes require an advanced level of fitness from the participants. The daily routes have a length of 12 - 31 mi./20 - 50 km. They lead through hilly or mountainous areas and will be completed without any time-constraints. The cycle tours will take us up to 1,000 - 2,300 ft/300 - 700 m of elevation. There are also some extended climbs where walking your bicycle is of course permitted.

Most of the roads are asphalted and rarely frequented. Your tour guide informs you each day about the tour details. Helmet use is mandatory on all cycle tours.

You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well-fitted) helmet. Cycle helmets are available on board in limited number (on request).

You are free to set aside a half or full day to swim or spend on board the boat, instead of taking a planned cycle tour. Should some activities require a bit more in the way of physical fitness, the tour guide will point this out.

Rental helmets for adults are required on all cycle tours. Helmets are available on board on request (limited numbers). You are kindly requested to bring your own helmets for children.

Children:

We believe that only children with a good physical condition and previous bicycle tour experience and a minimum age of 10 are able to master the cycle tours with their own strength. Please note that the minimum height for a rental bike is 1.30m (4.3 ft) for hybrid bikes and 1.50m (5 ft) for e-bikes.



2024 TOUR PRICE

€ 1990 per person sharing (lower deck)
+€200 supplement per person sharing for above deck cabin

It is possible to request a half cabin however if you want your own single cabin:

€ 500 supplement for single occupancy (lower deck)
€ 700 supplement for single occupancy (above deck *limited)

Bike rental is not included in the standard tour price

€85 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag

€230 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag

Price reduction:

With three persons sharing a cabin, we allow a 50% discount on the basic tour price for the third person, regardless of age, and do neither charge the above deck surcharge for the third person.

Children up to age 16 receive a 25% discount on the basic tour price (not combinable with the 50% discount)

2024 GROUP TOUR DATES

April 12, 19, 26

May 3, 10, 31

June 6, 21

July 12, 19

August 30

September 6, 13

October 4, 11

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Services included:

- 8-day-trip on a comfort motor yacht with crew
- 7 nights in a double cabin with shower/toilet
- 2 x full board (breakfast, lunch & dinner) and 5 x half board (breakfast & dinner) on board
- Guided bike tours and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Overview-maps for the daily bike tours (on board)
- Bed linen & towels
- Bottled water on board and during all activities ashore
- Entrance fee to museums and archaeological sites (group visit only)
- English speaking tour guide

Not included in the tour price

- Bike rental
- Journey to Corfu
- Beverages on board (tally sheet, to be paid to the captain)
- Meals and drinks ashore
- Beach towel for ashore (if needed)
- Entrance fee for sights not included in the tour price
- Tips for tour guides and crew

Additional optional extras

- Collective group transfers (only available on embarkation/disembarkation days): between Corfu airport or a hotel at Corfu town and the boat in Corfu harbor: price on request
- Additional customized transfers on request
- Additional nights on Corfu: prices on request.
- Bike insurance: €10 hybrid bike / €25 e-bike

WHAT TO BRING

Specialised cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ leggings

shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing

good shoes

sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume

extra towel for swimming

soap/ insect repellent/ sunscreen

own helmet

Helmet use is mandatory on all bike tours in Greece. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well fitted) helmet. Rental Helmets are available on board in limited number (reservation requested).

GUIDE, GROUP & BACK UP SERVICE

On this tour there will be a guide cycling with the group.

There is no support vehicle available on this tour, but there is no time pressure to finish the stages. Our tour guides will inform you beforehand of the nature and difficulty of the tour so you are able to decide if you want to cycle with or rather relax on board. If you would like to cycle on your own, we can provide you with maps and tips for routes.

BIKE RENTAL

Hybrid bikes



Those choosing to rent a hybrid bike will receive a reliable, low maintenance, aluminium frame bike in the suitable size. Our hybrid bikes are equipped with 28 inch hollow chamber rims with puncture-proof touring tires, high-quality derailleur gears and break systems, a carrier and a sturdy bike stand, touring saddle as well as mudguards and a pannier rack. All components are selected based on our twenty years of experience in bike tourism, insuring that they fulfil the necessary criteria to provide the rider with an uncompromised cycle experience.

Electric bikes



Clients who wish to be supported by a tail-wind and seek to hire an e-bike will receive a high-quality cycle, powered mainly by a Bosch motor capable of covering long distances, and characterized by their light weight and great components. Alternative drive systems may also be used. Standard components of our e-bikes in varying frame sizes include, 28 inch hollow chamber rims with puncture-proof touring tires, high-quality derailleur gears and break systems, a carrier and a sturdy bike stand, touring saddle as well as mudguards and a pannier rack. With our e-bikes you will conquer the hills with a smile, they are a true declaration of independence for all who wish to cycle and seek the support of a little push.

The Bike tours require basic level of fitness from participants, which they should have acquired from steady cycling. The day tours from 20 – 60km will take you through hilly and mountainous terrain and may be completed without any time constraints. Participants will also need to master long and steep climbs during which they are, however, also able to push their bikes.

You are free to set aside a half or full day swim or spend on board the boat, instead of taking a planned bike tour. We will traverse mostly asphalted roads, which are rarely travelled on outside the holiday seasons.

Each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join the tour guides and other participants.

ACCOMMODATION

The comfort ship PANAGIOTA

The Panagiota is an affectionately restored twin-mast motor yacht, which is 23 ft. wide and 102 ft. long.

It was built in 1990 and modernized in 2001 in conformity with the requirements of cruises. 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 (4,6 ft. 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 cosy mats, invites to have a sun bath and to relax. The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and one or two warm meals a day. The catering starts with the dinner on the arrival day and ends with the breakfast on the departure day.



Internet Availability:

Please note that there is no WiFi available on board the Panagiota. If you need to connect to the internet during the tour, we recommend bringing your device to a cafe or bar in a harbour. Free WiFi is on offer almost everywhere. You you order something to eat or drink you are able to use the WiFi at your hearts content!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Inbound flight to Corfu is the recommend access point to this tour

A flight is the fastest, easiest and cheapest way to get to Greece. Corfu, your port of embarkation is only 5 km away from Corfu Airport.

To investigate and book a suitable flight you can for example use the website www.opodo.com.

Transfers between the airport and the boat or between a hotel and the boat

Fee-based collective transfers (only available on embarkation/disembarkation days):

- Between Corfu airport or a hotel in Corfu town and the port: 18 euro per person each way

Customized transfers are possible, availability and prices on request.