

Greece 7-Day Bareboat Sailing Itinerary ex-Athens

Sailing the Greek Islands is the quintessential cruising experience. Sitting with my wife on the dock on Kea in 2011, enjoying a drink and selection of mezes, with the sun going down over the water – I thought I'd died and gone to heaven.

There are several regions to sail in Greece. All offer something different. Some are rich in cultural sites, others offer lush scenery, while another will offer fantastic dining. From a sailing perspective the Cyclades tends to have very strong winds and requires long sailing legs and less flexibility, while the Ionian is great for beginners, but is less accessible.

The Saronic Gulf is probably the best all-round destination. Winds tend to be moderate, distances can be varied and the base in Athens is very accessible. It does tend to be busy, but there are plenty of secluded bays where you can avoid the crowds and it is just a matter of getting to some of the key places a little earlier in the day to grab a spot.

Our 7-day itinerary provides a range of experiences, easy legs and opportunity to enjoy both sailing these sparkling waters and some amazing destinations.

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On Kea in 2011



128.3 NM		21H22M		64.1 L	
12.0 NM	1H59M	6.0 L	12.0 NM	1H59M	
8.7 NM	1H26M	4.3 L	20.6 NM	3H26M	
15.9 NM	2H38M	7.9 L	36.5 NM	6H05M	
19.6 NM	3H15M	9.8 L	56.1 NM	9H20M	
21.8 NM	3H38M	10.9 L	77.9 NM	12H59M	
19.9 NM	3H18M	9.9 L	97.8 NM	16H17M	
30.5 NM	5H04M	15.2 L	128.3 NM	21H22M	



Day 1: Saturday

Athens to Peristeria Bay

Most charters commence around Kalamaki and it is hard to get away much before 5pm. If you head out to the main islands you will find it is getting late and they will already be full. Instead, try Peristeria Bay on the island of Salamina. You can tuck into the small islets with reasonable holding on sand and protection from most directions (use plenty of chain). This anchorage has great swimming in crystal clear water. There is a bar and café if you want to launch the tender.



Peristeria Bay

Tip

Have your groceries delivered to your boat to save the time and hassle of doing it yourself. You can do this well ahead of time, and have your provisions delivered right to your boat. The various ports do all have small grocery stores, but this is a great way to get most of it done at a reasonable price. I recommend Yachtness.com who deliver to all the bases around Athens.

Day 2: Sunday

Peristeria Bay to Limenas Aiginas

After a morning swim, set sail for Aegina and the port of Limenas Aiginas. This busy harbour clears out a little in the middle of the day, so arrive around lunchtime and you will find a spot on the dock. Use modest amount of chain to avoid snagging others and back in. This is a lively place with a huge number of tavernas and some interesting architecture (such as the Venetian Tower of Markellos). You can hire a car or quadbike (international license needed) and visit the Temple of Athena Aphaia and the Temple of Apollo. Drive through the villages, find a beach for a dip and see what surprises await you.

Day 3: Monday

Limenas Aiginas to Poros

Make sure you get away at a reasonable time and head due south. Stop at Nisis Moni for a swim, then onto Poros (not to be confused with Paros in the Cyclades). This is another lively town with a long dock along which you can berth stern to shore. The quieter end just east of the church is my preferred berth. Power and water available as long as you are not too far east. Enjoy the tavernas, shops and bars. Walk east along the road to the Timios Stavros Church which marks a swimming spot. This is another island where you can rent a car or quadbike and explore the island, although it has less to offer than Aegina.

There are two options at this point. Continue south if you want more action and longer sails (Option 1) or head north for shorter distances and a bit more variety (Option 2 - over the page)

OPTION 1



Day 4: Tuesday

Poros to Ermioni

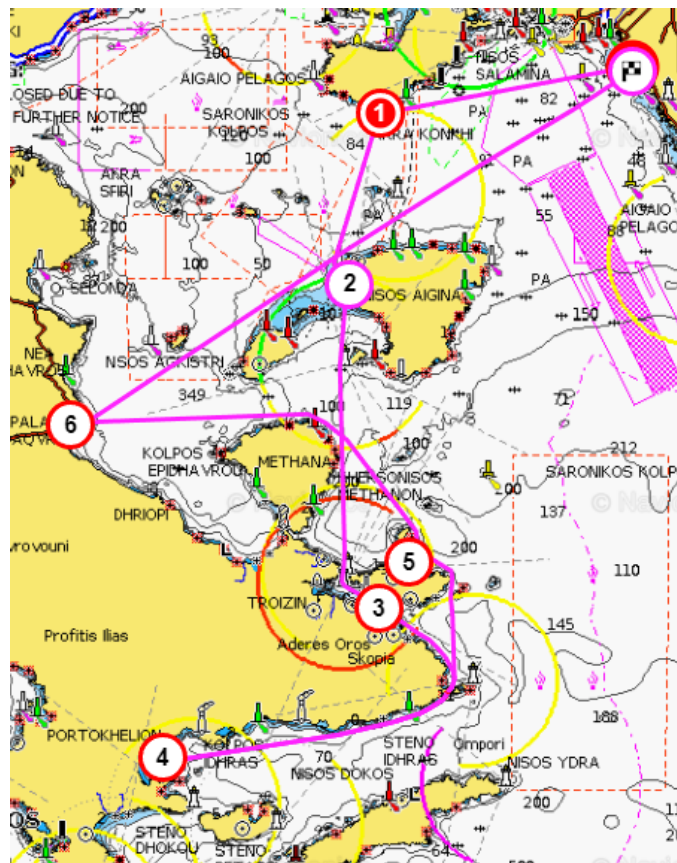
This is a lovely cruise through the narrow channel that separates Poros from the mainland, then south and west along the Greek coastline. The high mountains make a spectacular backdrop, as does the island of Hydra. Note that Hydra is difficult to visit, but if you want to see it, take the ferry across from Ermioni. The south side of Ermioni is the place to moor rather than in the harbour, with room for 20-30 yachts (37° 23.02' N, 23° 14.83' E). Note that it is not great in a southerly when the main harbour will be better. Many restaurants and tavernas along the waterfront. Aim to get here by 1pm. If there is no space on the dock then anchor to the west. By arriving early you have plenty of time to explore this wonderful town, go for a walk in the pine forest, or take a ferry across to Hydra.

Day 5: Wednesday

Ermioni to NW Poros

After the busy ports, it's time to enjoy some serenity, with an afternoon of swimming and an evening of on board dining in one of the bays on the NW side of Poros (or, if you prefer, head back to Poros Town). Bistiou, the northern most bay, offers the protection, and the larger Barbari Bay, with Vagionia Beach at its head, is worth checking out on your way past as another quiet anchorage.

Vathi (Option 2)



Day 6: Thursday

NW Poros to Epidavros

Enjoy a lovely sail across the gulf with some very pretty sites along the way, including churches on headlands, beaches and the ever-beautiful deep blue water. Epidavros gets busy after 3pm, so, unless you don't mind mooring out in the bay aim to be here around 2:30pm. Don't be afraid to grab a spot on the main pier, but note the areas with a red line on the dock to the east of the main pier which marks the berths for fishing boats. Power and water usually available. Another Vagionia Beach is a 10 minute walk to the north, past several tavernas, and offers excellent swimming. Tavernas near the waterfront are a bit ordinary but the Periboli the Gogos (tel. +302753041500), set a few streets back, is an absolute gem. There is a Greek theatre which is a popular place to visit by taxi if you want some ancient history.

Day 7: Friday

Epidavros to Athens

Charter companies require you to be back at their base by 5pm on the Friday. Enjoy a coffee ashore then head ENE towards Agistro where you can stop for an early lunch and a swim in Perdika Bay, enjoying the spectacular cliffs of Nisis on the way. Then, make tracks for Athens 3.5 hours away.

OPTION 2

Day 4: Tuesday

Poros to Perdika Bay

Sail back the way you came, or choose to sail around the top of Poros Island on your way to Perdika Bay on Nisos. This wide bay offers good shelter, the opportunity to take a line to shore, and excellent swimming. Large signs on shore offer the phone number of a restaurant which will send a tender to pick you up. Or take your tender around to Apónēssos for fresh fish and alfresco dining.

Day 5: Wednesday

Perdika Bay to Vathi

This is a short hop to this charming harbour with room for around 15 boats. Arrive by 2pm to be reasonably sure of a spot (there is no alternative otherwise, except opposite the tavernas near the breakwall). The family-run tavernas offer some wonderful homemade dishes and a great atmosphere. We loved Limanaki who also offers a shower. Power available, but water is limited. Swim off the SW end of the dock or walk up past Liminaki Taverna around to a stoney beach.

Day 6: Thursday

Vathi to Epidavros

A short hop across the bay takes you to Epidavros. This port gets busy after 3pm, so, unless you don't mind mooring out in the bay aim to be here around 2:30pm. Don't be afraid to grab a spot on the main pier, but note the areas with a red line on the dock to the east which is for the fishing boats. Power and water usually available. Vagionia Beach is a 10 minute walk to the north, past several tavernas, and offers excellent swimming and some shade under the olive trees. Tavernas near the waterfront are a bit ordinary but the Periboli the Gogos (tel. +302753041500), set a few streets back, is an absolute gem. There is a Greek theatre which is a popular place to visit by taxi if you want a fix of ancient history.



Epidavros - note the yellow line along the dock showing where yachst can berth.

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