

Greek Charter "Nostos" Route

Nostos (Ancient Greek: νόστος) is a theme used in Ancient Greek literature, which includes an epic hero returning home by sea. In Ancient Greek society, it was deemed a high level of heroism or greatness for those who managed to return.

DAY 1: Depart and sail to **Aegina**. Night spent at Perdika Fishing Village. Dinner ashore at a local fish restaurant.

***Aegina** is one of the Saronic Islands of Greece in the Saronic Gulf. Tradition derives the name from Aegina, the mother of the hero Aeacus, who was born on the island and became its king. Famous for its neoclassical architecture and the world-famous pistachios, Aegina triggers the beginning of an epic journey to remember.*

DAY 2: Sail to **Hydra**. A visit to the main port and then departure around 12:30 to sail to "Saint Nicolas" bay on the southwest side of Hydra. Enjoy the nature and the crystal clear waters, while your Host/ess prepares your lunch. Departure around 16:30 and sail to Leonidio. Dinner ashore at a local taverna.

***Hydra** holds a privileged place in Greek history. The fate of Hydriots has always been tied to the sea, which locals have harnessed to their advantage time after time. Many Hydriot merchants became wealthy running the British blockade of French ports during the Napoleonic Wars. Hydra enjoyed its glory days in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when the island was famous for its shipbuilders. Hydra's prosperity earned it the nickname "Little England." As rebellion swept Greece, the island flourished as a safe haven for those fleeing Ottoman oppression. Hydra had become a favorite retreat for celebrities, well-heeled tourists, and artists and writers, who still draw inspiration from the idyllic surroundings. Canadian songwriter Leonard Cohen lived here for a time—and was inspired to compose his beloved song "Bird on the Wire" after observing just that here on Hydra. Today visitors only have to count the yachts to figure out that Hydra's economy is still based on the sea. An UNESCO-protected island. A historical island. An unusual aspect of Hydra is that no automobiles are allowed within the island.*

Don't miss the chance to walk around its wonderful local market alleys.

DAY 3: Sail to Monemvasia. Discover one of the best maintained fortresses in Europe. The '*Gibraltar of the East*'. Dinner ashore at a local taverna. On the way to Monemvasia enjoy this unique landscape of the East Peloponnese and your lunch in "Saint George" bay in Kyparissi.

***Monemvasia.** The town's name derives from two Greek words, mone and emvasia, meaning "single entrance". This former fortress town comes with a rich history. Monemvasia sits on an island off the Peloponnese in southern Greece, where it is among the most beautiful undiscovered places to travel. As a natural fortress, it was inhabited and soon became a strategic fortress claimed by the Byzantines, Franks, Venetians and Ottomans. Neither museum-like nor artificially fabricated, Monemvasia is Europe's only castle that has never ceased being inhabited. Don't miss to taste its nightlife!*

DAY 4: Sail to Spetses Island. One of the most beautiful and historical Islands of Greece. Dinner ashore at a local restaurant.

***Spetses**, an island boasting a long naval tradition, is famous for its significant contribution to the 1821 War of Independence. It was here that the revolution flag was raised on 3rd April 1821. Beautiful nature, perfect beaches and a complex history – Spetses is an island that has all three. An unusual aspect of Spetses is that no private automobiles are allowed within the town limits. Don't miss a visit to the island's traditional shipyards (tarsanades) in the old port, where craftsmen, having kept alive a centuries-old skill, build and repair wooden vessels. Carry on towards the Navy Park, where pine trees meet the sea and wooden sculptures, including an owl and a mermaid by renowned Greek sculptor Natalia Mela, are on display. Numerous bars as well as exceptional fish tavernas are clustered at the old port. Irresistible sweets, including the island's famous "amygdalota" almond sweets, can be found at the confectionery shops in the new port (Dapia) area. And to finish, take a romantic trip around the island in **horse-drawn carriages** and admire the grand mansions adorning the narrow cobbled streets of the island.*

DAY 5: Sail to Dokos Island. In a breathless bay enjoy the harmony. Play with the sun and the sea. Let loose. Listen to mother Nature. A lunch and an unexpected dinner-to-remember on board. The Music Starts!

***Dokos**, with its many archaeological excavations, as the island was an important port in the ancient times. According to findings, Dokos was first inhabited in the 5th millennium B.C., while it flourished in the 3rd millennium B.C. In antiquity, it was called Aperopia. As the remains of a castle show, this island had a strategic position in the Byzantine times and was used to observe the ships in the Saronic Gulf. In 1975, Peter Throckmorton discovered a wreck near Dokos that has been dated to about 2150 BC, and may be the oldest shipwreck known in human history!*

DAY 6: Sail to Poros Island. Discover this beautiful Island with the colorful houses. Buy a souvenir from Greece. Enjoy your dinner in a local restaurant.

***Poros**, in ancient times, was considered the island of Poseidon, God of the Sea. This is evident from various literary references and from the traces of the temple of Poseidon, which are to be found in the middle of the island. Poros was the site of the first naval base in modern Greece, established in 1827 during the Greek War of Independence. Lush vegetation, beautiful little beaches, picturesque villages, and a vintage aura make Poros a unique island to visit during your holidays in Greece. Built on a hillside, Poros Town is one of the most picturesque capitals of the Aegean sea islands. Poros town is the center of the island's activity, as the array of traditional taverns and Poros restaurants located along its seafront promenade come alive when the sun goes down, attracting vacationers from all over the world! Peer into the history and tradition of the island through a visit to its Archaeological and its Folklore Museums.*

DAY 7: A final day of sailing and swimming, with arrival back to our base of Agios Kosmas.

NOTE: Planned routes may be changed according to weather or other circumstances.

PERDIKA (island of Aigina)



island of Ydra



Leonidio (Peloponnesus peninsula)



Kiparisi (Peloponnesus peninsula)



Vathi Avlaki, Monemvasia (Peloponnesus peninsula)



Vrachos , Monemvasia (Peloponnesus peninsula)



Monemvasia (Peloponnesus peninsula)



Island of Spetses



Island of Spetses



Island of Poros



Island of Dokos



Island of Dokos

