

Greece & Turkey Bike & Cruise: Sail the Greek Islands by Yacht

Bike Vacation + Air Package

Whitewashed villages line the shores of the island of Patmos, where you'll pedal your E-bike along quiet country lanes to explore the landscape in which St. John the Theologian is said to have penned the Book of Revelations. Traveling by luxurious yacht, you'll unpack only once and enjoy the culture, history, and stunning turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea—exploring the enchanting Greek islands of Mykonos and Santorini. Pedal to Mycenae where you'll discover this fascinating archeological site with a local guide and take a fascinating journey into the Asian continent where you'll enjoy a mesmerizing candlelit dinner at the ancient monument of Ephesus. With five included cycling excursions, the use of an E-bike, all on-board meals, and most alcoholic beverages, this VBT biking cruise is truly worry-free.

Cultural Highlights

- Unpack once, then bike and cruise among some of the best-loved islands and ports in the Aegean.
- Cruise for seven nights aboard the elegant *Wind Spirit* or *Wind Star*, identical majestic four-masted sister yachts.
- Immerse yourself in the sensory pleasures of Mykonos and Santorini during insightful walking tours with local guides.
- Indulge in an elegant dinner under the moonlight at the ancient site of Ephesus, surrounded by millennia of history.
- Cycle breathtaking routes through farmlands, olive groves, and mountains in Nafplio, Patmos, and Kusadasi.

What to Expect

On Shore: This tour is one of our Guided Biking Adventures, rated easy. It is a fully E-bike tour, featuring shorter rides with primarily flat terrain and a few manageable climbs—made easier with the use of an E-bike. Riding is mostly on road segments through both urban and rural areas. A VBT support vehicle is available each day at designated points for those who need assistance. Please note that rides or planned activities in port may need to be shortened or skipped entirely due to sea and weather conditions. In Turkey, the ride will be conducted on non-VBT bikes. There are two non-riding days on the islands of Mykonos and Santorini, where VBT has arranged exclusive guided tours.

On Board Ship: Our group of up to 20 guests is part of a larger group on board Windstar's 148-passenger

Wind Spirit or Wind Star—two identical, sleek, four-masted sailing yachts offering spacious ocean-view accommodations. If you are prone to motion sickness, you may wish to bring a prescription or over-the-counter remedy. Each day features an exclusive VBT activity, along with opportunities to connect with fellow passengers. Due to the smaller ports visited on this itinerary, the yacht will typically anchor offshore, with local tender boats transporting you to and from the vessel. In the ports of Piraeus (Athens) and Kusadasi, Turkey, the yacht will be docked pier-side.

Tour Duration: 11 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 8-17 miles

Average Cycling Time: 1.5-2 hours

Group size: 20 max

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

April 67°/53°, May 75°/60°, June 84°/68°, July 89°/73°, August 89°/73°, September 83°/67°, October 74°/60°

Average Rainfall (in.)

April 1.0, May 0.6, June 0.2, July 0.2, August 0.4, September 0.4, October 1.9

FLIGHT DAY: Depart for Your Vacation

Your vacation is about to begin! Spend your first night aloft and arrive ready for an unforgettable trip.

ARRIVAL DAY: Arrive in Athens / Pre-Tour Hotel Night: Athens

A VBT representative will greet you at the airport to start your adventure off right. A complimentary car service will whisk you to your centrally located hotel. From here, you are perfectly positioned to explore this charming city at your leisure.

DAY 1: Your VBT Vacation Begins / Warm-Up Ride / Embark Yacht / Welcome Dinner

After breakfast at your hotel, meet your local VBT guide at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby. After brief introductions, board a private motorcoach for a short drive to a scenic location outside Athens. Here, you will meet your

trip leaders for a safety and bike-fitting session, followed by a relaxed warm-up ride designed to get you comfortable on your bike and acquainted with the terrain.

Later this afternoon, travel to your elegant four-masted sailing yacht, which will be your home for the week. Upon boarding, enjoy a light lunch provided onboard and the remainder of the afternoon settling into your cabin and exploring the yacht before setting sail. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a festive welcome dinner and toast the adventure ahead.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Warm-Up Ride — 12.3 km (8 miles)

What to Expect:

This short warm-up ride offers a chance to get comfortable with your bike. The route is flat and follows roads with some light traffic.

Cumulative Distance Range: 12.3 km (8 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2: Nafplio & Mycenae: Gateway to the Peloponnese

This morning, your yacht sails into the Bay of Argos, passing the Venetian-era Bourtzi island fortress. From the yacht, take a tender to the pier in Nafplio—a bustling port city during the Middle Ages and today one of the most romantic towns on the fabled Peloponnese Peninsula. It also serves as a gateway to some of ancient Greece's most important classical sites.

Upon reaching the pier, meet your trip leaders and set out on a breathtaking ride through fertile farmlands, neatly tended olive groves, charming farmhouses, and remote churches, with rugged mountains rising in the distance. Your cycling journey leads you inland to Mycenae—the oldest city on mainland Greece—set amid a picturesque, rocky landscape.

At Mycenae, an archaeologist guide joins you for an in-depth tour of the site's remarkable highlights, including the famed Lion Gate and the Treasury of Atreus, an incredible feat of ancient engineering.

After your visit, return by motorcoach to Nafplio and board your yacht. Enjoy a leisurely lunch onboard, then take advantage of the yacht's amenities—perhaps lounging by the pool, relaxing at the spa, or heading into Nafplio to explore its cobbled lanes, neoclassical mansions, and inviting shops. The yacht sets sail in the early evening, followed by dinner onboard.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Nafplio to Mycenae — 25.1 km (16 miles)

What to Expect:

Today's ride begins from the pier in Nafplio. Expect some traffic as you exit the port, with portions of the city ride following designated bike paths. There will be additional traffic near the archaeological site of Mycenae. The route is generally easy, with some rolling hills. Most of the cycling takes place on quiet country roads through small villages after leaving Nafplio.

Cumulative Distance Range: 25.1 km (16 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: Mykonos Walking Tour & Island Discovery

Today, go ashore at Mykonos to explore one of the most magnificent of the Cyclades Islands. Join a local guide for an inspiring walking tour of the main town of Chora, passing iconic sugar-cube houses adorned with deep-blue doors and bougainvillea-draped balconies. Stroll the town's coastal path, admire sweeping Aegean vistas, visit the island's Archaeological Museum, and stop by the renowned thatch-roof windmills perched scenically on a ridge above the sea. Continue to the charming waterfront fishing houses of "Little Venice," originally built to give fishermen direct access to the sea from their lower floors. Along the way, enjoy tastings at a local bakery and a café, where ouzo and *meze* are on the menu.

Return to your yacht for lunch. This afternoon, enjoy time to further explore picture-perfect Mykonos at your leisure. Dinner is once again served on board.

Today's Ride Choices

What to Expect:

Non-Biking Day

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: Kusadasi / Ephesus

Arrive in the Turkish resort town of Kusadasi early this morning. After breakfast, a shuttle delivers you to the starting point of your ride, a thrilling route among some of Turkey's seldom-visited villages and rural landscapes. This coastal region is a patchwork of farms, pastures, and hills, and it's a true privilege to glimpse its beauty and tranquility from a bicycle.

Your afternoon is once again yours to follow your own whims. Relax on deck or in the hot tub if you wish or explore the colorful pier-side shops of Kusadasi. Later, join our private walking tour of the ancient, incredibly preserved streets of Ephesus, steeped in history and Biblical lore. Savor every moment over a magical dinner this evening under the moonlight, in the embrace of the historic site.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Turkish Countryside — 24 km (15 miles)

What to Expect:

Today, travel by bus from the port to the nearby foothills outside of Kusadasi, where your ride begins in the scenic Turkish countryside. You'll follow mostly quiet country roads through orchards and forests, with occasional traffic as you pass through villages. After your ride, return to the port by bus. Note: Today's ride will be on non-VBT bikes.

Cumulative Distance Range: 24 km (15 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: Patmos / Monastery of St. John / Taverna Lunch & Coastal Ride

After another delicious breakfast on board, disembark in Patmos for a morning ride to one of the Greek Islands' most sacred sites—the Monastery of St. John. This peaceful island is famously where St. John

wrote the Book of Revelation in 95 AD. Your ride to the monastery is nothing short of inspiring, passing gleaming whitewashed villages, shady pine forests, and terraced farms. A few challenging hills reward you with sweeping sea views.

There will be time to explore the monastery, a vast complex of churches and courtyards revered as the centerpiece of the “Jerusalem of the Aegean.” Later, enjoy an invigorating downhill ride to a seaside *taverna*, where you’ll savor a lunch of Greek specialties.

In the afternoon, pedal back to the pier along a spectacular coastal route, then take the tender back to your yacht in time to relax before dinner.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning & Afternoon: Patmos Loop — 22.8 km (14 miles)

What to Expect:

Today’s ride begins and ends at the pier in Patmos. You’ll start with an uphill climb of approximately 5 km, navigating some traffic as you depart the port. At the top, enjoy a rest and a private walking tour of the Monastery of St. John in Chora. Afterward, continue your ride with a downhill stretch into the town of Patmos, then cycle on to a nearby beach for an included lunch. Following lunch, ride back to the pier to conclude the day. Today’s route follows the island’s primary two-lane roads, with traffic expected when entering and exiting the town of Patmos and the monastery’s parking area.

Cumulative Distance Range: 22.8 km (14 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Santorini

Boasting one of the most dramatic settings of any Greek Island, Santorini is an awe-inspiring spectacle of nature and culture. This crescent-shaped island sits on the rim of an ancient volcano whose caldera collapsed into the sea after a massive eruption. The main town of Fira clings to cliffs 1,000 feet above the water, offering breathtaking views.

Leave your bikes behind today as you join a local guide for an insider’s tour. Stroll among the terraced,

whitewashed houses of Oia, adorned with iconic blue accents. Take in panoramic island views before continuing to the ancient Minoan city of Akrotiri, often called the “Pompeii of the Aegean,” which was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1600 BCE. Pause for lunch at Canava Roussos Winery, where you’ll learn about ancient wine-making techniques and sample the island’s famed Assyrtiko wine.

After some time to browse the pedestrian streets of Fira, return to your yacht.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a festive onboard BBQ dinner—a signature event of your sailing journey.

Today's Ride Choices

What to Expect:

Non-Biking Day

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: Monemvasia

After a morning of scenic cruising in the Aegean, you arrive in Monemvasia—one of Europe’s oldest continuously inhabited fortified towns, founded in the sixth century. Once a vital medieval port, its massive rock formation served as a strategic lookout over the sea. Today, it remains an imposing and iconic wonder, connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus.

After lunch, set out on a scenic coastal ride offering some of the most breathtaking views of your tour. Pedal along the shoreline, with the sparkling Aegean on one side and soaring cliffs on the other, and enjoy spectacular vistas of Monemvasia—often called “Greece’s Rock of Gibraltar.”

Your ride concludes at the main city gate of the walled village, where you’ll meet your leaders for a short walking tour through Monemvasia’s charming medieval streets.

If you wish, you’ll have a bit of free time to explore independently before returning to the yacht. This evening, celebrate your Aegean adventure during a private farewell reception and dinner on board.

Today's Ride Choices

Afternoon: Monemvasia to Agios Fokas Out-and-Back — 27.5 km (17 miles)

What to Expect:

Today's ride begins at the pier in Monemvasia's small port. After navigating some traffic as you depart, you'll follow a scenic and flat coastal route to the picturesque seaside cemetery of Agios Fokas. Enjoy views of the rugged coastline and, on your return, sweeping vistas of Monemvasia—nicknamed "Greece's Rock of Gibraltar." The ride concludes at the main city gate of the walled village, where you'll meet your leaders for a short walking tour.

Cumulative Distance Range: 27.5 km (17 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: Disembark Yacht / Temple of Poseidon / Travel to Athens / Your VBT Vacation Ends / Post-Tour Hotel Night: Athens or Istanbul

VBT Air Package Guests:

After breakfast, disembark one final time and conclude your Aegean odyssey with a guided tour of the Temple of Poseidon. Perched dramatically above the Aegean on a high promontory, it was constructed around 700 BCE to venerate the god of the sea. After time to marvel at the 2,700-year-old site during a walking tour, continue to a nearby seaside *taverna* for a lunch of fresh seafood and Greek dishes.

Later, arrive at the Sofitel Athens Airport Hotel, conveniently located within Athens International Airport, for your final night in Greece. You have the remainder of the afternoon and evening free to enjoy the hotel's amenities, which include a heated indoor pool, sauna, massage services, and a modest gym. On-site dining features two restaurants offering gourmet and international cuisine.

VBT Post-Tour Extension Guests:

After breakfast, disembark one final time and conclude your Aegean odyssey with a guided tour of the Temple of Poseidon. Perched dramatically above the Aegean on a high promontory, it was constructed around 700 BCE to venerate the god of the sea. After time to marvel at the 2,700-year-old site during a walking tour, continue to a nearby seaside *taverna* for a lunch of fresh seafood and Greek dishes.

Later, arrive at the Athens Airport for your evening flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for the next four nights—the historic Pera Palace Hotel. Originally built to host

passengers of the Orient Express, this opulent and centrally located property is set in the heart of Beyoğlu. Guests enjoy easy access to top bars, shops, and restaurants. Galata Tower and Istiklal Street are less than a 10-minute walk away, with Taksim Square just beyond. The nearby metro or Tünel funicular offers convenient access to Sultanahmet and the Old City.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DEPARTURE DAY: Departure

After an included breakfast this morning, simply walk across the street to the international departure terminal and check in for your return flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Electra Palace Hotel (Arrival Day)

Located in the heart of the elegant Plaka district, the Electra Palace Hotel offers a refined, exclusive experience. The many pleasures of Athens are right outside your door. From the roof garden and pool, enjoy stunning views of the hilltop Acropolis, a particularly magical sight when illuminated at night. At the award-winning restaurant, savor fine cuisine expertly prepared and served. Your luxurious air-conditioned room offers plush beds, Jacuzzi tubs, a marble-tiled bathroom, and all the amenities that make for a comfortable stay. For a touch of indulgence, treat yourself to a spa treatment.

Wind Spirit/Wind Star (Days 1-7)

Take in the sights of the sea on one of two identical 148-passenger, 4-masted sailing yachts, the *Wind Spirit* or *Wind Star*, by WindStar Cruises. Sail the open waters to locations such as Greece, Caribbean, Mediterranean, and countless other destinations around the world with luxurious amenities, intricate details, on-board entertainment, and fine dining. Highlighting smaller ports with limited access, this smaller scale ship operates in a personalized fashion, with low passenger occupancy and high-class service. Both yachts offer 10,000 square feet of wide-open teak decks, outdoor pools, spa facilities, and five distinct dining venues. Accommodations include 73 cabins with ocean views, refrigerator, mini bar,

flat-screen TV, and WiFi.

Sofitel Athens Airport Hotel (Day 8)

Just a two-minute walk across the street from the Athens International Airport Terminal, the Sofitel Athens Airport Hotel is perfectly located for a short overnight airport stay. The nearby metro and suburban rail stations fast-track you into the beating heart of central Athens, Syntagma Square, in only 35 minutes. This modern, 5-star hotel is a unique blend of refined French *art de vivre* and generous Greek hospitality. It is the promise of both luxury and convenience. Unwind in its inviting indoor swimming pool. Then savor fine Greek or cosmopolitan cuisine in the hotel's sophisticated restaurant or sip a signature cocktail in its stylish lounge bar.