

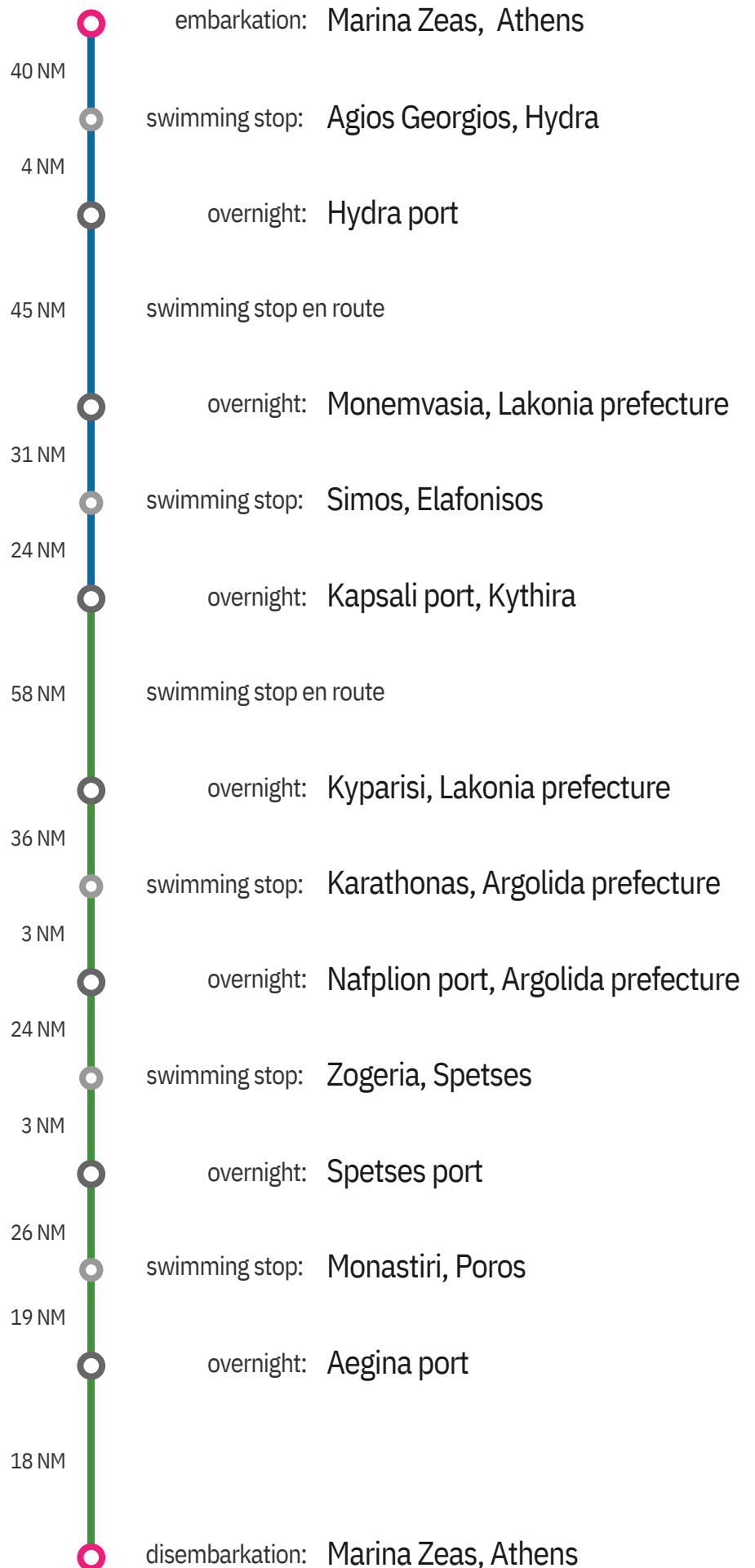
M/Y EXPLORION

Argo-Saronic Gulf 7-day Indicative Itinerary



Itinerary changes might occur due to weather conditions. Any change will be conducted in consultation with the client.

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Itinerary map

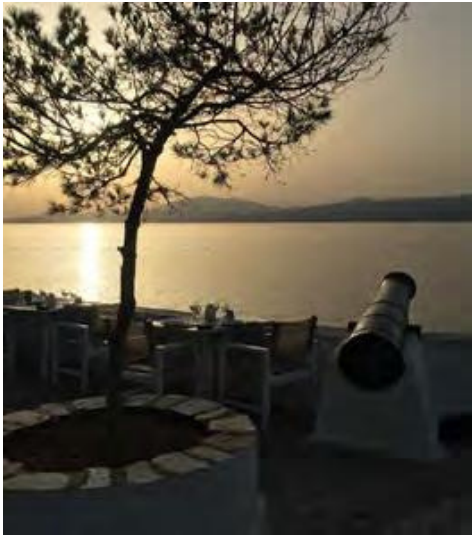


Day 1

departure from:
Marina Zeas, Athens

swimming stop:
Hydra
distance: 40 NM

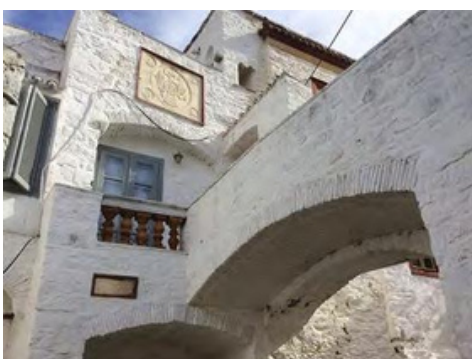
overnight:
Hydra port
distance: 4 NM



Hydra is truly the gem of the Saronic Gulf and stands alone among Greek islands as the one free of wheeled vehicles. No cars. No scooters. Just tiny marble-cobbled lanes, donkeys, exquisitely preserved stone architecture, criss-crossing rural paths and clear, deep waters.



The town, which is the centre of the whole island, is built amphitheatrically around the port. It looks glamorous like an art-paint with grey, white and blue colors above the blue of the sea (an exemplar of architectonics and aesthetics). On the right and left at the entrance of the port, there are the Parapets with the Canons, which used to protect the town. Located at the center of the port is the Cathedral which was built in 1648 and reconstructed in 1774. At the right side of the port, the coastal road passes under the House of Koundouriotis, from there reaches Spilia, then Milous and Kamini to finally arrive at Vlihos. The island of Hydra is famous for the calm life it offers to the visitors in the day, but also for the intense, night life.



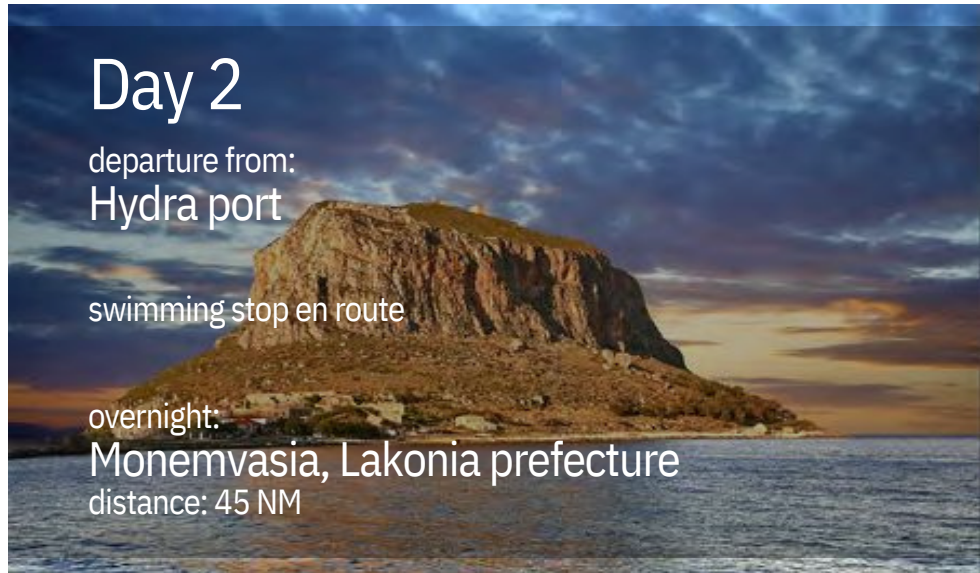
You have to visit: The twin Monasteries of Saint Epraxia and Prophet Elias, where in 1825 some of the heroes of the Greek Revolution, amongst them and Kolokotronis, were imprisoned. The Monastery of Saint Trinity, Saint Matrona, Saint Nikolaos, Virgin Mary of Zoubra, and the Church of dormition, with the Byzantine and Ecclesiastic Museum. Hydra has got a lot of beaches with rocks or sand and pebbles. Common characteristic of these beaches are the crystal clear blue waters. Close to the harbour is a beautiful rocky area with deep blue water, called "Spilia". Near Spilia beach is Hydronetta, Kamini, Mikro Kamini, Vliho, Palamidias, Molos, Kaoumithi, Saint George, Saint Nikolaos, Nisiza, Klimaki, Limnioniza, and Mandraki where you will find water sports like windsurfing, skiing and beach volley.

Day 2

departure from:
Hydra port

swimming stop en route

overnight:
Monemvasia, Lakonia prefecture
distance: 45 NM



Monemvasia is located in the southeastern Peloponnese in the prefecture of Laconia, 400 meters from land having been separated from the mainland by an earthquake in 375 A.D. Its name derives from two Greek words, “mone” and “emvassi”, meaning "single entrance". It was called Malmsey by old English writers, Napoli de Malvasia by the Venetians and Malvoisie by the French. It was founded by the Byzantines in the sixth century and remained in their possession for almost seven hundred years. It was captured by the Franks in 1249 after a three year siege but returned to Byzantine hands ten years later. When the rest of the region was captured by the Turks in 1460, Monemvasia remained unharmed by placing itself under the control of the papacy (1460-1464) and later under

the Venetians (1464-1540). In 1540 the Turks gained control of Monemvasia but it returned to Venetian hands between 1690 and 1715. In the War of Independence, Monemvasia was the first of the major Turkish fortresses to fall after a four month siege in July 1821. Today a causeway links the mainland town of Yefira/New Monemvasia to Monemvasia or Kastro (castle). The Kastro is divided into a lower and an upper town. Many ruins



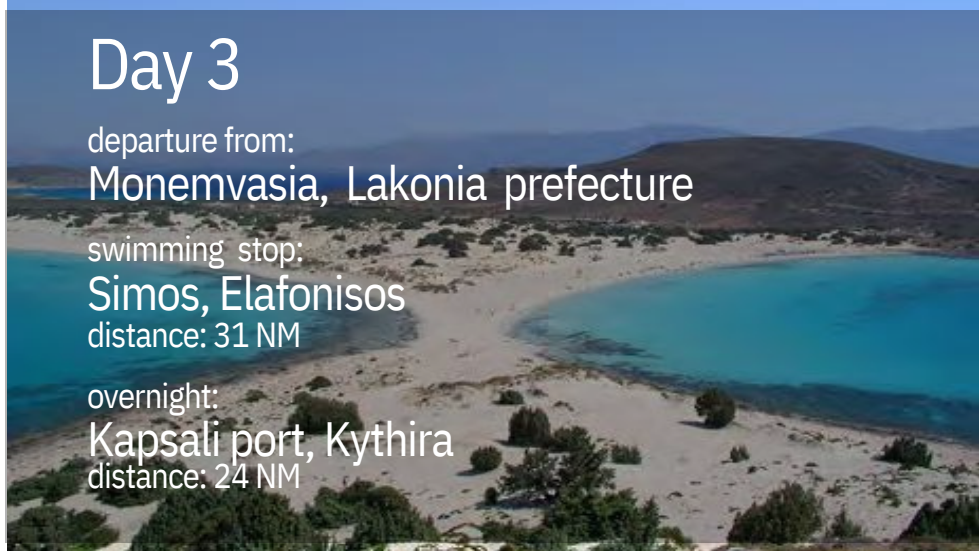
of the original 800 houses and only four out of the original forty churches can be found in the lower town. Among them is the Church of the Elkomenos Christ (Christ Dragged), which is named after a famous icon of Christ given in 1700 to the church by Andreas Likinios, philosopher and chief physician to the ruler of Moldavia, Dimitirs Kandimir. The oldest church is St. Paul's, which was built in 956, and today houses the museum. Further on, towards the eastern edge of the lower town and closer to the sea is the whitewashed Our Lady of Hrisafittisa, which was built in the sixteenth century. High above, castle walls protect the upper town on the summit. There one can see the remains of Byzantine houses and public buildings and a vast cistern that ensured a water supply at times of siege. A fortified zigzag path from the upper town leads to the Fortress of Goulas on the summit overlooking the town. It is entered by a tunnel that still retains its ironbound gates. Among the ruins of houses and cisterns of the acropolis of the upper town stands St. Sophia, a Byzantine church founded by Andronikos II Paleologos on a plan similar to that of Daphni in Athens.

Day 3

departure from:
Monemvasia, Lakonia prefecture

swimming stop:
Simos, Elafonisos
 distance: 31 NM

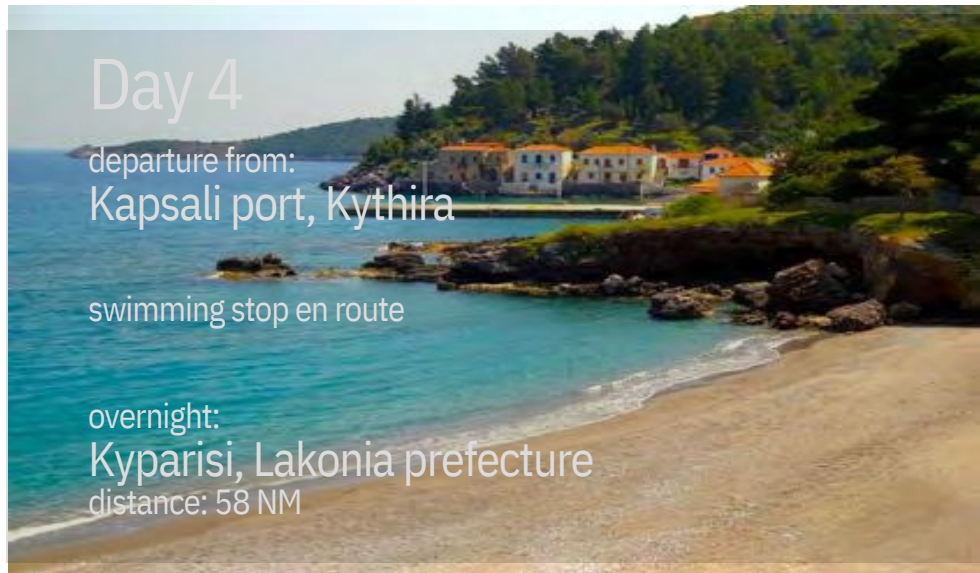
overnight:
Kapsali port, Kythira
 distance: 24 NM



Elafonisos is a small Greek island between the Peloponnese and Kythira. It lies off the coast of Cape Malea and is located in the municipality of the Vatika. The area of the island is 19 square km. In May, June and September the island, becomes personal. Many people visit the island for its light coloured, sandy beaches on the southern tip of the island. There are three main beaches on the island, that of Simos, Saraceniko and Panagias which are filled with golden-green waters. Just across the island 570 m to the mainland there is the Punta beach. On the nearby mainland, east is Neapoli, south is Cape Frangos in the island of Kythira. Today, Elafonisos is the only inhabited island of the Peloponnese. The name of Elafonisos probably has a historical origin, and means the "island of deers".



Kythira has been known since antiquity as the island of Aphrodite. At the start of the 2nd millennium BC, it was a Minoan colony and in 424 BC it came under the sway of Athens. Over the centuries, it knew a succession of conquerors from the Romans to the Byzantines, Venetians and Turks, and it was frequently looted by pirates. The old main town Paleochora, was completely destroyed in 1537 by the notorious Barbarossa. In 1717 it was rebuilt by the Venetians and in 1864 united with the Greek state. Kythira or Chora is the island's capital, built on a hill high above the sea, a model of Venetian defensive architecture. It's Venetian castle (1503) has a spectacular view of the Cretan sea. Kapsali lies "in the shadow" of the Chora's castle, a charming twin harbour lined by beaches Yialos, Sparangarlo and Kapsalaki. In Livadi you can see the old church of Ayios Andreas with its 12th century frescoes. Mylopotamos is one of the most beautiful medieval villages on Kythira with exemplary traditional architecture. Among the sights worth seeing here are the miniature Venetian castle, the monastery of "the Panayia tis Orfanis", the waterfall at Fonissa and the Cave dedicated to Ayia Sophia.



In the heart of the Mirtoan sea, you will find a small place called Kyparisi. A traditional village that combines mountain and sea as it unfolds at the foot of Parnonas. Kyparisi exudes an islander air influenced by the Mediterranean climate and the Aegean Sea. Kyparisi consists of three main districts (Paralia - Mitropoli - Vrisi) and there are about 300 standard residents. The Mirtoan Sea has gifted Kyparisi with three splendid beaches. The first and largest is called Megali Amos (Big Sand) and is easily accessed from anywhere in the village. The beach of Agia Kiriaki is the second in length, and the last beach and the smallest is called Mikri Amos (Small Sand) and is near the main port of the village. All three beaches provide an option of pebbles and sand and have crystal clear waters.



Day 5

departure from:

Kyparisi, Lakonia prefecture

swimming stop:

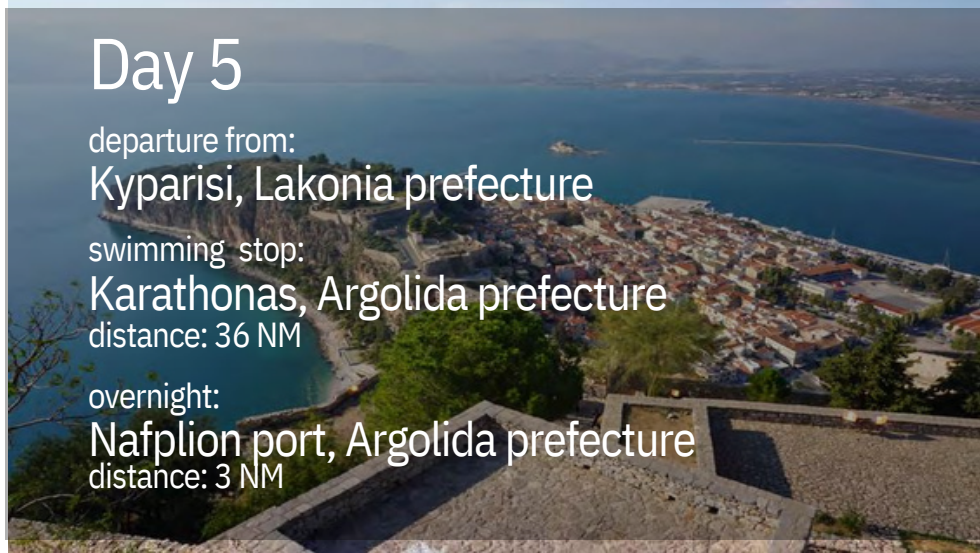
Karathonas, Argolida prefecture

distance: 36 NM

overnight:

Nafplion port, Argolida prefecture

distance: 3 NM



Nafplio or Nauplion is an ideal base for exploring the ancient sites of the north-east Peloponnese. Considered by many, Nafplio is as one of the country's loveliest towns. The historic center is made up of narrow streets with neo-classical and Ottoman style buildings, wooden balconies with cascading flowers, Turkish fountains, Constitution Square with its fascinating mosques and outdoor cafe tables is like a fairy land.



You must visit: Palamidi - Venetian fortress in Nafplio: The Venetian fortress, which dominates the city, is actually three separate fortresses walled together and built by the Venetians in 1714. The engineers La Salle and Giachich constructed the Venetian fortress, on the top of a hill at an altitude of 216m. It changed hands several times and after Greece's liberation, Palamidi was used as a prison. Theodoros Kolokotronis, the hero of the Greek revolution was also held here. Inside the bastion of Saint Andrew lies the homonymous church, built in Venetian times. There are 999 steps leading up to the fortress but you can also take a taxi to the top. The Palamidi is open from 8:30 am to 2:45 pm. From 1824 to 1834, Nafplio was the capital of the new formed state of Greece. Built round the feet of two fortresses, the gigantic Venetian fortreess of Palamidi and Acronauplia, its beauty is mirrored in the serene waters of its bay. Tradition has it that the city's founder was Nauplios who gave his name to it. He was born of Poseidons's illicit union with Amygone, the lovely daughter of the King of Argos. Nauplion's son Palamides was a great seaman and hero of the Trojan War. He gave his name to the fearsome fortreess of Palamidi which towers in its massive bulk above the pretty town, a ceaseless guardian. The City is full of the joy of life: it is the nobility and calm found in Minoan frescoes; it is Syntagma Square, which strikes you as more gracious and delightful every time you see it; it is the little restaurants on the waterfront, the open-air cinemas, the bars and the music that every evening takes you closer to the people; the sea...



Day 6

departure from:
Nafplion port, Argolida prefecture

swimming stop:
Zogeria, Spetses
distance: 24 NM

overnight:
Spetses port
distance: 3 NM

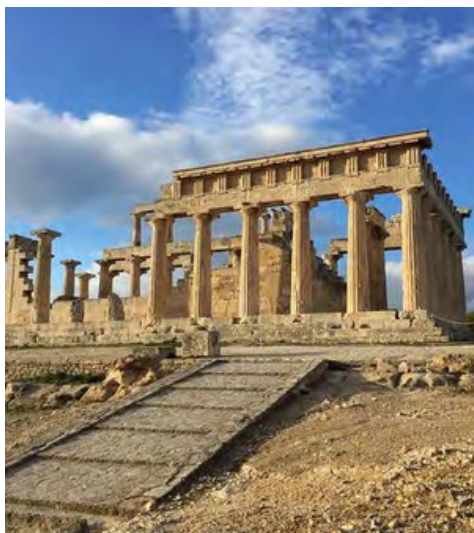


The ancient name of Spetses was Pityoussa (meaning pine-clad). The island's actual name is a derivation from “Isola de Spezzie” (Fragrant island), a name given by the Venetian because of the many herbs growing on the mountains of the island. Pine covered Spetses is part of the Argo-saronic islands (with Hydra, Aegina and Poros) and lays at the entrance of the Argolic Gulf, being the southernmost island of the group.



Like Hydra, Spetses played an important role during the Greek Revolution of 1821, and is the birthplace of the famous feminine hero Bouboulina. The island of Spetses is a beautiful island offering tranquillity and a cosmopolitan life, wonderful beaches and picturesque small bays, various interesting historical and archaeological sites to visit, many hotels and rooms for rent and all the accommodation needed to enjoy holidays in Spetses. The island has the same policy with cars as Hydra: they are not permitted on the island and transportation is, like in Hydra, effectuated by horse-drawn carriage, donkey or taxi-boat. In the island of Spetses though unlike noble Hydra, there is one local bus that serves the main beaches and villages and allows transportation by motorcycles.



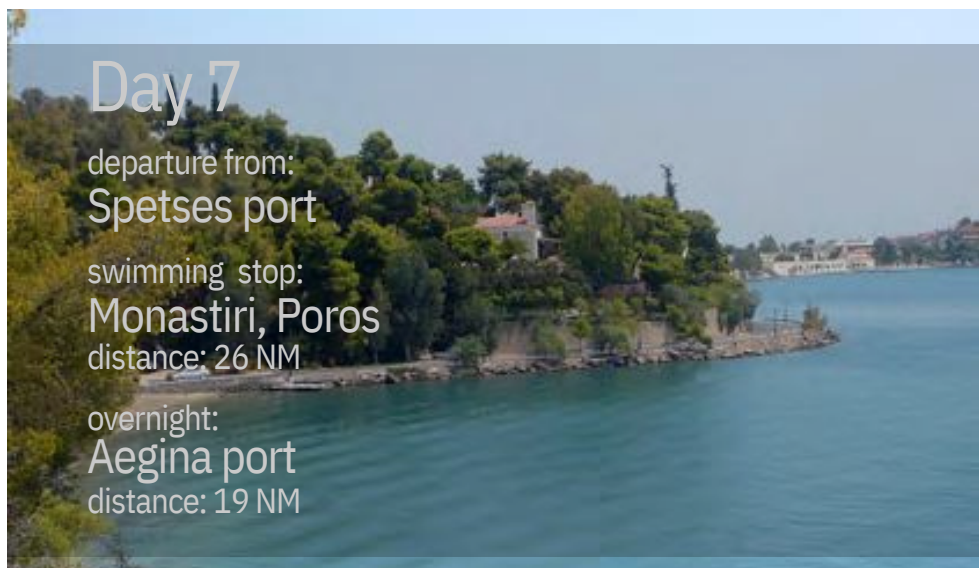


Day 7

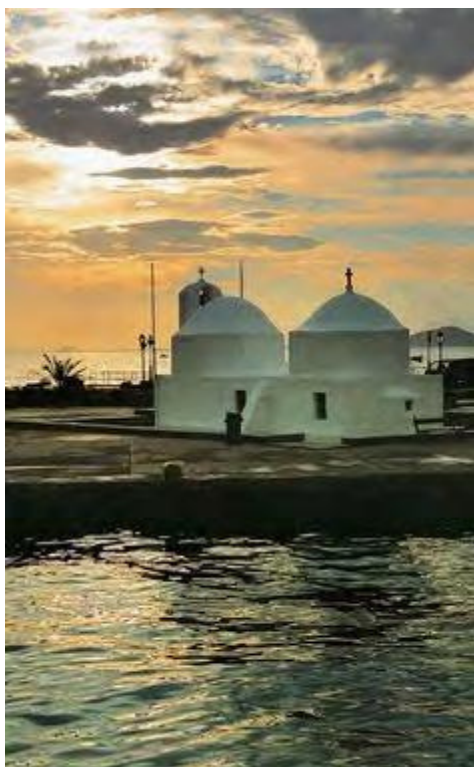
departure from:
Spetses port

swimming stop:
Monastiri, Poros
distance: 26 NM

overnight:
Aegina port
distance: 19 NM



Poros is the island of peace, romance and jauntiness. It is overgrown with pine trees which reach the rugged ores or the sandy beaches. The houses by the sea are big and neoclassical. At the center of town you can find the archaeological museum, the library, reception rooms, and on the beach there's an open air cinema. Beaches include: 'Kanali' is a beautiful sandy beach, 'Askeli', a quite big beautiful beach with a beach volley court, 'Monastiri', on the eastern side, is a quiet beach with clear waters, "Vagionia" is suitable for all types of fishing, 'Russian Dockyard', a beautiful and picturesque bay, is announced as a historical monument due to its great architectural and historical interest. Opposite there is the little island of "Daskalio". Next there is "Gerolimenas" with the rocky islet "Petra". 'Neorio' is one of the most beautiful beaches of Poros.



The city of Aegina is the capital city of the island and it is located on the Westside. It's built amphi-theatrical towards the sea. When entering the harbor, the small white church of Saint Nickolas welcomes you. Your first impression are the modern type classical buildings that are located along the waterfront and have terrestrial shade colors which make them look even more beautiful at sunset. You can take a ride on the horses and the carriages, walk in the narrow paved streets, and see the traditional houses, the churches with the blue domes, and the shops with folk art. Don't miss seeing the fish-market, the traditional restaurants that serve snacks with ouzo (Greek drink). Also, the fishing boats that are not only used for fishing, but for selling groceries as well. Finally, don't forget to buy the famous pistachios of Aegina.



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Day 8

departure from:
Aegina port

disembarkation: d
Marina Zeas, Athens

