



# Saronic Gulf Islands

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Poseidonion Grand Hotel (p337)
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- » Rosy's Little Village (p326)
- » Hotel Miranda (p331)

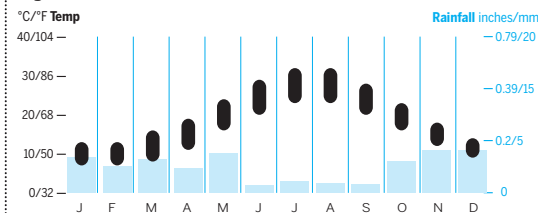
## Why Go?

The Saronic Gulf Islands (Νησιά του Σαρωνικού) dot the waters nearest Athens and offer a fast track to Greek island life. As with all Greek islands, each of the Saronics has a unique feel and culture so you can hop between classical heritage, resort beaches, exquisite architecture and remote escapism.

Approachable Aegina is home to a spectacular Doric temple and ruined Byzantine village, while nearby pine-clad Angistri feels protected and peaceful outside of the booming midsummer months. Further south, Poros with its forested hinterland, curves only a few hundred metres from the Peloponnese. The Saronic showpiece, Hydra, is a gorgeous car-free island with a port of carefully preserved stone houses rising from a chic history-charged harbour. Deepest south of all, pine-scented Spetses also has a vibrant nautical history and pretty town architecture plus myriad aqua coves, only minutes from the Peloponnese.

## When to Go

### Hydra



**May** The islands awaken after winter; come for flower-filled Easter.

**Jun** Celebrate Miaoulia in Hydra with sparkling waters and warm weather.

**Sep** The Saronics' secret season: skies clear, water refreshing and crowds thin.

## Saronic Gulf Islands Highlights

1 Bounce between the gorgeous, hip-happening **Hydra** (p329) port and the island's deserted trails and ubiquitous swimming rocks

2 Delve into Aegina's ancient history at the **Temple of Aphaia** and Byzantine **Paleohora** (p324)

3 Taste test your way through the top restaurants in **Spetses Town** (p338)

4 In the low season, get away from it all in sleepy **Angistri** (p325) while the beaches are tranquil

5 Ride the ring-road of Spetses to sample its **small bays** (p336)

6 Trace deeply rooted history at some of the best **small museums** in Greece on Hydra (p330) and Spetses (p336)

7 Explore the peaceful interior of **Poros** (p326)

