



Saronic Gulf Islands

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sunset (p308)
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- ➔ Aspros Gatos (p302)
- ➔ Tarsanas (p312)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Poseidonion Grand Hotel (p312)
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- ➔ Rosy's Little Village (p300)
- ➔ Orloff Resort (p311)
- ➔ Cotommatae (p305)
- ➔ Hotel Miranda (p305)

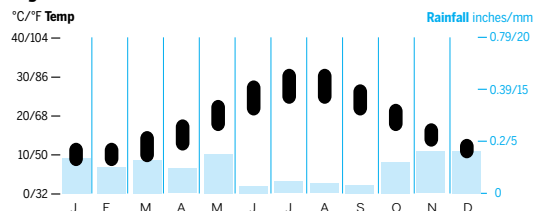
Why Go?

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.

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



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

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

Sep The best-kept secret: clear skies, thinning crowds and Spetses' Ar-mata celebration.



Saronic Gulf Islands Highlights

1 Bouncing between **Hydra's** (p303) gorgeous port, with its excellent museums and chic scene, and the island's deserted trails and ubiquitous swimming rocks.

2 Delving into **Aegina's** (p296) ancient history at the beautiful Temple of Aphaia and Byzantine Paleohora.

3 Taste testing your way through **Spetses'** (p309) top restaurants, tracing the region's history in Spetses Town's museums, or cycling the island's ring road to dip into sparkling bays.

4 Getting away from it all in sleepy **Angistri** (p300) in the low season, when the beaches are most tranquil.

5 Exploring the peaceful interior of **Poros** (p301).