Saronic Gulf Islands

Includes
Aegina.........................137
Aegina Town .................138
Around Aegina.............140
Perdika.......................141
Angistri......................141
Skala .........................142
Poros .........................142
Poros Town..................143
Around Poros ..............144
Hydra.........................145
Hydra Town..................146
Around Hydra ..............150
Spetses......................151
Spetses Town ..............152
Around Spetses ...........155

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.

Best Places to Eat
» Aspros Gatos (p143)
» Akrogialia (p154)
» Leonidas & Panagiota (p149)
» Elia (p139)

Best Places to Stay
» Poseidonion Grand Hotel (p153)
» Hydra Hotel (p147)
» Rosy’s Little Village (p142)
» Hotel Miranda (p147)

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 (p145) 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 (p140).

3. Taste test your way through the top restaurants in Spetses Town (p154).

4. In the low season, get away from it all in sleepy Angistri (p141) while the beaches are tranquil.

5. Ride the ring-road of Spetses to sample its small bays (p152).

6. Trace deeply rooted history at some of the best small museums in Greece on Hydra (p146) and Spetses (p152).

7. Explore the peaceful interior of Poros (p142).