



# Saronic Gulf Islands

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## Best Places to Eat

- Sunset (p142)
- Akrogialia (p146)
- Aspros Gatos (p136)
- Tarsanas (p146)

## Best Places to Stay

- Poseidion Grand Hotel (p146)
- Hydra Hotel (p141)
- Rosy's Little Village (p134)
- Orloff Resort (p145)
- Cotommatae (p139)
- Hotel Miranda (p139)

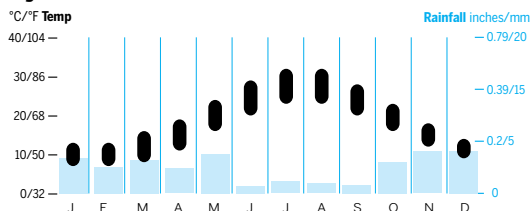
## Why Go?

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 the gorgeous port on **Hydra** (p137), with its excellent museums and chic scene, and the island's deserted trails and ubiquitous swimming rocks.
- 2 Delving into the ancient history of **Aegina** (p130) at the beautiful Temple of Aphaia and Byzantine Paleohora.
- 3 Taste testing your way through top restaurants on **Spetses** (p143), 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** (p134) in the low season, when the beaches are most tranquil.
- 5 Exploring the peaceful interior of **Poros** (p135).