



Hydra's little harbour, a dream stopover. But to get a berth in the season, you must arrive early enough.

HYDRA OR ETERNAL GREECE...

Why only choose one, when the Aegean has an abundance of islands, each one more beautiful than the last? Quite simply because Hydra is unique!



LOGBOOK

10 years... It took Ulysses 10 years to cross the various seas bordering Greece and return home. Of course he wasn't in a multihull, but these years show that visiting this country by boat requires a lot of time, to appreciate all its subtleties, beauties and riches. As you probably don't have the years necessary to do a full tour of the country, and thus start to understand this multitude of cultures, islands and anchorages, each as different as possible, we recommend that you start your visit to Greece with Athens and the surrounding islands, including the captivating Hydra!

Athens is easily accessible from wherever you are in the world, and its international airport is particularly well-organised. After retrieving your luggage, take a taxi, and in half an hour (or much more, depending on the traffic

jams) you will be ready to embark aboard your catamaran, to discover the Saronic Gulf's islands. And about 40 miles south of Piraeus (Athens' port), you will find an incredibly charming little island: Hydra!

On arriving in Hydra's little harbour, it is hard to believe that this island was one of the most powerful in Greece in the 18th and 19th centuries, thanks to its shipowners and numerous boats (the legend claims that the island's navy consisted of 125 ships and over 10,000 sailors). In fact, Hydra's harbour must be able to hold about twenty cruising boats at the most. No need to mention that in the high season, you have to arrive (very) early to find a berth for your cat. If the harbour is full, you will have to anchor in the little creek next to it, and wait until a taxi-boat comes to take you to the island. Once on Hydra, you can lose yourself in the little streets

of the superb village, which has been a haunt for artists since the 1960s. There are only two motor vehicles on this island: the fire engine and the dustcart. As for the rest, everything is carried on the back of a donkey. They are everywhere; certain of them even have a registration plate... The atmosphere on Hydra is unique. A really charming moment, not to be missed!

The island takes its name from the numerous fresh water springs which used to flow here...until an earthquake dried them up several hundred years ago. Since then, as on many Greek islands, the water arrives in tankers. If you are on a pontoon



Our favourite taverna on Hydra: chez Lulu...



next to one of these boats, be very vigilant: when it arrives in the evening, your boats will be at the same level, but the following morning, the taker will be 4 metres higher than you. Impressive.

TYPICAL ITINERARY

Leaving from Athens, you have the choice between the Cyclades and the Saronic Gulf.

In the shelter of the Saronic Gulf...

Aegina

– The pistachio island, with its well sheltered anchorages.

Poros

– Luminous green landscape, punctuated by yew and black cypress trees.

Epidaurus

– Famous for its antique theatre, with perfect acoustics.

Hydra

– Refuge for artists, with no cars anywhere on the island.

Spetses

– An island rich in memories, with calm pine forests.

The Cyclades:

Mykonos

– The fashionable spot, with exotic clubs and a trendy style.

Paros

– Perfumed with thyme, the island is world famous for its white marble, and the cafes on Paroikia beach.

Sikinos

– Anchor in the charming harbour, with two picturesque villages overhanging the cliff.

Santorin

– Spectacular cliffs, breathtaking sunsets.

Seriphos

– A rocky coast, with creeks and beaches, and human-shaped rock formations. ■

NEWS FROM THE CHARTER COMPANIES

NEW BASES

Moorings is continuing its development and has just announced the opening of new bases in 2013. You can now therefore cruise in sail or motor catamarans from Annapolis and Miami (USA), and Corfu in Greece, whilst you will also be able to embark aboard boats with a skipper from St Thomas in the American Virgin Islands. Finally, the Moorings 393 Powercat is now available from the Anacortes base, in Washington State on the west coast of the USA. An ideal boat for going to see the killer whales...
Information: www.moorings.com

THE BAHAMAS WITH DREAM YACHT CHARTER

Created in 2001 in the Seychelles, Dream Yacht Charter is today present in 34 destinations and manages a fleet of 450 boats (including a majority of catamarans). The last two bases opened by the company are at Chesapeake Bay and in the Bahamas, a magic destination if ever there was one. With 29 islands, 661 reefs and sandbanks, and 2400 small islands, the Bahamas archipelago is a sailing paradise. The dream yacht departure base is situated at Marsh harbour, and opens onto the Abacos, an area of nearly 130 square miles... A destination to be discovered aboard a Lipari 41, Leopard 40 or Lagoon 420...

For more information: www.dreamyachtcharter.com

CORSICA THIS SUMMER

Corsica remains an essential destination in summer. Corse Catamaran is offering a wide range of catamarans, including the Lagoon 450 and 500 and the Mahi 36, Lipari 41 and Highland 35 (motor catamaran), to discover the shores of 'L'île de Beauté'. Note that the charter company is also offering charter management programmes and has harbour berths available at Propriano.

For more information: www.corsecata.com

MAYOTTE: THE NEW ELDORADO?

A superb lagoon, almost no charter boats, numerous anchorages just for you, encounters with whales, exceptional marine life to be discovered by diving with mask, fins and snorkel, visits by dolphins, turtles: this is what is on offer in Mayotte, a new catamaran destination. To date (unless we are mistaken), there is just one cruising catamaran for charter locally: a superb, brand-new Lagoon 450, at your disposal with skipper and hostess/cook/beautician...for dream holidays!

For more information: www.catamayotte.com

HELIA 44, ALREADY IN THE WEST INDIES

Only just presented to the public, Fontaine Pajot's new 44-footer – on test in this edition of Multihulls World – is already available for charter. In the West Indies, for example, from 2013, Escales Grenadines should be offering a Helia 44, with crew, to discover the Caribbean in the best possible conditions...

For more information: www.escales-grenadines.com

Practical GREECE

Getting there: Numerous charter flights or regular airlines allow you to arrive directly in Greece. To get to your chosen island, you then just have to embark aboard one of the many ferries which link the islands.

When: Spring, summer or autumn: each season has its fans.

Practical: The official currency is the euro... The language is Greek, but almost everyone speaks at least English.

Not to be missed: Every island has its real treasures. But just like all those who have sailed in Greece, you will inevitably come back, having found 'your taverna', the one you swore you would return to...one day!

CHARTER COMPANIES OFFERING CATAMARANS IN GREECE

Dream Yacht Charter: with its seven bases, the company is offering a nice fleet of catamarans, including many new boats! **www.dreamyachtcharter.com**

The Moorings is present in Greece, with four bases. You will find Moorings catamarans here, both sail and motor... **www.moorings.com**

Kiriacoulis is the other major specialist in Greece, with 8 charter bases.

www.kiriacoulis.com

There is also Archipel Club, which is offering a Pahi 53, specially designed for charter, in the Aegean. An atypical, but very nice boat... **www.archipelclub.com**

