

# HOW TO GET TO OUR BASE ON THE ISLAND OF AEGINA

Our courses run from the pretty island of Aegina (pronounced Egina) close to Athens. Your Booking Confirmation will state the place and time your course starts.

## Arranging Flights

You should book flights to Athens airport. Airlines flying to Athens include Aegean Airlines, Air France, British Airways, Easyjet, Emirates, Lufthansa, KLM, Ryanair & Transavia. You reach Aegina via Piraeus, the main port for Athens. The total transfer time is normally 2½ - 3½ hours depending upon connections.

Please make sure that you allow sufficient time for this transfer when booking your flights.

Ferries stop about 19:00. If you intend to fly the day your course starts, you should arrive no later than 15:00 to allow enough time to get to Piraeus and over to Aegina. Alternatively you can fly into Greece the previous day, spend a night in Athens, and go sight-seeing before joining us.



Your course will finish in time to be at the airport for 19:00. If you prefer to stay on Aegina, you should choose a return flight that departs after 11:00 the following day to allow enough time to get to the airport.

## At Athens airport

You will need a € coin to get a luggage trolley on arrival. You can travel to Piraeus or central Athens by bus, metro, or taxi. Airport buses run 24 hours a day, approximately every 30 minutes. From Arrivals, exit the building and turn right.

The bus for central Athens is the X95. The bus for the port of Piraeus is the X96. The ticket booth is just past the stops. Tickets cost €6, (€ concessions) and are valid on all buses and the metro for 24 hours, which can be useful if you intend to stay in Athens overnight. The bus can be crowded at peak times, but it is cheap and convenient. Journey time to the city centre or to Piraeus port is normally just over an hour, depending on traffic.

The entrance to the metro is opposite the terminal. This is convenient for central Athens but getting to Piraeus involves changing trains and Piraeus metro station is further from the ferries than the airport bus stop.

If you prefer a taxi, ignore the men waiting persuade you to use their vehicle, and wait in the official queue. You will pay €50 - €60 for a taxi into the city centre or to Piraeus. Not all drivers speak English – Useful words are PI-RAY-YA (Piraeus), LIM-AH-NEE (port), and SARONIKOS FERRY. Check the meter is switched on when you start off. There is a legitimate additional charge for pick-ups from the airport and for bags, so the meter may not start at zero. You are unlikely to be ripped off by these taxis, but there is number for the tourist police 180 that you can call, or threaten to call, if you feel you are being asked to pay an excessive price.

**Order your taxi in advance?** For €55 we can arrange an English-speaking driver and a cab with WiFi. He'll be waiting for you and will take you right to the ferry... he'll even help you buy your tickets! Contact us to book.



## Piraeus Ferry Port

Piraeus is a busy port. Ferries leave for various islands from different gates. You want Gate E8, for ferries and hydrofoils to the Saronic islands, including Aegina. It's situated close to the airport bus stop. Ferries display their destination and time of departure on their stern. The ticket booths for the different companies are situated opposite the ferries. Hydrofoils and their ticket offices are further round the port. Look for the Flying Dolphin signs.

## Getting to Gate E8

**AIRPORT BUS:** There is an airport bus stop close to the Saronikos ferry area. Look for the sign for Gate E8 when you alight - it may be behind you. Walk through the gate and the ferries and hydrofoils are ahead and to your left.

**TAXI:** If you take a taxi, tell the driver that you want the SARONIKOS ferries, and he should drop you at the right area. If you book a taxi through us, the driver will check when the next ferry is, help you buy tickets, and ensure you get on the correct boat.



**METRO:** From the metro station, use the bridge to the right of the station entrance to cross the busy road. At the far side, turn left and walk straight ahead. You will reach a bus station. Pass through this and Gate E8 is on the far side. The ferries and hydrofoils are to the right of the gate.

## Getting to the Ferries from Athens City Centre

If you have stayed overnight in Athens, the hotel will be bale to order you a taxi. Alternatively, you can take the metro to Piraeus, which is at the end of one of the lines. Allow an hour from the city centre. Exit the metro station and follow the directions for **METRO** above.

## Ferries & Hydrofoils for Aegina

Aegina has a number of ferries which take just over an hour from Piraeus. You want to go to Aegina Town. Most ferries do not stop anywhere en route to Aegina Town, but a few call in at the port of Souvala. You'll go past a lighthouse on a headland and will see lots of yachts and masts when you arrive at Aegina Town. Some ferries go on to other ports so ensure you are ready to disembark as the ferry may leave quickly.

Alternatively you can catch a hydrofoil (Flying Dolphin) to Aegina. You will see these beyond the ferries. They take about 40-45 minutes to make the crossing and leave on the hour. Hydrofoils are quicker but more expensive and you cannot get a coffee on board, stretch your legs, or sit in the sunshine. They also stop running if there are very high winds and rough seas.

Whichever you choose, you can buy your tickets in a kiosk opposite where the ferry or hydrofoil leaves from.

## Checking Ferry Times

You can get information on ferry times on the Openseas website [www.openseas.gr](http://www.openseas.gr). This site only carries times of ferries and hydrofoils for the next few weeks, so do not be concerned if you look months in advance and few or no ferries are shown. Check back nearer your date of travel. There is normally no need to book ahead unless you are travelling with a vehicle at the weekend in summer or catching the last hydrofoil of the day on a Friday or Saturday night.