

Sailing in the Dodecanese islands

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Hidden in the very South- East corner of Greece and hugged by the Turkish coast the Dodecanese complex of islands wait to be discovered. Their strategic position, in the middle of the most important East-West trade routes, made many seafarer powers fight for dominance. Thus, today there are traces of everyone from Greeks and Romans to crusading medieval knights, and from Byzantine and Ottoman rulers to 20th-century Italian bureaucrats. The result is a diverse group of islands with fascinating archaeological sites, ancient walking trails, medieval castles, and charming whitewashed villages.

On top of that, the Dodecanese complex encompasses varied landscapes of immense beauty, unforgettable coastal scenery and tranquil, turquoise waters providing the ideal setting for our style of guided walking tour: a mix of glorious land and seascapes, little-used walking trails, friendly people, wonderful cuisine, and the luxury and romance of traveling by private yacht. And what a yacht! We have a gorgeous 32-meter (103 feet), all-wood, two-mast gullet with a crew of four to cater your every need. This trip offers the perfect balance between relaxation and activity, as we will have plenty of time to relax on board, enjoy the warm waters of the Aegean and explore the islands of Kós, Nisyros, Chalki, Tilos, and Symi.

All you need to do is lay back on the cushioned rear deck and enjoy the beauty of the Greek archipelago!

Trip Highlights

- Cruise around the unspoiled Dodecanese islands on a sailboat
- Hike in cobblestone paths among terraced hillsides, picturesque villages and Crusade castles
- Immerse yourself in local culture and cook with a Greek family
- Enjoy stunning coastal views and swim in the tranquil waters of Aegean sea

Map



Tour Details

Dates: May to October

Days/Nights: 8 days / 7 nights

Single supplement: Cost based on request. Availability limited.

Condition grading: Easy Active

Itinerary

Day 1

Meet the group in Bodrum and set sail to explore the Greek islands

Arrive in Bodrum, Turkey and meet the group at the gullet in the city's grand harbor. Welcome drinks await us aboard and we are ready to disembark! First stop is Kos' bustling port. This is the second largest island of the Dodecanese after Rhodes with a rich history reflected in its architecture and historic monuments: the harbor is guarded by the imposing castle of the Knights of St. John, in the town 17th century Ottoman mosques stand next to austere Italian public buildings, built during the fascist period while extensive Hellenistic and Roman remains lay amongst public gardens. After a short walking tour in the city's historical center, we will have lunch and set out for a 3.5 -hour sunset passage to the island of Tilos. Tonight, we moor in a quiet cove and dine at a wonderful local taverna in Tilos town.

Overnight in Tilos

Lunch and dinner included

Cruise time:

Bodrum to Kos 2 hr

Kos to Tilos 3 hr 30 min

Day 2

Hike along Tilo's pristine coast to the deserted inland

Enjoy a Mediterranean breakfast that includes fresh fruits, olives and



some of the best yogurt in the world and disembark for a hike to one of the smallest and least inhabited islands in the country. We walk across the coast for stunning views of the Aegean Sea. On first sight, the island seems to be bare and barren but as we follow the old stone trail to the inland, it soon becomes apparent that the dramatic landscape is less hostile than expected. We hike amongst ancient terraces of olive, walnut, and carob trees. The footpath winds uphill to the abandoned medieval settlement of Mikro Chorio. Today out of the 220 houses of the village, only the ruins of impressive stone houses can be seen. Round threshing circles, olive pressing stones and cisterns stand witness to Tilos' intense agricultural past activity. We loop back down to Tilos town to rejoin our yacht. It is time to swim and enjoy Greece's azure waters! In the afternoon we travel to the island of Chalki.

Overnight in Chalki

Breakfast lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 7 km / Hiking Duration: 3 hr

Sailing distance:

Tilos to Chalki 3 hr

Day 3

Climb up to a crusade castle and take a swim in Chalki's crystal waters

Forget Tilo's cubic whitewashed houses, the town of Chalki is brightly colored with 19th-c. Neoclassical houses and ceramic-tiled roofs. Some of these houses are right on water, and residents dive from their front patios right into the port's crystal-clear waters. We walk through the town and then climb up to the imposing ruins of a castle built by the Knights of Saint John, once an important bastion during the Crusades. From this vantage point you can look over to the massive bulk of the island of Rhodes, and you may also catch a glimpse of our yacht as it cruises around to a quiet cove to pick us up after our descent. Have a refreshing swim and then lunch on board before setting "sail" once again to the island of Symi. Tonight we moor in a serene, isolated cove

to sleep under the stars.

Overnight in Symi

Breakfast lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 6 km / Hiking Duration: 3 hr

Sailing distance:

Chalki to Symi 2 hr 30min

Day 4

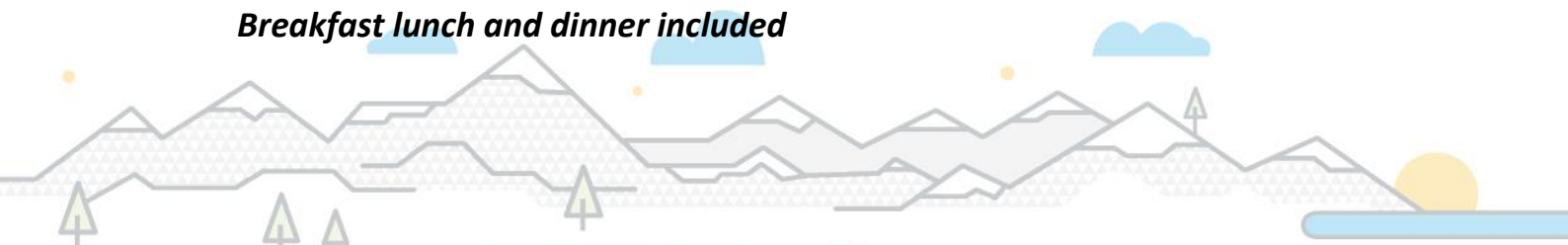
Discover Symi island, the hidden gem of the Greek seas

Wake up with a morning swim and get ready for today's spectacular hike which is the most challenging but perhaps the most rewarding one in our trip. Our dinghy will take us on the beach to start our hike which initially ascends steeply on a narrow cliff. Soon we reach at the top and the sea views are breathtaking. Symi is the first island we visit which has a forest. So, as we traverse across the island towards the colorful town of Symi the landscape alternates between stark limestone mountains, the deep blue sea and the green of the cypress tree forest. Our flagstone path gradually descends taking us to the town. The first sight of Gialos harbor is unforgettable.

Two-story, pastel-colored neoclassical houses, with tall windows and doors are built amphitheatrically on the slopes rising on all sides. And above all, today we are having a fabulous seafood lunch overlooking at the sea. In the afternoon you are free to wander around and do some shopping at the numerous boutiques in town since we'll be moored in the port.

Overnight in Symi

Breakfast lunch and dinner included



Hiking distance: 6 km / **Hiking Duration:** 3 hr

Day 5

Enjoy the turquoise waters of Ai-Giorgis beach and cook your dinner with a Greek family

A short morning cruise takes us to the starting point of today's hike. We walk through a fragrant pine forest to the Archangel Michael Monastery on the southern end of the island. Built in the early 18th century, the monastery overlooks the bay in a truly magical setting surrounded by green hills. Visit the historical chapel which stands as one of the most important pilgrimage destinations of the country before getting picked up by our gullet. It is time for a swim and we circumnavigate the island to reach the spectacular Ai-Giorgis beach. Surrounded by sheer cliffs that make access by land impossible, this natural bay has gorgeous waters, small pebbles and a little church that gave it its name. Around 5 p.m. we return back to Symi town for our cooking lesson. The traditional home of Smaragda is out of town in a neighboring bay so we walk on a quiet road that follows the coast. We learn how to make tzatziki sauce, stuffed tomatoes and spinach pie all baked in a wood oven. Just step back in time and feel the warmth of Greek hospitality in all its generosity.

Overnight in Symi

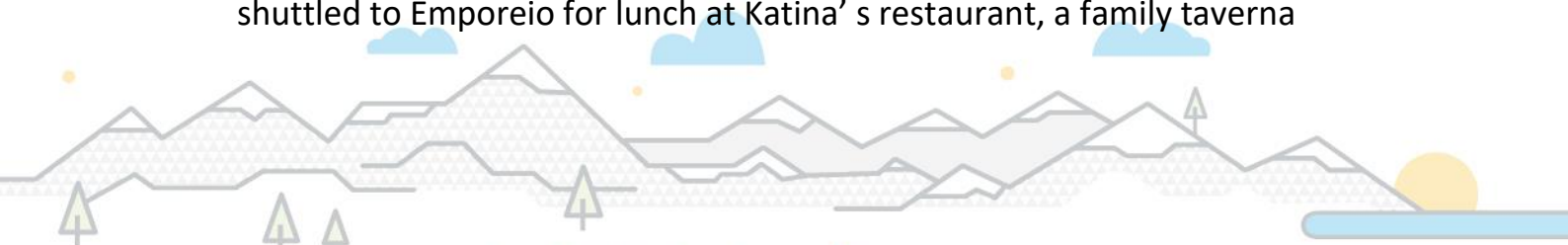
Breakfast lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 2 km / **Hiking Duration:** 1 hr

Day 6

Step inside a crater and hike along Nisyros' s volcano rim for stunning, lunar views

Weigh anchor this morning and cruise to the island of Nisyros which is Greece's youngest volcano. This tiny, round island has only four villages: Mandraki and Pali are on the coast, while Emporeio and Nikia are perched on the edge of the volcano's crater. Upon arrival, we are shuttled to Emporeio for lunch at Katina's restaurant, a family taverna



with stunning view overlooking the volcanic crater and local delicacies such as pythia (chickpea fritters) served with an almond-and-garlic sauce. After lunch, we are transferred to the floor of the 4-km wide caldera to walk inside Stefanos crater. Such visits are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, given that craters are rarely accessible and feels like you are walking on the moon! We depart on foot to climb out of the caldera, up to the whitewashed village of Nikia. This short but beautiful hike will reward us with extraordinary views. Enjoy a cool drink in the picturesque square before we head back to Mandraki port where we will rejoin the boat. We dine tonight in the village but this time we experience a modern version of Mediterranean cuisine.

Overnight in Nisyros

Breakfast lunch and dinner included

Hiking distance: 3 km / Hiking Duration: 2 hr

Sailing distance:

Symi to Nisyros 4 hr

Day 7

Explore the picturesque town of Mandraki and swim in Aegean Sea for a last time

Disembark this morning for a walk through the narrow and colorful streets of Mandraki town, past whitewashed houses with brightly painted balconies and shutters. We gradually climb up to the massive walls of a 7th century BC Doric fortress with dominating views over the town below. Return to the yacht for a short cruise to the uninhabited island of Gyali, which has been mined for its pumice for centuries. We moor here for lunch and a swim before eventually cruising back to the port of Kós to clear customs and then back to Bodrum Turkey. Tonight we will enjoy our farewell dinner on board for one last meal with our shipmates.

Overnight in Bodrum

Breakfast lunch and dinner included

Sailing distance:

Kos to Bodrum 2 hr

Nisyros to Kos 2 hr

Day 8

Depart Turkey

We have to disembark by 8 a.m. this morning, so you can schedule onward travel any time after that. If you need to get out earlier, there is usually a 6:45 a.m. flight back to Istanbul, we can help you get an early taxi.

Breakfast included

What's included:

Price includes:

Seven nights accommodation on a 32-meter, all-wood, two-masted gulet with a crew of four to look after every need

All costs related to the boat charter and operation, such as fuel, port fees, and custom fees

All transportation during the trip

All activities mentioned in the program

Entrance fees to the Nisyros volcano

Tourist guide for the Nisyros volcano

Services of a guide throughout the tour

Transport and handling of one reasonably sized suitcase and one carry-on per person

Included meals: Breakfast, lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary

Not Included:

International air fare

Transfer to and from the airport/port

Medical expenses



- Travel or emergency evacuation insurance
- Gratuities for leader/guide or driver
- Alcoholic beverages and meals other than outlined in itinerary
- Extra boat provisions (beer, wine, soft drinks etc)
- Visas if needed
- Other items of a personal nature
- Anything not mentioned in above program

Itinerary Changes

We are constantly updating our unique itineraries based on new information and experiences available. The walks, accommodations, and visits listed may be adjusted. The itineraries presented are subject to modification and change by Tripin Adventures. We reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in our judgment, conditions warrant, or if we deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

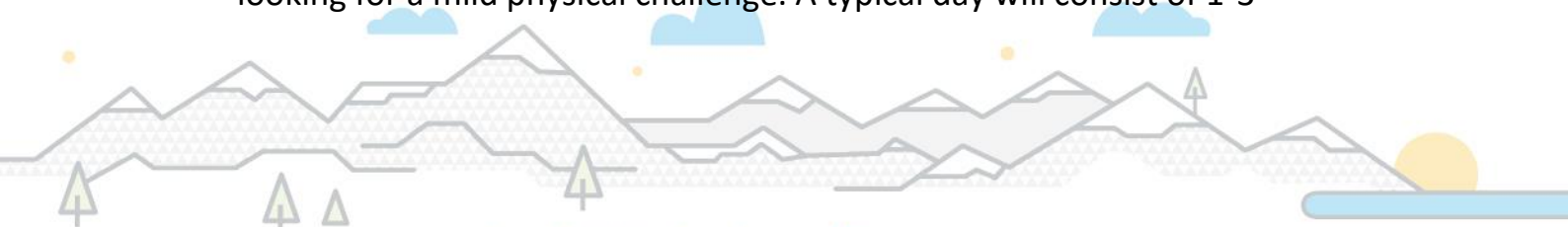
Terrain

This trip Level is Easy Active and is suitable for most people that are in fairly good physical condition. The itinerary includes walking tours in cities and villages and five days with moderate hikes of 1 - 3 hours. Although the paths are quite well-kept the terrain often tends to be very stony and rocky. You will mostly be walking on footpaths and on some tarmac roads.

Condition Grading

Easy Active

Trips designated "Easy Active" are perfect for first-timers, or travelers looking for a mild physical challenge. A typical day will consist of 1-3



hours of activity.

Starting point and getting there

Starting point is: Bodrum.

Getting There & Away: Milas-Bodrum airport Located 39km northeast from Bodrum town, receives flights from all over Europe, mostly with charters and budget airlines such as EasyJet and Sun Express in summer. Turkish Airlines serve İstanbul (both airports) and/or Ankara.

Getting around: We can arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. If you want to come by yourself, you will find on your arrival in Bodrum Airport different types of transportation's. The Havas Airport Buses drives directly to the Bus Station, which is located in the city center of Bodrum. The around 60 min. drive will cost you 10 TL.

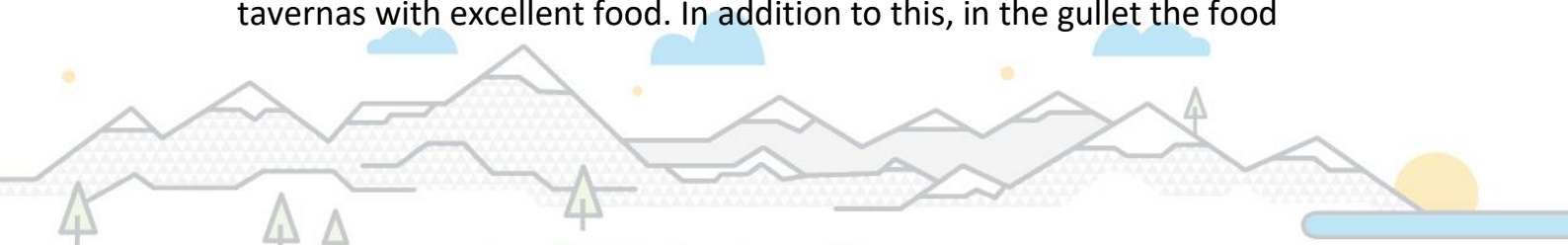
Airport Taxis are also available. The cost to get to the city center to all other common places need to be asked on Domestic or International Arrivals.

Food

Simple, nutritious and flavorsome, the food is one of the pleasures of travel through Greece. Rustic Greek Cuisine reflects the history and bounty of its diverse regions and relies in the fresh, seasonal home-grown produce and generally simple, unfussy cooking that brings out the rich flavors of the Mediterranean.

Greece's relaxed and hospitable dinning culture makes it easy to get into the local spirit. Greeks love to eat out and share impossibly big meals family style. Given the long summers and mild winters, alfresco dining is central to the dining experience. Service could be slow by Western standards, but why being in rush either way.

On this tour we often moor in little Greek villages because they are so delightful, and we will have several lunches and dinners in traditional tavernas with excellent food. In addition to this, in the gullet the food



prepared by a Turkish cook is fantastic, and the comfort of lazing on deck, cold drink in hand and watching the sunset, is hard to beat, as is diving into the warm waters of the Aegean before breakfast. The crew are always professional and yet friendly and obliging. Note that alcohol and soda are not included.

Weather

Spring, summer and fall in Greece are sunny and warm. The daytime temperatures average 25-30 C though temperatures in the 35s are possible in the summer months. Nighttime temperatures cool off slightly to 20° C. Rain showers are rare in the islands, but it's often breezy and rainy on the coast.

Gear Checklist

Greece has a temperate climate. Base your clothing on the “layering system”, if it is hot you can “peel off” layers quickly, if it is cooler and windy you can quickly “dress up”. The lighter you travel, the easier you travel. Use your best judgement and pack as lightly as possible. You will appreciate light luggage towards the end of your trip
Please consider taking along the following items on your trip.

Official Papers

- ✓ Valid passport
- ✓ Airline tickets

Luggage

- ✓ Duffel bag or rolling luggage
- ✓ Daypack to carry camera, water bottle and snacks etc.
- ✓ Luggage locks and tags

Outerwear



- ✓ Midweight polar fleece sweater
- ✓ Rain jacket and rain pants, or poncho

Clothing

- ✓ Hiking shorts
- ✓ Casual clothing made of light-weight fabrics
- ✓ T-shirts
- ✓ Long-sleeve shirt
- ✓ Hiking pants, loose and easy to move in
- ✓ Underwear
- ✓ Swimsuit

Clothing Accessories

- ✓ Sun hat or baseball cap

Footwear

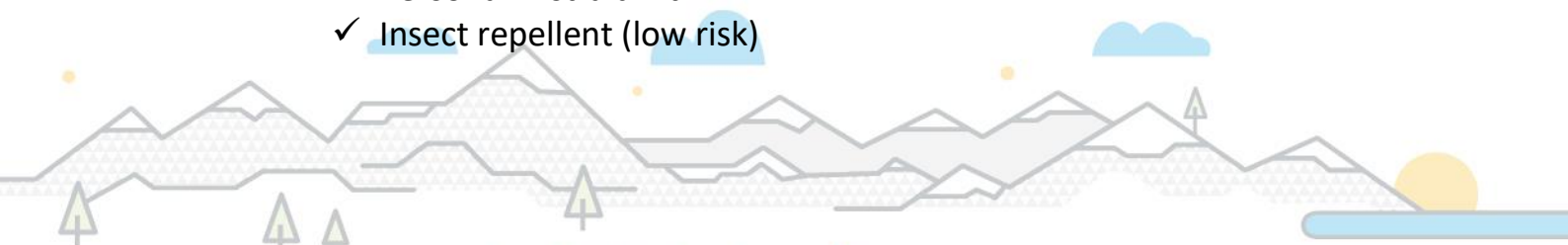
- ✓ Lightweight and supportive hiking boots, broken-in with good ankle support
- ✓ Beach sandals
- ✓ Casual, comfortable shoes for evening

Accessories

- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses and retainer strap
- ✓ Beach towel

Optional Accessories

- ✓ Security pouch or money belt
- ✓ Trekking poles or walking staff
- ✓ Camera, memory and batteries
- ✓ Reading and writing materials
- ✓ Watch with alarm or travel alarm
- ✓ Travel pillow
- ✓ Motion sickness remedies
- ✓ Personal first-aid kit
- ✓ Insect repellent (low risk)



- ✓ Electric adapter plug/converter

This is not a fixed list, but more of a guideline, so feel free to add and remove items as you see fit.

Currency & Banking

Greece has adopted the Euro as its currency. The easiest way to obtain local cash is from an ATM. Greek ATMs accept cards bearing the Cirrus, EC, Euro card, Visa and Plus symbols. If you take cash, US or Canadian Dollars can be easily exchanged at banks. Most major credit cards, Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

It is advisable to have some Euros with you upon arrival to be used for a taxi if necessary.

You may want to check the website www.xe.com for current exchange rates.

Passports

You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the conclusion of your trip. Please make sure that you have blank pages in your passport for your visa (if required), entry and exit stamps (one for each). Please make a copy to take with you in the event yours is lost or stolen and keep it separate from your actual passport.

Visas

Currently a Greek Tourist Visa is not required for citizens of Canada, United States, Britain and Australia but you need a Turkish one. If you hold another passport, please check online

<http://visacentral.com/visas.php>

