Island hopping through the Dodecanese

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Scattered across the southeastern Aegean, the Dodecanese form a remarkable chain of islands stretching along the coast of Turkey. Although they share a common history, each island has developed its own distinctive personality. Ancient ruins, Byzantine churches, medieval castles and Italian architecture tell the story of centuries of changing rulers, while traditional villages and quiet harbors still preserve the relaxed rhythm of island life.

Our journey takes us across some of the most fascinating islands in this corner of Greece, traveling by ferry and using each island as a base for exploration. We'll begin with three nights on Kos, combining cultural discoveries and hikes with a full-day excursion to the volcanic island of Nisyros. From Kos, we'll continue to Tilos for one night, spending an afternoon exploring its rugged landscape and abandoned medieval settlement before continuing on to Rhodes.

We'll finish with three nights on Rhodes, beginning with a walk through its atmospheric medieval Old Town, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. From there, we'll take a ferry to nearby Symi, one of the most picturesque islands of the Dodecanese, known for its colorful neoclassical harbor and crystal-clear waters. We'll round out our time on Rhodes with a day of sea kayaking, exploring the island's beautiful coastline from the water.

Along the way, there will be plenty of opportunities to walk, swim,

explore and, of course, eat well. Rather than simply ticking off islands, this trip is about experiencing the different faces of the Dodecanese, from volcanic landscapes and mountain trails to turquoise waters, lively harbors and ancient sites, and enjoying the journey between them.

Trip Highlights

- Hike ancient trails across Kos and Tilos, discovering mountain villages, deserted medieval settlements and spectacular island views
- Walk inside the volcanic crater of Nisyros, one of the most fascinating and otherworldly landscapes in the Aegean
- Explore the UNESCO-listed medieval Old Town of Rhodes, wandering its atmospheric cobbled streets and imposing fortifications
- Discover the colorful harbor and tranquil waters of Symi, one of the most beautiful islands of the Dodecanese

Map



Tour Details

Dates: May to October
Days/Nights: 8 days / 7 nights
Condition grading: Moderate

Itinerary

Day 1

Meet in Kos and welcome dinner

Kos, the third largest island of the Dodecanese after Rhodes, is a fascinating blend of ancient history and more recent influences. Its harbor is dominated by the imposing Castle of the Knights of St. John, while in the town, Ottoman mosques stand alongside austere Italian buildings from the fascist period, and extensive Hellenistic and Roman remains lie scattered among the public gardens.

In the afternoon, we will meet at our hotel for an introductory talk before setting out on foot to explore the town and discover some of its fascinating history. We'll then head to dinner, where Greek cuisine will take center stage. Of course, we have spent many hours sampling countless delicacies while researching this important aspect of the trip, and tonight we'll put that research to good use over our welcome dinner!

Overnight in Kos, Kos Aktis Art hotel

Dinner included

Day 2

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

The tiny, round island of Nisyros is one of the most fascinating islands of the Dodecanese and a UNESCO Global Geopark, recognized for its exceptional volcanic landscape and geological heritage. With just four villages, Mandraki and Pali on the coast, and Emporeio and Nikia perched on the slopes of the volcano's caldera, it feels worlds away from the larger islands.

In the morning, we'll take a boat from Kos to Nisyros and, upon arrival, transfer to the whitewashed village of Nikia, perched dramatically on the edge of the island's 4-km-wide caldera. From here, we'll hike down

towards the floor of the caldera and into Stefanos Crater, the largest and most impressive of Nisyros' volcanic craters. Walking inside an active volcanic crater is a truly unique experience; with its steaming vents, barren landscape and striking mineral colors, the scenery feels almost otherworldly.
After exploring Stefanos Crater, we'll drive back to Mandraki, the island's charming main village. Here, we'll take some time to explore its narrow streets, traditional whitewashed houses and waterfront before sitting down for lunch at a local taverna. After lunch, we'll return to the port and catch the boat back to Kos, arriving in the afternoon.

Overnight in Kos, Kos Aktis Art hotel
Breakfast and lunch included
Hiking distance: 4km ***/ Hiking Duration:*** 2 hr
Elevation loss: 260 m
***Driving Distance*:**
Kos to Kardamaina 28 km / 40 min
Kardamaina to Kos 28 km / 40 min
Ferry:
Kos to Nisyros 9:00-10:00
Nisyros to Kos 15:30-16:30

Day 3
Hike to the summit of Mount Dikaios
Today we leave the coast behind and head into the mountains to explore the wild side of Kos. Our hike begins near the picturesque mountain village of Zia, the highest village on the island, surrounded by pine forests and offering wonderful views across the Aegean. From here, we follow a mountain trail through fragrant pine and oak woodland, gradually climbing higher towards the summit of Mount Dikaios, the highest point on Kos at 846 meters.
As we gain elevation, the landscape opens up and the views stretch across the island and, on a clear day, towards the neighboring islands

and the coast of Turkey. Near the summit, the trail becomes more rugged as we make our way towards the small chapel of Christos, perched just below the highest point. After taking some time to enjoy the spectacular panorama, we descend back towards Zia, where we'll stop for lunch and enjoy some well-earned local specialties before returning to our hotel in Kos.

Overnight in Kos, Kos Aktis Art hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Hiking distance: 7,1 km ***/ Hiking Duration:*** 4 hr
Elevation gain & loss: 480 m & 480 m
Driving Distance:
Kos to Zia 15 km / 30 min
Zia to Kos 15 km / 30 min

Day 4
Ferry to Tilos and hike along it's pristine coast to the deserted inland
In the morning we take the ferry from Kos to Tilos, one of the smallest and least inhabited islands of the Dodecanese. Upon arrival, we'll have a hike through the island's rugged and peaceful interior. We walk along old stone paths and ancient terraces, surrounded by olive and carob trees, as the trail winds its way towards the abandoned medieval settlement of Mikro Chorio. Once home to around 220 houses, the village is now a haunting collection of impressive stone ruins, with old threshing circles, olive-pressing stones and cisterns still bearing witness to Tilos' intense agricultural past. As the afternoon light falls across the deserted settlement and the surrounding hills, it is easy to imagine the village as it once was. After our hike, we return to the coast and enjoy a well-deserved dinner before spending the night on Tilos.

Overnight in Tilos, Ilidi Rock Beach Hotel
Breakfast and dinner included
Hiking distance: 8 km ***/ Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr

Elevation gain & loss: 350 m & 350 m
Ferry:
Kos to Tilos 7:30-10:30

Day 5
Ferry to Rhodes and explore the medieval town
After breakfast, we will take the ferry from Tilos to the island of Rhodes, the fourth largest island in Greece and the historic capital of the Dodecanese, where Byzantines, Venetians, Turks and Greeks have all left their mark. Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel and have some time to relax and settle in before heading out in the afternoon to explore the magnificent medieval town of Rhodes. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest and best-preserved medieval settlements in Europe, the Old Town is a maze of atmospheric cobbled streets, imposing fortifications and remarkable historic buildings.

Overnight in Rhodes, The Allegory Hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Ferry:
Tilos to Rhodes 10:40-14:40

Day 6
Ferry to Symi, explore the town on foot and cooking lesson
Today we take the ferry from Rhodes to the enchanting island of Symi. The first sight of Gialos harbor is unforgettable, with its two-story, pastel-colored neoclassical houses rising amphitheatrically from the water and covering the surrounding hillsides.
We'll explore the picturesque town on foot, wandering through its narrow streets and discovering the island's distinctive architecture and maritime heritage and from there we will hike to Emporeios to meet a local family for a very special cooking experience. Here, we'll step back in time and experience the warmth of Greek hospitality while learning the secrets of traditional Symian cuisine. Our hosts will share family

recipes as well as stories of island life and their family's long connection with sponge diving and shipping, two industries that played an important role in Symi's history. Together, we'll prepare traditional dishes such as tzatziki, stuffed tomatoes and spinach pie, before sitting down to enjoy the fruits of our work over a delicious homemade lunch.

Overnight in Rhodes, The Allegory Hotel
Breakfast and lunch included
Hiking distance: 8 km ***/ Hiking Duration:*** 3 hr
Ferry:
Rhodes to Symi 8:00-9:40
Symi to Rhodes 17:40-19:00

Day 7
Discover Rhodes from the water
Today we discover the beautiful east coast of Rhodes from a completely different perspective! We'll set out by sea kayak from Kathara Beach in Faliraki, paddling along a spectacular stretch of coastline dotted with secluded beaches, dramatic rock formations and hidden sea caves. Our route takes us past some of the island's most beautiful coastal spots, including Anthony Quinn's Bay, Ladiko and Traounou Beach. Along the way, we'll have plenty of opportunities to explore the caves, swim and snorkel in the crystal-clear Aegean waters, and enjoy the peaceful feeling of being away from the crowds. We'll stop at a secluded beach for a traditional homemade Greek picnic before paddling back along the coast to Faliraki.

Overnight in Rhodes, The Allegory Hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Paddling distance: 9 km ***/ Paddling Duration:*** 4 hr
Driving Distance:
Rhodes town to Faliraki 15 km / 25 min
Faliraki to Rhodes town 15 km / 25 min

Day 8

Say farewell to Greece or continue on your own

Hopefully with a slight sense of nostalgia which comes when a nice experience has to come to an end, here your trip with Tripin Adventures concludes. Continue independently and spend some days in Rhodes, or return to Athens to catch your flight home.

Breakfast included

What's included

Price includes:

All accommodations as listed (or similar) based on double occupancy
Hotel taxes and service charges
All transportation during the trip
All activities mentioned in the program
Entrance fees to the Grand Master's Palace of Rhodes
Tourist guide for the city tour of Rhodes town
Services of a guide throughout the tour
Ferry tickets
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:

Domestic and/or international air fare
Medical expenses
Travel or emergency evacuation insurance
Gratuities for leader/guide or driver
Alcoholic beverages and meals other than those outlined in itinerary
Visas if needed
Transfer to and from the airport/port
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 Moderate and is suitable for most people that are in fairly good physical condition. The itinerary includes walking tours in cities and villages, and four days with hikes of 2-4 hours and a day of Sea Kayaking with about four hours of paddling.
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

Moderate
Trips designated "Moderate" are more active and require a bit more endurance. Hikes and treks includes occasional steep ascents. Trip members should be experienced hikers in good physical condition, capable of walking 3-5 hours.

Starting point and getting there

Starting point is: Kos

Getting There & Away: Kos airport, located 24km southwest of Kos town, receives regular flights from Athens airport and charter flights from all over Europe.
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 Kos Airport different types of transportation's. Transit bus service is provided between the Airport and the city of Kos, Mastichari, Kardamena and Kefalos. There is a public bus stop 50m from the terminal building. Tickets can be purchased by the bus driver. Taxi from the airport to Kos town is 40€. They are available 24 hours a day, but in the months from late June to mid-September it is advisable to book the pre-booked taxi service.

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

Accesories

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

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