

The Dodecanese Islands

The islands of the Dodecanese are the furthest grouping from the Greek mainland, and hug the Turkish coastline so closely that in some places one could seemingly swim between the two continents. They enjoy an enviable sunshine record, and each island has its own character, from Patmos in the north – which has a more Cycladic style – to remote Kastellorizo in the south.



Rhodes

Rhodes is the largest and most popular of the Dodecanese islands, enjoying great weather, nightlife and beaches. Rhodes Town is one of the best preserved medieval cities in the world.



Kos

Despite catering to tourists with beach resorts, Kos, the third largest Dodecanese island, retains its charm. Explore secluded bays and historical sites like the Agora and Asklepieion in Kos Town.



Lipsi

Lipsi has a sleepy atmosphere with few tourists and nice beaches, ideal to get away from it all. It offers pleasant walks amongst rolling hills dotted with blue-domed chapels.

Overlying the long history of the Dodecanesse are all the elements that make Greece such a wonderfully relaxed, friendly and picturesque holiday destination, from the small hillside whitewashed villages to harbourside tavernas, and beaches as good as you will find anywhere.



Tilos

Tiny Tilos, leads the way in environmental protection and eco-tourism. The island's flora and fauna is wonderfully diverse and is a paradise for avid bird-watchers and keen walkers.



Symi

Symi was a major commercial hub for centuries, reflected in its impressive port. The horseshoe-shaped bay is lined with tavernas, shops, and grand neoclassical houses.



Halki

Halki is a quiet little Greek island near Rhodes, with clear waters and pretty beaches. The main village features colourful houses, Byzantine-era churches, and a 19th century clocktower.



Nissyros

Atmospheric Nissyros is distinguished by the pair of large volcanic craters at its centre which are still active. It also has a variety of walking trails with fabulous views to neighbouring islands.



Kalymnos

Kalymnos is a friendly island, just a short hop from Kos, with a variety of things to see and do. It ranges from the bustling Pothia port to the sleepy Emborios village within its small 21km length.



Telendos

Telendos, just a 10 minute boat ride from Kalymnos, is a sweet little island with a charming, remote atmosphere. It has several sand-shingle beaches and a pretty harbour with tavernas, cafés, and a few shops.



Astypalea

With its whitewashed Chora crowned by a Kastro, fashionable, remote Astypalea feels more Cycladic than other Dodecanese islands. Visitors and locals love pretty Livadia beach.



Leros

Leros has a heavily indented coastline, resulting in sheltered coves and bays. Inland, there are a number of traditional villages, as well as Crusader castles and Byzantine chapels to discover.



Patmos

Patmos is famous as the site where St John wrote the Book of Revelation. Below the monastery, the white houses of Chora cluster, forming one of Greece's most magnificent sites.



Karpathos

Karpathos is renowned for its unspoiled beaches and traditional villages like Olymbos, where locals still wear colourful embroidered dresses and speak an ancient dialect.



Kassos

Kassos is little visited and evokes nostalgia for how smaller Greek islands used to be, with its welcoming traditional atmosphere. The capital, Fry, exemplifies quintessential Greece.



Kastellorizo

Kastellorizo lies very close to Turkey. It has a natural horseshoe-shaped harbour and enjoyed a wealthy sea-faring past, reflected in its handsome neoclassical harbour mansions.

Rhodes & Tilos

Rhodes charms with its UNESCO acclaimed Old Town, steeped in history. Here the Crusading Knights of St. John had their headquarters for over 200 years. Its neighbour, tiny Tilos, offers a peaceful retreat with mountains and valleys filled with wildflowers, as well as 19 beautiful beaches to explore.

Paris Garden Hotel Rhodes Town, Rhodes

An oasis in the heart of Rhodes old town, this simple family run hotel has a large, beautiful walled garden - a rarity here - housing a restaurant and a collection of Bonsai trees! The Paris Garden Hotel offers the warmest of welcomes, rooms with all necessary mod cons, and great value for the old town. The hotel has 14 standard rooms on the ground or first floor, plus a pair of studios (which also possess basic kitchen facilities) and two suites. The rooms are warmly decorated and

have A/C, shower room, WiFi and overlook the garden from their front terrace or balcony.

The restaurant serves traditional Greek cooking. Being a family restaurant it is low key.

Although you are away from the bustle here, all the attractions of Rhodes medieval city are within a 5-10 minute walk.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1078 per person***



Irini Hotel Livadia, Tilos

This small family-run hotel stands in a quiet residential area just 2-3 minutes walk from both the beach and the centre of Livadia. The hotel has 23 rooms set in semi-tropical gardens of rose, hibiscus, palm and banana trees. Within the gardens is the large pool (12m x 8.5m) - still a rarity on Tilos.

Rooms are with twin or double beds, air-conditioning (payable locally), ceiling fan, WiFi, shower room and private balcony or terrace - views are either towards the pool (sea view on

request) or mountains and surrounding gardens.

Within a 5 minute walk you will find a good choice of beach and village tavernas.

A convenient but quiet location with large swimming pool and lush gardens.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1035 per person***

Ilidi Rock Livadia, Tilos

The Ilidi Rock is highly praised by our guests. It is in a splendid position above the bay overlooking the village and a 3 minute walk above the sea to the harbour. A pair of pretty shingle coves afford fine swimming below the hotel.

The studios have twin/double beds, kitchen area, A/C (payable locally), shower, and balcony with sea views - WiFi is available on the balcony. The apartments have a lounge with 2 sofa beds for children and a bigger

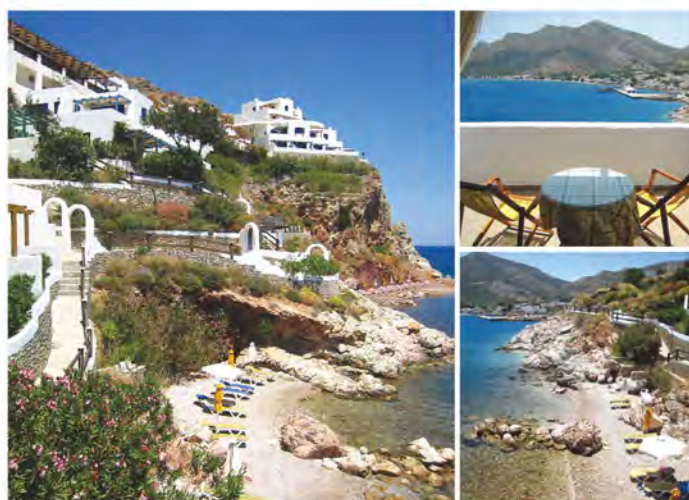
terrace. There are Junior Suites and a Honeymoon Suite.

There is a fitness room/sauna, a lounge-bar and outdoor terrace with views.

From June onwards there is a smart beach/taverna bar.

In our opinion, the Ilidi Rock has the best views in town.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£1010 per person***



Tilos

Tilos boasts 67 kms of signed walking trails, pristine beaches, Byzantine country chapels, Crusader castles, abandoned villages, a Byzantine monastery, and one of the most important archaeological finds in recent history – a cave with the bones of dwarf elephants, the last of their kind to survive in Europe.

Marina Studios Livadia, Tilos

The elevated position of these 12 studios ensures panoramic views over Livadia village and bay from their front balconies. Some rooms have a side sea view.

The studios are spacious, nicely but simply furnished. All are air-conditioned (payable locally) and mostly twin-bedded (double on request) with a basic alcove kitchenette and shower room. French doors open onto the good-sized balcony from which to sit and

admire the views. Most studios have free WiFi access.

It is not so far from the centre of the village as it may look. A short cut, via a small path and some steps, brings you to the harbour in five minutes, and the beach in just a few more.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£870 per person***



Eleni Beach Hotel Livadia, Tilos

This popular, friendly family-run beachfront hotel offers good service and value. It has a traditional flavour in its pretty blue and white décor and nautical theme.

The 36 twin/double rooms are in four, low-rise buildings. All are simply and attractively furnished with A/C, ceiling fan, shower and balcony with good sea or side sea views.

The hotel also has some studio rooms on B&B with light cooking facilities, a couple of which can interconnect for families.

Above the beach is the hotel's snack/breakfast bar. The beach to the front is pristine with free sunbeds/umbrellas. A ten minute walk along the paved beachfront footpath, past a choice of tavernas and cafes, brings you to Livadia's fishing harbour and the centre of the village.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£956 per person***

Livadia Beach Livadia, Tilos

The popular Livadia Beach Apartments offers good quality self catering accommodation on Livadia beach (harbour 15 min walk). The 16 units are in three low-rise buildings, with garden surrounds.

All units have A/C (local charge), WiFi and bathroom (bath and shower).

Standard studios to the rear have a double bed with an open plan kitchenette, shower, and balcony or terrace with mountain or side sea views.

The Grand studios are either above the beach or to the rear and are twin-bedded and larger with a small sitting area. The Suites have a double bedroom and lounge with 1 or 2 full-size sofa-beds. All are ground floor with a sea view terrace or those to the rear with a lovely garden area.

A daytime snack bar operates from June.

The Livadia Beach has many repeat guests and early booking is essential.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£1023 per person***



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Symi

Symi boasts one of the most beautiful island harbour towns in Greece. It is divided into Chorio and Yialos - each with distinct shops and tavernas - connected by a wide street and 400 steps. Visitors flock to Symi to relax on the island's beautiful pebble beaches, accessed mainly by water taxi, and soak in the peaceful laid back atmosphere.

Kaminos Boutique Hotel Yialos, Symi

The Kaminos is a stunning boutique hotel in a quiet but conveniently central location a short walk from the harbour.

It has 10 rooms and suites, with stylish design/furnishings - the best we have seen in Symi. Rooms are spacious with A/C, WiFi, double bed, living room with sofa-bed(s), kitchen facilities, shower room and garden patio or balcony. Decor is a modern-traditional twist with many original features retained.

Breakfast is at sister hotel Iapetos Village opposite and guests have use of the pool.

It is a short walk of under 5 min to Yialos harbour and the centre. There are water taxis to a variety of beaches and it is 750m to the Nireus Beach lido.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1097 per person***



Iapetos Village Hotel Yialos, Symi

The Iapetos Village offers modern standards in an enviable location. It is quietly situated yet a 2 minute walk (no steps) brings you to the central part of Symi's harbour.

The hotel's 19 rooms are set around a Mediterranean garden. There is a 9m x 5m pool (rare on Symi).

All rooms are beautifully decorated and have A/C, WiFi, shower room and balcony/garden terrace.

Standard double/twin rooms measure 30 sq m.

Studio Suites (35 sq m) are double bedded (plus two sofa beds) and have the addition of a kitchen area.

The maisonettes (40 sq m) are split level with a living/kitchen area with two sofa-beds (suitable for a child) on the ground floor and a terrace with pool/garden views.

There is a low-key snack bar.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1100 per person***

Nireus Hotel Yialos, Symi

In neoclassical style this hotel is ever popular and enjoys a premier position on the waterfront, with commanding views across the entrance to Symi harbour.

There are 36 twin/double rooms on 2 upper floors. Rooms are spacious and tastefully furnished. All have A/C, WiFi and shower room. Those to the front have views over the bay from the balcony. The hotel also has rear rooms with views over the town to the hillside.

On the ground floor is a large sunny

outside terrace and a popular restaurant and cafe-bar with tables above the sea. The jetty acts as a lido, with sun beds (charged locally) and a ladder into the sea. It is a 10-15 minute walk to Nos, the nearest beach.

The Nireus has regular guests so book early, especially for the sea view rooms!

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£927 per person***



Halki, Nissyros & Kos

On Halki, you are forced to relax - eat, drink, swim and enjoy typical village life. On Nissyros, witness moonlike volcanic craters and bubbling mud pools. Kos, however, reveals ancient history and stunning beaches alongside modern luxuries. Whatever you seek, these islands cater perfectly to different desires.

Aretanassa Hotel Emborio, Halki

Situated above the sea at the entrance to sweeping Emborio bay, the Aretanassa Hotel has 19 stylish rooms on 3 floors (lift), all with panoramic sea, village and mountain views.

Rooms have twin/king sized beds, A/C, WiFi, bath or shower and sea view balcony or terrace. There are some triple/quad family rooms on the 1st floor.

A large sea-facing terrace to the front of the hotel provides the perfect setting for the restaurant or

just to relax with a drink or snack from the cafe/bar.

At the water's edge you'll find a decked platform, and sun loungers and parasols are provided as well as a ladder directly into the crystal clear water - the swimming from here is superb. The hotel is 600m from the harbour (8 mins walk) via the narrow lanes behind (some steps).

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1058 per person***



White Wave Apartment Mandraki, Nissyros

The seafront location of this studio-style apartment, combined with easy access to Mandraki's tavernas and amenities, is wonderful. Especially for those who like falling asleep to the sound of the waves, and awakening to glorious sea views from your bed.

The apartment (50 sq m) has a main room with a double bed and a child sofa bed, a separate kitchen and shower room. There is a terrace with direct and uninterrupted sea views over to Kos. The apartment is

attractively furnished. Amenities include A/C and WiFi.

A 5-minute walk brings you to Mandraki beach which is mostly sandy. There is a handy cafe next door and a choice of tavernas and shops within a 5 minute walk.

We also have access to a converted village house nearby called Nissyros Views which has 2 bedrooms.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£1199 per person***

Kosta Palace Hotel Kos Town, Kos

The 4-star Kosta Palace is ideally suited to exploring this historic island, whether for a few days before heading to the smaller islands or for an overnight stay.

It is set on the harbour front with views of the harbour and Venetian fort afforded from some rooms and the rooftop (seasonal) pool. You can stroll into the old town, or just sit on the terrace or at a harbourfront cafe and relax.

This modern hotel, freshly decorated in contemporary colours

offers a variety of room types from standard, superior, harbour view and one bedroom apartments. All have A/C, WiFi and bathroom (bath and shower).

Breakfast features fresh seasonal produce. There is a seasonal roof top bar/snack bar, lobby bar, seasonal spa Gazebo and harbour view terrace.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£962 per person***



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Kalymnos, Telendos & Astypalea

From lively Kalymnos to sleepy Telendos and remote Astypalea, these isles offer variety in close proximity. Kalymnos balances tourist hubs with sleepy villages among its rugged mountains. Tiny Telendos opposite has beaches, tavernas and shops by the waterfront. And pretty, whitewashed Astypalea feels Cycladic and more cosmopolitan.

Carian Hotel Massouri, Kalymnos

The Carian offers high modern hotel standards on Kalymnos. It also has a wonderful location, directly above the sea towards the quieter northern end of Massouri. Below the hotel is a pair of small pebble coves from which to swim.

The hotel has 34 rooms, ensuring a personal and efficient service to guests. Rooms are double bedded with A/C, WiFi, shower room and ours have a front balcony with views over the sea to Telendos island. Furnishings are cool and

contemporary.

The pool area includes a snack bar. Massouri's main sandy beach is a 5-6 minute walk away with a full range of tavernas and cafes.

The Carian also has Calliope Wellness Spa next door, which offers a full range of treatments. To the rear of the hotel are the high rock cliffs so typical of Kalymnos.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1309 per person***



Porto Potha Hotel Telendos Village, Telendos

The Porto Potha is the only hotel on Telendos, built on the hillside above a narrow sand-shingle beach. It is a five minute walk to Telendos' quite charming waterfront.

This family-run hotel has 20 rooms with views to Kalymnos, a mix of BB hotel rooms, suites and SC studios in 2 buildings. Most are twin bedded. All have A/C, shower and balcony.

The Suites have a double bedroom, lounge with two sofa beds, shower room and three balconies. The

studios have basic cooking facilities (2 rings).

The main building has a lounge and breakfast room with WiFi.

There is a seawater pool and below that the beach. Other beaches are a 15 minute walk.

A warm and friendly property. We think you will have no option but to relax here.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£993 per person***

Astypalea Palace Hotel Chora, Astypalea

This smart boutique hotel boasts magnificent views over the old town of Hora and the sea. It is a 3 minute walk from the windmills/square at the entrance to the town and a 7-8 minute walk to the harbour (steep in parts).

There are nine spacious deluxe studios and suites. All are decorated in a minimalist Cycladic style, with a double bed, A/C, WiFi, shower room and private sun terrace or balcony with wonderful views. Suites have an open-plan living area (some are split level) and most have an indoor

or outdoor (heated) jacuzzi. There is one Junior Suite with private pool.

There is a reception, breakfast room and sun terrace.

Though the bus stop to Livadia Beach is only 300m away, car hire is recommended.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1232 per person***



Leros, Lipsi & Patmos

Highlights: Leros reveals ancient ruins and WWII remnants, as well as serene beaches and villages. Unspoiled Lipsi woos visitors with rolling hills dotted with churches, sleepy hamlets and gorgeous swimming coves. While Patmos' hilly interior and indented coastline allows plenty of scope for walking.

Leros Nefeli Hotel Krithoni Village, Leros

Designed in harmony with the local architecture, the Leros Nefeli Hotel is in a quiet location in Krithoni Village, 60 metres from the sand/shingle beach.

The 24 units are in 2 buildings. Studios have twin beds, A/C, kitchen area, a child sofa bed, shower room and a balcony or garden terrace (some units on the top floor offer sea views). The 1-bedroom apartments have the addition of a designated living area and extra sofa bed. The 2-bedroom apartments have a separate lounge

and full kitchen. The Executive Suite on the 1st floor has a bedroom, living room with a small kitchen and balcony with sea views.

Breakfast is in the gardens of palm trees and bougainvillea. There is a bar service. Tavernas are a 10-15 minute walk and Ayia Marina port 15 minutes.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast (Jun-Sep)

Guide price from **£1108 per person***



Aphroditi Hotel Lipsi Village, Lipsi

The Aphroditi stands at the edge of Lipsi village behind sandy Lientou beach (20m) and 300m to the harbour.

Its 28 studios and apartments are in three, 2-storey buildings - 1 to the front and 2 behind up a number of steps. All are spacious and nicely furnished in traditional style. All have twin beds (usually pushed together), kitchenette, A/C, WiFi, shower room and balcony or terrace with sea views (some obscured by shrubs). Studios are open plan,

apartments comprise a bedroom and living room.

Breakfast is available at a local charge at the hotel's cafe.

You could not be better placed to enjoy the crystalline waters which surround this tranquil island. It is a 5 minute walk to the main part of the village and the harbour, with its tavernas, cafes and small shops.

Board Basis: Room Only

Guide price from **£974 per person***

Skala Hotel Skala, Patmos

The well-established Skala Hotel (since 1983) enjoys an excellent location close to the centre of Skala and only 50m from the harbourfront. Entrance is via a tunnel of jasmine and bougainvillea to a tranquil garden courtyard - a haven from the bustling port beyond.

The hotel has 78 rooms housed in two buildings. All rooms possess air-conditioning, WiFi, shower room (some bath) and balcony, views are mainly to the mountain, monastery or garden. Furnishings and décor are

light and tasteful. Rooms in the main building are served by a lift.

The hotel has a bar and offers a good continental buffet breakfast. The pool is to one side of the garden and measures 15m x 8m.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£1051 per person***



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Karpathos, Kassos & Kastellorizo

Karpathos lies between Rhodes and Crete and is the third largest of the Dodecanese. Long, narrow, remote and starkly beautiful. Lying just a few miles off Karpathos' south western tip, rocky Kassos is one of the remoter islands and little visited. Kastellorizo has beautiful seas, wonderful for snorkelling, and only 3 miles from Turkey.

Astron Hotel and Bungalows Pighadia, Karpathos

This attractive, bungalow-style 3 star hotel is set in some 15,000 sqm of gardens - full of flowers, lawns and trees - only a 5 minute walk from Pighadia's long sandy beach.

The 68 rooms here are in 5 two-storey buildings. Decorated in a modern style, all have A/C (payable locally), WiFi (sometimes erratic inside the rooms), shower room and terrace or balcony with garden, hillside or pool views.

There is a very large pool with sunbeds and umbrellas. Natural shade is provided by trees. There is a pool snack bar, a restaurant and a bar.

You are a 20 minute leisurely walk from town (1 km, no hills) but you will encounter restaurants, cafes and small shops closer to hand along the road or by the beach

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1016 per person***



Angelica's Traditional Apartments Fry, Kassos

Maria and her mother Lia built these 4 apartments next door to their family home, which dates from 1880. One of its many original features is the pebbled courtyard through which you enter the apartments.

Although the 4 apartments are newer they have the feel of a traditional village property. They are homely and comfortable. All have a kitchen area, WiFi, A/C, shower and terrace or balcony, some with sea views.

It is a 3 minute walk (not too steep) to the centre of Fry and the fishing harbour of Bouka with its pair of good tavernas. Emborios sandy beach is 1100m distant.

Maria is Kassos' greatest advocate and you will come away immersed in the traditions and folklore of her island. There are a dozen or so festivals between June and September.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£1236 per person***

Kastellorizo Hotel Kastellorizo Village, Kastellorizo

Located directly above the sea on the quiet side of Kastellorizo's harbour, this small boutique hotel offers 14 rooms (including Junior Suites, Suites and Maisonettes) housed in five separate buildings, all traditionally furnished with care and taste.

All rooms have double beds and have A/C, WiFi, kitchenette, shower room and balcony or sitting area. The majority have front or side sea views over the harbour.

Other amenities include a small hydro-massage swimming pool, a lounge and bar, and direct access to the sea for a swim. It is a 10 minute walk to the main harbour area.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1186 per person***



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Island hopping in the Dodecanese

Rhodes | Halki | Tilos

Rhodes, Halki and Tilos, the perfect combination for an island hopping holiday in the Dodecanese. You can spend your days exploring the bustling city of Rhodes Town, swimming in the crystal-clear waters of Lindos or hiking in the mountains of Filerimos. On Halki, you'll be forced to relax; a beautifully, guilt-free holiday destination. Then on Tilos, enjoy the island's beautiful beaches, the turquoise waters of Mikros Yialos and the island's ancient ruins.

This two week itinerary has been designed to showcase the diversity of the archipelago whilst providing time at leisure for independent exploration and relaxation. We can, of course, alter the itinerary to suit tastes and budget.

Day 1 - Arrival on Rhodes

On arrival on Rhodes, transfer to your accommodation for the next three nights.

Overnight on Rhodes.

Days 2 and 3 - Explore Rhodes

Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese and the most popular, as the island enjoys one of the best sunshine records in the Mediterranean and a string of fine sandy beaches. It also boasts one of the best preserved medieval cities in the world in Rhodes Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the Crusading Knights of St. John had their headquarters for over 200 years, and it is their silent presence that holds sway still, although the Ottomans were here for twice that time.

Outside the walls there is plenty to see and do and booked accommodation can be within the old town or in the surrounding modern town which is lively and cosmopolitan with long beaches to the west. Inland, the island is fertile and hilly with many

villages (as well as the odd castle or monastery) to explore as well as much-photographed Lindos, with its acropolis above and beach below.

Overnight on Rhodes.

Day 4 - Transfer to Halki

Transfer by ferry to Halki (1 hour). Only 6km from Rhodes' western coast, it is its closest neighbour and yet you will not find a better example of two completely contrasting islands.

Overnight on Halki.

Day 5, 6 and 7 - Explore Halki

Halki is tiny, the smallest inhabited island in the whole Dodecanese group, measuring just 28 sq kms and with a resident population numbering just a few hundred. There is one village, Emborio, and one sandy beach. You are forced to relax here, because a holiday on Halki means eat, swim, walk, read and sleep.

The postcard-pretty, amphitheatrical harbour of Emborio is lined by elegant Venetian stone mansions. Nightlife revolves around the fine half-dozen or so waterfront tavernas which specialise in fish caught that morning.

The island's main beach is sandy Pondamos, a 15 minute walk. Other beaches and pebble coves can be reached on foot or by water taxi.

Overnight on Halki.

Day 8 - Transfer to Tilos

Transfer to Tilos by ferry (40 minutes), the most enlightened Greek island we know and the isle leading the way in environmental protection and eco-tourism. It is no coincidence that Tilos is a firm favourite with the Sunvil team and our travellers.

Overnight on Tilos



Days 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 - Explore Tilos

Tiny Tilos (64 sq kms and a population of 500) has been designated an Important Bird Area, an EU-registered Special Protection Area and a Natura 2000 site amongst others. What this all means is that visitors here will find a protected natural environment with a wonderful diversity of flora and fauna.

The island is full self sufficient in energy and runs a Just Go Zero, zero waste island initiative.

Tilos is a paradise for walkers and boasts 67kms of signed walking trails (many being restored cobbled mule paths). There 200 Byzantine country chapels, seven Crusader castles, abandoned villages, a Byzantine monastery, and a cave with the remains of dwarf elephants, a most important archaeological find in recent history.

Visit Tilos and, in our opinion, you'll fall in love forever; with the island, the islanders and their vision for a high-quality tourism that benefits all.

Overnight on Tilos.

Day 15 - Day of departure

Transfer from Tilos to Rhodes by ferry (2 hours) for your return flight to the UK.

Duration

14 nights

Itinerary includes:

- Return flights to Rhodes
- 3 Nights Rhodes - Bed and Breakfast
- 4 Nights Halki - Bed and Breakfast
- 7 Nights Tilos - Bed and Breakfast
- Transfers and ferry tickets throughout
- Single room supplement on request

Guide price

Based on 2 sharing from £1448 per person*



Island hopping in the Dodecanese

Symi | Kalymnos | Telendos

Being in Greece's far south-eastern corner, the Dodecanese not only enjoys an enviable sunshine record but also a distinctive history, culture and architecture – resulting from its strategic location. Each island has its own character and this 10 night itinerary shines a spotlight on three destinations, each beautiful and fascinating in their own right but when combined offer an exceptional and enriching holiday experience.

Our Greek specialists have first-hand experience and unrivalled knowledge when it comes to handcrafting the perfect island hopping break. Should our proposed itinerary not meet your requirements, we will happily tailor the itinerary to better suit. Holiday length and hotel durations can always be changed.

Day 1 - Arrival on Symi

On arrival at Rhodes Airport, transfer to the port and onwards to the island of Symi (60-90 minutes by ferry).

Overnight on Symi.

Days 2, 3 and 4 - Explore Symi

Symi was a major commercial centre, which is why such a small island has such an impressive port. Grand neo-classical houses and mansions, once owned by wealthy sea captains of yore, line the horseshoe-shaped bay on three sides and climb the steep hill behind.

Beaches on the island are of the pretty pebble variety and reached by one of the regular water-taxis that shuttle to and fro through the day (there is a bus alternative to PEDI in the next bay). Boats also run to nearby islands and you can visit Turkey

only 4 miles distant. One of the most atmospheric harbour towns in Greece.

There are also some good walking opportunities, to small bays or inland. But most visitors come simply to relax; to enjoy Symi's very clear seas, warmth of welcome and one of the most atmospheric small harbour towns in the Aegean.

Overnight on Symi.

Day 5 – Transfer to Kalymnos

Transfer from Symi to Kalymnos by ferry (2 hours).

Overnight on Kalymnos.

Day 6 and 7 – Explore Kalymnos

The very friendly island of Kalymnos offers much variety. From the bustling main port of Pothia in the south to the sleepy Greek charm of Emborios in the north, the island can satisfy a wide range of holiday tastes within its 21km length.

Kalymnos was famed for the bravery of its sponge-divers. However, recent years have seen this trade decline and the island has reinvented itself as an activity holiday centre. It is now a mecca for rock climbers and walkers with scuba diving and sea-kayaking also available.

Overnight on Kalymnos.

Day 8 – Transfer to Telendos

Tiny Telendos is just 10 minutes across the water from Kalymnos and provides the perfect 'away from it all' escape. The islands were once joined but were separated by an earthquake in AD554.

They say that, if you look hard, you can see the remains of a submerged village on the way across.

Overnight on Telendos



Days 9 and 10 – Explore Telendos

To visit Telendos is to take a step back in time.

There is one tiny fishing hamlet and a number of sand-shingle beaches, one of which is naturist - the closest is just a five minute walk over the headland from the harbour.

Blissfully tranquil (no cars), the pretty waterfront has half-a-dozen tavernas, a couple of cafes and a small shop or two.

Relax, breathe and read – the perfect end to your island hopping adventure.

Overnight on Telendos.

Day 15 – Day of departure

Transfer to Kalymnos and on to Kos Airport for your return flight to the UK.

Kalymnos



Duration

10 nights

Itinerary includes:

- Flights to Rhodes, returning from Kos
- 4 Nights Symi - Bed and Breakfast
- 3 Nights Kalymnos - Bed and Breakfast
- 3 Nights Telendos - Bed and Breakfast
- Transfers and ferry tickets throughout
- Single room supplement on request

Guide price

Based on 2 sharing from £1379 per person*

Island hopping in the Dodecanese

Kalymnos | Leros | Lipsi | Patmos

Bask in Aegean sunshine as you hop through the Dodecanese islands of Kos, Lipsi, Leros and Patmos. Start in vibrant Kos, where ancient ruins whisper tales of Asclepius, beaches beckon and streets thrum with life. Your next stop is Leros, with a bustling little port and uncrowded beaches dotted around its twisting shores. The island has the same long history as its neighbours but is also known for the WW2 Battle of Leros - the war museum is fascinating. From Leros it is just a 20 minute hop to Lipsi, a tranquil haven where turquoise waters lap at pastel shores and time slows. Conclude your journey in mystical Patmos, where the imposing Monastery of Saint John looms and hidden coves offer serenity. This island combination promises history, sun-drenched relaxation, and a taste of authentic Greek island charm.

Our island-hopping itineraries are mere suggestions and our trips tailored to suit your wishes and dreams. There are no rigid rules.

Day 1 - Arrival on Kos

For the purposes of this itinerary, Kos is a stepping stone to the remoter Dodecanese islands. However, it is the third largest island in the Dodecanese and justifiably popular with visitors, Kos has managed to balance the need to cater for tourists' interests without losing its essential identity as an island steeped in history and blessed with an idyllic natural beauty.

Overnight on Kos.

Day 2 - Transfer to Leros

Transfer by ferry to Leros (90 minutes), an untouristic, very friendly and genuine island.

Overnight on Leros.

Days 3 and 4 - Explore Leros

Gentle Leros has a heavily indented coastline, with many sheltered coves and bays. Even in the height of summer, you can still often find a small beach to yourself; a little spot of paradise.

Inland, there are a surprising number of traditional villages, as well as Crusader castles and Byzantine chapels to discover.

Overnight on Kalymnos.

Day 5 - Transfer to Lipsi

Twenty minutes across the water is Lipsi, your base for the next three days. At 16 sq kms, unspoiled Lipsi has a sleepy atmosphere, limited tourist numbers and fine beaches making it ideal 'away from it all' territory.

Overnight on Lipsi.

Days 6 and 7 - Explore Lipsi

Lipsi's gentle rolling landscape is dotted with blue-domed chapels and quiet bays, where sunbeds are not permitted. Take a relaxing stroll and enjoy the fresh air and wonderful views over the many satellite islands lining the coast.

Lipsi's little port is the only village on the island. Most tavernas are, of course, on the quayside, from where steps lead up to the old part of the village. There is a good sandy town beach, and others can be reached on foot or by minibus.

Overnight on Lipsi.

Day 8 - Transfer to Patmos

Transfer to Patmos (90 minutes by ferry) the most northerly island of the Dodecanese and one of the smallest, measuring little over 20 square miles.

Overnight on Patmos.

Days 9 and 10 - Explore Patmos

Patmos' fame belies its size. This is where St John the Divine wrote the Book of Revelation, and the island hence receives many visitors, most of whom stay for only a few hours before returning to their cruise boat. That leaves the rest of this starkly beautiful island to those who, like us, prefer to fall under Patmos' spell in its own time.

The attractive port of Skala is where you will stay. It is a bustling, quite sophisticated little place, with elegant arcaded cafés, fine tavernas and some smart shops hidden in the narrow backstreets.

A good bus service runs to beaches and villages around the island, allowing for easy exploration. For walkers, climb the hill from Skala to the Monastery of St John, with the white houses of Hora clustered below its imposing fortifications it is one of the magnificent sights of Greece! Founded in the 11th century, the monastery contains treasures second only to Athos.

Overnight on Patmos.

Day 11 - Day of departure

Transfer from Patmos to Kos for your return flight to the UK.



Duration

10 nights

Itinerary includes:

- Return flights to Kos
- 1 night Kos - Bed and Breakfast
- 3 Nights Leros - Bed and Breakfast
- 3 Nights Lipsi - Bed and Breakfast
- 3 Nights Patmos - Bed and Breakfast
- Transfers and ferry tickets throughout
- Single room supplement on request

Guide price

Based on 2 sharing from £1479 per person*

Leros

