



The North Aegean Islands

Greece's North Aegean islands lie close to Turkey and include four of Greece's top twelve islands by size. Although three have a direct flight from the UK they are often overlooked in favour of more well known names. Those who come are delighted to discover a wonderful mix of super scenery, historical interest and fine beaches. Each has its own distinct island culture and traditions, and the larger islands can absorb their summer visitor numbers with ease.

From Thassos in the north to Samos in the south, these islands offer fascinating and lesser known alternatives to the famous honeypot islands. Beaches of course there are, but the larger islands in particular are full of interest and will well reward exploration.



Lemnos

It does exist! An unspoiled island with a very Greek flavour, relatively few tourists, excellent sandy beaches, a characterful port, and a direct flight... Lemnos lies halfway between the shores of Asia Minor and the slopes of Mount Athos. Indeed you can see Athos on a clear day, and they say that the holy mountain casts its shadow on Lemnos twice a year.



Lesvos

Lesvos, also called Mytilini, is the third largest island in Greece after Crete and Evia. It lies in the north-eastern Aegean close to Turkish shores, and offers such variety that whatever you seek from a holiday you should be able to find here. Olives, ouzo production, fishing and agriculture are still the priority here. An island that has kept its soul.



Chios

Chios is outstanding. Although the fifth largest island in Greece, it has never overly encouraged tourism and remains blissfully off the regular tourist trail. Those who do come will find an island with a rich history, a strong identity, a varied mountainous landscape and unique charms which inevitably draws people back. On Chios there is always something new to discover.



Thassos

This greenest and most northerly of the Greek islands is just 40 minutes by ferry from Kavala on the mainland, and combines the attractions of island life with diversity of the mainland. It is an island of contrasts: its 115 kms of coastline has a huge variety of beaches, from small, rocky coves to long, golden or white sand bays, whilst inland densely forested mountains rise to peaks of 1200m.



Samos

Samos, the birthplace of Pythagoras offers such variety that everyone should be able to find what they want from a holiday here. With some 160 kms of coastline and a rugged mountainous interior to explore, you will encounter, impressive, ancient Greek remains, magnificent scenery, traditional inland villages, small fishing hamlets, established seaside resorts and many fine beaches.



Ikaria

Ikaria is one of the most beautiful and unusual Greek islands we have ever set eyes upon. Its mountains, forests and beaches combine with the island's many legends, foibles and traditions in a heady Aegean cocktail. The island is also one of only five identified 'blue zones' on the planet - a place where people live remarkably longer lives. All the more wonder then that Ikaria is so little known.



Fourni

Connoisseurs of small, off-the-beaten-track Greek islands will love Fourni! A visit here will take you back to the feel of the smaller Greek islands as they were back in the 1980s. It has an attractive little port with an authentic traditional village atmosphere from where there are lovely sunsets - sleeper during the day than at night - and a working harbour and boatyard.

Lemnos

Lemnos resembles a huge butterfly, its many bays giving a coastline of some 260 kms and plenty of scope for exploration. Beaches are superb, being sandy and safe, and there are many to choose from. Lemnos is a very traditional island, where priorities remain agriculture and fishing rather than tourism.

Sotiris Apartments Myrina, Lemnos

Offering high standards of accommodation, the Sotiris Apartments are the pick of Myrina's accommodation. With lush pretty gardens to the front they enjoy a quiet residential location convenient for both beach (3 minutes to popular Riha Nera) and town (10 mins, 20 to the harbour). Tavernas can be found within a 5-10 minute stroll.

Choose from studios or apartments. The studios are spacious and nicely furnished. All have twin beds with

fitted kitchen area, shower room, air conditioning, WiFi and balcony or terrace. Those on the ground floor can combine for families.

The apartments have identical facilities and comprise a double bedroom and a second room containing fitted kitchen area and one or two full-sized beds.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from £978 per person*



The Lemnos Hotel is below the castle (yellow building)

Lemnos Hotel Myrina, Lemnos

The Lemnos is a traditional Greek harbour hotel. The hotel offers a friendly, comfortable base from which to enjoy the island atmosphere of this pretty port.

There are 29 rooms on the 3 upper floors (lift). Rooms are simply and comfortably furnished and some retain the hotel's original wooden floor features. All are air-conditioned and with shower room. Our rooms are to the front with balcony and harbour/sea views. For 2 or 3

persons triple rooms are larger and have bigger sea view balconies. Breakfast is at the hotel's own cafe (local charge) or at any harbour cafes.

It is 5 minute walk to the town's beach and 15 minutes to sandy Riha Nera beach. For fresh fish lovers, the tavernas by the harbour are ideal.

Board Basis: Room Only
Guide price from £940 per person*

Archontiko Hotel Myrina, Lemnos

Centrally located in the old part of Myrina, the main, Archontiko building dates from 1851 and is built in a Turkish style.

The original building has 13 twin/double rooms with air-conditioning, WiFi (erratic at times) and bath or shower. These are nicely finished with traditional furnishings, wooden ceilings and stone-clad walls (no balconies).

Two rooms on the top floor each have an enclosed terrace with sea and castle views. There is also a

2-room suite with a double bed. Six new double bedded rooms plus a 2-room suite are in the stone-built annexe next door. There is a garden courtyard and sun terrace, where breakfast can also be taken.

The hotel is just a 2-3 minute flat walk from the sandy beach of Romeikos and 5 minutes from the harbour.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £955 per person*



Villa Afrodite Hotel Plati, Lemnos

Surrounded by gloriously flower-filled gardens, Villa Afrodite is a stylish boutique hotel of just 30 rooms, and offers high standards and great comfort. Plati has a long Blue Flag sandy beach. The old village is a steep 15 minute walk up the hill. Beautifully designed, all 30 rooms/suites are with sea view and balcony, mostly twin bedded and have bath and/or shower, air-conditioning and WiFi.

There are three sea view 2-room Suites. Two on the top floor for up to 4 (double and twin). A 2-bedroom/2-bathroom Suite for families of up to 5 is on the upper ground floor. The freshwater pool (78 sqm) has a poolside restaurant and bar, ideal for a holiday of total relaxation..

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £1103 per person*



Plati Beach Hotel Plati, Lemnos

With a prime spot on sandy Blue Flag Plati beach, this family-run hotel offers comfort, hospitality and plenty of space for relaxation in the lush and well-tended gardens or on the beach to the front.

All 22 rooms have air-con, WiFi, shower and balcony or patio.

We offer the Garden Rooms on the ground floor which are cool and spacious and have direct beach access. All have air conditioning, WiFi, bathroom (shower) and a good-sized terrace.

Top floor Penthouse rooms have full or side sea views. If tall (over 6') note the low ceilings

There is a beach bar/restaurant.

Tavernas and a mini-market are by the beach or in the old village up on the hill behind.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £1159 per person*

Ammos Suites Plati, Lemnos

Ammos Suites are a 7 min walk to the beautiful, Blue Flag Plati beach, with its water sports, mini-market and a choice of tavernas. An ideal spot for those wanting peace and quiet, even in peak season.

The 12 air-conditioned suites are tastefully furnished. All are with double/twin beds, bathroom with bath/shower, and open terrace with sea views.

Some are open-plan, others have a room divider between the sleeping area and living/kitchen area.

The large freshwater pool has a pool bar for drinks, snacks and some evening meals.

It is a 30 minute walk to hill-top Plati Village. Myrina harbour is 4 kms away.

There are lovely sunset views over the sea from all balconies and the hotel grounds.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £1145 per person*



* Guide prices are based on 2-sharing a lead-in room type for 7 nights in May and include return flights and transfers. Prices are subject to change and increases in airfares. Please visit our website for our latest prices and important further information on these properties, as well as more accommodation choices.

Samos

Wherever you go on Samos you will find good beaches. They range from peaceful little pebble bays, with few people and one taverna, to longer stretches of sand or shingle with water sports. To the north and west of the island there are also excellent walking trails, pine forests, olive groves and vineyards - a visit to one of the wineries/vineyards is a must for any wine lovers.

Athena Hotel Kokkari, Samos

The Athena Hotel is located in Kokkari, a seaside and picturesque village on the north side of the island.

The hotel is situated just 30m from the beach and the clear waters of the Aegean. The verdant green mountain, just behind the hotel, is ideal for walking and hiking along its scenic paths. A truly relaxing experience. Restaurants, bars, shops and the local bus stop are all within easy walking distance.

Accommodation consists of 43 rooms with traditional style decor and furnishings in three buildings across two floors. Our rooms are set back and to the rear of the hotel and have air-conditioning, shower room and garden, mountain and/or village views.

There is a 110 sqm freshwater pool with a children's section and a pool bar that sells light refreshments.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
 Guide price from **£1046 per person***



Anemos Apartments Ormos, Samos

Towards the eastern end of Ormos, just past the pretty harbour and the beach, the Anemos Apartments would suit those looking for a good standard of self catering accommodation close to all the village amenities.

The 8 studios and apartments are spacious, well equipped and nicely furnished. They have twin beds, A/C (payable locally), kitchen area, WiFi, shower room, hairdryer and covered balcony with views over the village to Mount Kerkis and, to the side, partial sea views.

The apartments have a living room with a sofa bed and a second front-facing balcony with views to a handful of other buildings and the sea.

Very good accommodation, 50 metres from the small beach and closest taverna, and 3 minutes from the village centre.

The freshwater pool measures some 80 sq m with adjacent children's pool.

Board Basis: Self Catering
 Guide price from **£983 per person***

Kerkis Bay Hotel Ormos, Samos

This charming small family-run hotel is set just behind the harbour. The hotel has its own well-liked seafront restaurant and all the facilities of the village as well as the beach are just a few minutes walk away.

The 25 twin/double rooms are attractively furnished. These are housed in two buildings, one of which has a lift. All have A/C, shower and balcony. Our rooms are to the side which are quieter and have south-west facing views over

the village towards Mount Kerkis which rises behind.

Suites have a double bedroom and living room with an extra bed and a sofa-bed. All are with bathtub as well as shower and small balcony.

An extremely friendly property and in a super location.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
 Guide price from **£1023 per person***



Eleonas Villas Votsalakia, Samos

The Eleonas Villas are located on a serene wooded hillside above Votsalakia, one hour's drive from the airport. There are two and three-bedroom options, with private pools and gardens, providing the perfect backdrop for your getaway. There are 24 comfortably furnished stone houses here but please rest assured that the feeling is far removed from that of a complex - the careful design and plenty of trees, mature shrubs and flowers gives each villa privacy, peace and

views to the sea.

Each villa has a fully-equipped kitchen, living room and two bathrooms, air-conditioned bedrooms and spacious outdoor terraces plus complimentary WiFi and smart TVs.

The start of Votsalakia and the beach is a ten minute walk down the hill from your villa.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£1226 per person***



Anastasia Apartments Votsalakia, Samos

These popular apartments are quietly located amongst olive trees but an easy three minute walk (no hills) brings you to Votsalakia's long beach, a taverna and a mini-market. A good choice of other tavernas and small shops can be found within a further ten minutes.

The spacious studios have an open-plan living room with sofa bed area, double-bedded sleeping area, A/C (payable locally), fitted kitchenette and a shower room.

The five 1-bedroomed units have the bedroom separate from the living room/kitchen and sleep up to 4.

All units have a traditional style of décor with comfortable furnishings and their own garden patio or balcony.

There is an attractive freshwater swimming pool of over 100 sq.m in the pretty gardens.

Board Basis: Self Catering

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

Okiroi Villa Balos, Samos

This charming, two-bedroom house is perfect for a most comfortable escape in this peaceful corner of Samos, being located at the edge of tiny Balos and just 30m from the long pebble beach here.

There is a living room - open plan with a full kitchen. Off this are two double bedrooms, each with an ensuite walk-in shower room. Amenities include air conditioning throughout and WiFi.

A sea view covered terrace leads to

the freshwater swimming pool (8m x 4m).

With 5 tavernas as well as the beach within an easy walk we do not consider a car to be essential here but it is recommended for shopping as there is no minimarket in Balos.

With a car this south western area has some of Samos' finest beaches and is yours to explore.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£1235 per person***



* Guideline price copy *Guide prices are based on 2-sharing a lead-in room type/4-sharing Eleonas Villas and Okiroi Villas for 7 nights in May and include return flights and transfers (car hire included for Eleonas Villas). Prices are subject to change and increases in airfares. Please visit our website for our latest prices and important further information on these properties, as well as more accommodation choices.

Ikaría & Fourni

With long white sand beaches and lush forested mountainsides, Ikaría is renowned for its natural beauty - and we would urge you to consider a visit to this magical, wild and quite unique island. Step back in time on Fourni and discover an authentic Greek isle with an attractive port, hidden bays and fabulous vistas.

Erofilí Hotel Armenístis, Ikaría

The Erofilí is the highest category hotel on Ikaría and occupies one of the best locations – on the edge of Armenístis, directly above the sea, a 3 minute walk from the village centre in one direction and to the start of beautiful Livadi beach in the other.

Built into the hillside on 4 floors (no lift) all 31 rooms have air conditioning (once the daytime temperature exceeds 30C), WiFi, shower room and a balcony (4 have a garden patio) – front rooms have

panoramic vistas over sea and coast.

There is a filtered seawater pool of some 90 sq m, reception/lounge/bar, free WI-FI throughout and sea-facing terrace - the stunning views of open blue sea and green mountain coastline alone would make a stay here worthwhile.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £1095 per person*



Valeta Studios Armenístis, Ikaría

Beautifully located directly above the sea, the Valeta Studios are on a small headland between two of the best beaches on Ikaría – Livadi and Messakti. They are a 10 minute walk via Livadi beach from Armenístis. There is a restaurant almost next door if you don't want to go far.

Studios are on the ground floor (double plus single bed) or first floor (twin beds). Each is spacious and open-plan containing a kitchenette area, shower room and front balcony or terrace with open views

over the sea and, to the side, the village - ground floor terraces are especially large. The studios can be combined to accommodate 5 persons.

Furnishings are comfortable and of good quality.

Excellent for both beach and village.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from £992 per person*

Archipelagos Hotel Fourni Korseon, Fourni

Standing above the fishing harbour at the northern end of Fourni Korseon, we consider the Archipelagos to be the best hotel on the island. It offers 12 elegantly furnished rooms on upper floors, great views, a friendly service and is well run. All the rooms enjoy excellent views from their balcony over the harbour to the offshore islands.

The ground floor houses reception, lounge, a low key cafe-bar (meals available) and a wide shaded terrace

overlooking the harbour. WiFi is available in these public areas.

The hotel is not recommended for those with walking difficulties due to the number of steps to get to the rooms.

All the tavernas, cafes and shops and village beach, are within a few minutes' walk.

An excellent base from which to explore this charming little island.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from £1024 per person*



Lesvos & Chios

Lesvos is lent its distinctive identity by a mix of olive, oak and pine forests to the east, a more rugged terrain to the west (betraying the island's volcanic past) and an idyllic rural landscape in between. Chios is outstanding with a fascinating heritage, laid-back vibe, rolling countryside and is known for its mastic production.

Delfinia Hotel Molyvos, Lesvos

This long-established hotel stands in extensive grounds above the sea, about a kilometre from the start of historic Molyvos (further to the harbour).

The hotel has 125 rooms in either the main building or in 2-storey bungalow units within the gardens. All rooms have air-conditioning, bath or shower and a balcony or terrace to the front. Half have some sea view over the trees.

In the main building is the reception, lounge, bar and the

terrace restaurant.

Within the grounds is the large seawater pool which measures over 200 sq m. A poolside bar and taverna operate during the day. There are four tennis courts (local charge).

The long beach below is sand/shingle and safe for children.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£796 per person***



Michaela Beach Apartments Molyvos, Lesvos

These five, large, one bedroom modern apartments are just 30 seconds walk from Molyvos beach. It is a 10 minute walk along the beach into Molyvos, with its bars, restaurants and shops. They have been built with attention to detail and the owner is attentive and ready to please.

The bedrooms have twin or double beds and can accommodate a third bed for a child. The air conditioned, open-plan apartments have a modern kitchen.

The apartments possess a bathroom (bath or shower), WiFi and balcony with views towards Molyvos, its harbour and the Byzantine castle. This is an ideal quiet location.

Within the grounds is a lagoon-style swimming pool with sun terrace and sea views. There is free parking and guests can use the free sunbeds and umbrellas on the beach.

Board Basis: Self Catering

Guide price from **£1632 per person***

Kyma Hotel Chios Town, Chios

The Kyma's original building overlooks the sea to the south of the harbour. It is a neoclassical mansion from 1917. Today it is a characterful, comfortable hotel run with great warmth and dedication by the Spordilis family.

Front building rooms are comfortable, with wooden floors and dark wood furniture, and enjoy a large sea view terrace. Most rooms are in the extension to the rear and have side-sea or harbour views from

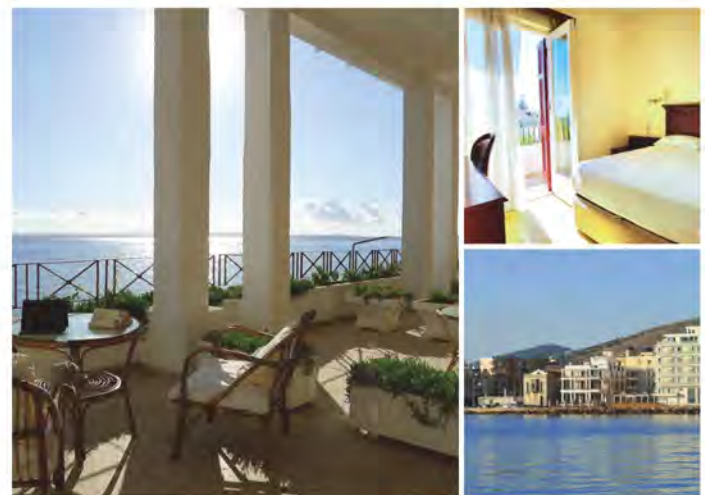
their balconies. All rooms have air-conditioning, WiFi and bathroom (bath and/or shower).

The harbour is a minute's walk and the town beach 5 minutes.

The Kyma, although rather old fashioned, has great charm and comfort. We would not stay anywhere else in town!

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast

Guide price from **£934 per person***



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Chios & Thassos

Southern Chios is home to the island's best beaches and there is some good walking to be had - keep your eyes peeled for the Chios orchid which blooms in springtime. Thassos is a refreshing combination of pine, chestnut and olive, mountain villages and golden beaches; it is a rewarding island to explore and a very beautiful one too.

Sideratos Apartments Karfas, Chios

We really cannot find fault with anything here! From the location - directly above sandy Karfas beach - and wonderful sea views from your large private front terrace to the stylish, high quality accommodation contained within, all backed up by the desire of the owners to give their guests the perfect holiday.

The eight studios on 2 floors are surrounded by a neat garden. Rooms are very spacious (35 sq m). Most are double bedded (some twins) and have A/C, WiFi, shower

room, light kitchen facilities and a full-sized sofa bed.

To one side is a common shaded sitting area in the garden. Steps lead down to the beach below.

It is a 5 minute walk (slight hill) to a taverna and mini-market, and 10 minutes' to the centre where you will find a choice of others. A neighbouring hotel allows use of their pool.

Board Basis: Self Catering
Guide price from **£949 per person***



Villa Fotini Thassos Town, Thassos

Villa Fotini is set in lush gardens with a pool at their centre, just a 10 minute walk (no hills) from the heart of Thassos Town. The 12 rooms and apartment-style suites have been upgraded to offer a high standard of accommodation.

Rooms are categorised into Classic rooms with pool view, Standard rooms (a little larger with sofa) with garden view and 2-room Superior Suites which have a separate living room with a sofa bed.

All have double beds, shower, A/C, and balcony. Breakfast on request. The freshwater pool has a depth of 1.0m-2.25m.

The nearest taverna and supermarket are 300m. The beach is a 7 minute walk and a bus stop is nearby. In our view this is one of the nicest, small units in Thassos Town.

Board Basis: Room Only
Guide price from **£1263 per person***

Akti Hotel Thassos Pefkari, Thassos

The Akti Hotel is an example of a hotel that has significantly upgraded its rooms to a standard well above its official category. It is set in a fantastic location just over the small road from beautiful, sandy Pefkari beach.

The hotel has 23 rooms on 3 floors (no lift). All are double-bedded (some triples) with shower room, A/C and WiFi. Balconies have mainly side-sea or pine tree views. Full sea view rooms on request.

There is a 50 sq m pool (depth 1.20m). The hotel has a well liked taverna above the beach. Within a few minutes walk you will find a further choice of restaurants, as well as cafes and a small shop or two.

A holiday here should tick all the right boxes.

Board Basis: Bed & Breakfast
Guide price from **£1189 per person***



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Island hopping in the North Aegean

Chios | Lesvos | Samos

Our 14 night multi centre holiday to Chios, Lesvos and Samos is the perfect itinerary to immerse yourself in Greece's fabled history as well as while away the hours on beautiful sun-kissed beaches. We have utilised the short, local flight connections thus maximising the time spent in resort and avoiding long ferry journeys, although a ferry transfer can be substituted if desired.

Highlights include the medieval villages of Chios, the petrified forest on Lesvos, the ancient Temple of Hera and Eupalinos Tunnel on Samos, both dating from the 6th century BC, but the real delight is in the diversity of landscapes, age-old traditions, local culinary delights and spending time with those who call the islands their home.

We can alter the itinerary to suit tastes and budgets. Nothing is set in stone.

Day 1 - Arrival on Chios

A same day flight connects the UK to Chios, via Athens; the latter part of your journey being a short, 50 minute hop.

Overnight on Chios.

Days 2, 3, 4 and 5 - Explore Chios

Chios is outstanding. Although the 5th largest island in Greece, it has never overly encouraged tourism and remains blissfully off the regular tourist trail. Those who do come will find an island with a rich history, a strong identity, a mountainous landscape and unique charms which inevitably draw people back.

Chios' wealth stems from the mastic cultivation, an export industry since antiquity. In Greece, only on Chios can the trees containing this aromatic resin be found, and today there are 24 settlements, some 20 co-operatives, dedicated to the

production and exportation of this natural substance. From the fields of trees to the intricately decorated village houses and mansions, the influence of the industry can be felt across island.

The capital, Chios Town, on the east coast, has a plethora of restaurants, cafes and bars and is always lively. Little of the town survived the earthquake of 1881 but the old quarter within the fortified castle is worth a wander. Other sites of interest include the medieval villages of Pyrgi and Olympi and the UNESCO-listed Nea Moni monastery, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture.

Overnight on Chios.

Day 6 - Transfer to Lesvos

A 35 minute flight connects Chios to Lesvos, the country's 3rd largest island.

Overnight on Lesvos.

Days 7, 8, 9 and 10 - Explore Lesvos

Lesvos offers such variety that whatever you seek from a holiday you should be able to find here.

The island offers a mix of olive, oak and pine forests to the east, a more rugged terrain to the west and a rolling, idyllic rural landscape in between. It is an island that has clung to its traditions - not only as seen in the largely unchanged way of village life but also in terms of the Arts. Legend has it that Orpheus' lyre washed ashore here; Aesop was born here; and Lesvos is 'where burning Sappho loved and sung' (Byron).

Not to be missed is the petrified forest, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is a unique testament to the ecosystem that once existed in the Aegean region. The forest is scattered over an area of 15,000 hectares and consists of hundreds of fossilised trunks, standing or downed, coniferous or fruit-bearing.

It could rightly be argued that Lesvos is the perfect place for people who want to experience the real Greece.

Overnight on Lesvos.

Day 10 - Transfer to Samos

A 90 minute flight (via Chios) connects Lesvos to Samos.

Overnight on Samos.

Days 11, 12, 13 and 14 - Explore Samos

With 160 kms of coastline and a rugged mountainous interior to explore, you will find magnificent scenery, traditional inland villages, small fishing hamlets, established seaside resorts and many fine beaches on Samos.

Of course, with attractions like these, the island receives its fair share of visitors, but being about 50 miles long it is large enough to absorb its summer influx and away from the coast you can find yourself a peaceful spot in the mountain villages.

A regular excursion programme operates with visits to Patmos (Greece) and famous Ephesus (Turkey) on offer. Olive oil tasting and vineyard visits are other offerings alongside trips to the ancient Temple of Hera and Eupalinos Tunnel, in the environs of Pythagorion (Pythagoras was born here).

Overnight on Samos.

Day 11 - Day of departure

Transfer to Samos Airport for your return flight to the UK, via Athens.



Lesvos



Duration

14 nights

Itinerary includes:

- Return flights to Athens
- 5 Nights Chios - Bed and Breakfast
- 4 Nights Lesvos - Bed and Breakfast
- 5 Nights Samos - Bed and Breakfast
- Transfers throughout and domestic flights or ferry between islands
- Single room supplement on request

Guide price

Based on 2 sharing from £2340 per person*