

## GREECE – THE ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

8-days / 7-nights island hopping & cycling Kos and the sun islands of the Greek Aegean



Explore the magical 'Sun Islands' of the Aegean Sea by bicycle and aboard a comfortable Turkish gulet. These islands are filled with historical monuments and are the source of many legends. Relax while swimming in idyllic bays, enjoy panoramic views, and walk in the footsteps of a turbulent, glorious past. Visit ancient Asclepion where Hippocrates, the famous physician, practiced his art. Enjoy the peaceful and lovely island Lipsi and dive into the atmosphere of the holy island Patmos. The cruise starts and ends in the cosmopolitan Turkish seaside resort of Bodrum. Fly into Bodrum airport or to Kos Island airport and take the ferry to Bodrum.

Stay on one of three beautifully crafted PREMIUM motor yachts, built in the style of a traditional Turkish gulet (sailing boat). The boats have comfortably furnished cabins and two comfortable lounge/dining areas: a spacious saloon / bar and outside shaded rear deck area. All cabins are equipped with an ensuite bathroom and air-conditioning. The sun deck has mattresses and cushions and is an ideal place to relax.

This moderate level cycling tour requires a basic level of fitness acquired from regular cycling. The cycling routes are 15km to 40km often through hilly or mountainous areas with some uphill stretches. There is time to stop and enjoy the scenery along the way. A limited number of E-bikes are available at extra cost, please ask when booking. The roads are mostly sealed and each day you can either decide to bike independently using the maps provided or join the tour guides. Free time is set aside each day to swim or relax on board the boat.

**Cost from: \$3295** per person (twin share lower deck cabin)  
Upper deck supplement \$420 per person    Single cabin (lower deck) supplement \$1100

**Departs:** 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023

**Cruise includes:** 7-nights in double / twin or single cabins with shower/toilet, 7 nights half board (includes breakfast and either lunch or dinner onboard), English and German speaking tour guide, guided cycling tours as described, 21-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, museum and archaeological entry fees.

**Not included:** Transfers from Bodrum airport to ship, personal expenses and gratuities, meals on land, drinks, €25 per person for drinking water (paid locally to boat Captain), bicycle insurance (can be pre-paid if required).



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**Suggested itinerary:** *subject to weather and sailing conditions, the route may operate in reverse as necessary.*

**Day 1 Saturday: Arrive Bodrum**

Arrive at the port of Bodrum, where the picturesque 15<sup>th</sup> Century crusader castle towers above the marina. Check-in from 2.00pm onboard the gulet. Welcome dinner on board and time to explore Bodrum.

**Day 2 Sunday: Kos Island cycling @ 30km**

Before lunch we sail to Kos and explore the island by bicycle, with time for a refreshing swim in the Mediterranean. We pass the world famous archaeological excavation site of the Asclepion, where Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, practiced. We spend the evening in Kos, the lively capital of the island, with its Roman forum, the fortress of the Knights of St. John and the mosques from the time when Kos was part of the Ottoman Empire. After dinner, while away an hour or two relaxing in one of the town's numerous bars and cafés.

**Day 3 Monday: Leros Island cycling @ 28km**

In the morning we cruise to the island of Leros with its small harbour. Our cycling takes us to the fort of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in Agia Marina and then to the seaside chapel of Agios Isidoros. We hug the coastline and there is time for a swim before rejoining the boat to sail to Patmos Island, weather permitting. Patmos' whitewashed buildings and its towering monastery can be seen from afar. Dinner is on board tonight.

**Day 4 Tuesday: Islands of Patmos and Lipsi cycling @ 12-16km**

We ride to the grotto where St John is reputed to have received visions of the Apocalypse during his captivity on the island. We discover the famous monastery of St. John of Chora in a village with alleyways and many churches and chapels. We cycle past a wonderful beach to the port and meet the boat for lunch. We cruise on to Lipsi in the afternoon, where there is a divine pastry shop at the port.

**Day 5 Wednesday: Islands of Lipsi and Kalymnos cycling @ 9-16km**

This morning we explore Lipsi by bike, cycling around the whole tiny island, with perhaps a chance to visit one of its secluded beaches. In the afternoon we sail to Kalymnos. Overnight at anchor in one of Kalymnos's bays.

**Day 6 Thursday: Kalymnos Island cycling @ 30-45km**

After breakfast we cycle cross Kalymnos. The first impression may be of a rocky and barren place, but as we cycle over the pass from Emporios the green valley opens up in front of us. We ride through varied landscapes to the island's main village, Pothia. In the afternoon there is time to explore Pothia's old town and learn about the sponge divers – the sponge-diving industry brought great wealth to Kalymnos in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Day 7 Friday: Kos Island and Bodrum cycling @ 24km**

We sail to Kos and cycle to the Embros thermal spring, where the hot waters of the thermal pool contrast with the cooler sea water. After lunch our last cruise is to the Turkish port of Bodrum. There is time to explore the old town including the castle of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem and the remains of the famous Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*. We have a farewell dinner onboard the boat.

**Day 8 Saturday: Tour ends in Bodrum.** Disembark the boat after breakfast.

**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Boat cruises across Europe including in Greece **Corfu** and the **Ionian Islands**, the **Cyclades**, the **Dalmatian Coast** of Croatia, **Amalfi Coast** and **Sardinia** and the **Aeolian Islands** in Italy. Bike & Barge cycling cruises available in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Romania and Scotland.

**Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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