

## GREECE – KARPATHOS ISLAND IN THE SOUTH-EAST AEGEAN SEA

8-day / 7-night moderate **GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking visiting 9 villages & uninhabited Saria Island



Situated in the south-eastern part of the Aegean Sea, Karpathos is a small paradise island with a backdrop of tall mountains and crystal-clear sea views, the perfect location to see a traditional and unspoiled side to Greece and the ideal location for walking. Karpathos is unique as it is not yet overtaken by mass tourism, so you have the charm of authenticity, a welcoming smile of locals and completely preserved environment. This guided walk gives you access to the best of coastal and inland trails, hiking through traditional villages and showing breathtaking landscapes and local village life.

Karpathos is a small island, just 85km in total length, including Saria Island to the north. On this trip we visit nine different villages, each with its own tradition, architecture and history, and we taste the delicious traditional recipes made from locally harvested ingredients. The walking route takes us to the highest peak, Mount Kali Limni (1215m) and to the mountain village of Olympos, the ancient centre of civilization in Karpathos. And at the end of each day there is time to relax in a traditional taverna or have a swim at a secluded beach.

The locals here have a great pride and respect for the traditions of their ancestors. There are many festivals and events, traditional music and dances and the chance to experience genuine island hospitality. The island of Karpathos is a place to enjoy fresh seafood and the traditional Greek cuisine of the mountains, a place to discover the unique spirituality that comes from isolation and ancient history, and a place to discover yourself.

**Dates:** 15 March; 10 April; 20 May; 10 June; 10 October, 2024

**Cost from:** **\$2995** per person (twin share) Single room supplement on request

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast in local hotels, luggage transfers, transfers including return airport transfers, local guides, snacks and boat tickets to Saria Island.

**Not included:** Insurance, drinks, other meals, entrance fees, tips, or personal expenses

**Difficulty:** This tour is graded as **Moderate** with walking mostly on narrow tracks over rough, rocky and undulating terrain. Daily walking of 4 to 7 hours per day and daily ascent & descent of 270m up to 1215m. In summer, warm temperatures make the routes more difficult.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details & reservations**

## Suggested itinerary:

### Day 1: Arrival in Pigadia (capital of Karpathos)

On arrival at Karpathos airport, your guide will meet you and transfer you to the hotel in Pigadia. Once you have settled in, the rest of the day is yours at leisure – we recommend a stroll through town, taking in the architecture and visiting the historical museum. You stay two nights in Pigadia.

### Day 2: Pigadia – Menetes – Pigadia

walking @ 4-5 hours

After breakfast we transfer to Menetes village to start our walk, heading north to visit the villages of Aperi and Vollada. Your guide will explain the history and the development of each village on the way to Othos, where we can visit the cultural museum. We return to Pigadia for an afternoon at leisure.

### Day 3: Mount Kali Limni

walking @ 4-5 hours

A challenging hike today as we climb the highest peak of Karpathos, Mount Kali Limni (1215m). The view from the top is impressive and on a clear day we can see across to neighbouring islands such as Kasos, Rhodes and Crete. We stay overnight in the tiny village of Lastos near the Bay of Makris Gialos, home to less than 100 people.

### Day 4: Lastos – Spoa Village

walking @ 4-5 hours

After breakfast, hike from Lastos to Spoa village through a variety of landscapes, including pine woods and terraced slopes. There are natural springs with cool water to drink. We have time to relax in Spoa, a traditional village with only about 200 inhabitants, where it seems time has completely stopped. Everything goes *sigasiga* (slowly-slowly). The village is situated on a hillside overlooking the port of Aghios Nikolaos about 800 meters away, is surrounded by vineyards and has a number of traditional Greek taverns to visit.

### Day 5: Spoa Village – Olympos Village

walking @ 6-7 hours

Starting from Spoa village, we walk in the Protected Environment Area of Karpathos, part of the *Natura 2000* network of conservation areas throughout Europe. The protected zone also includes some 52 square metres of marine ecosystems. On land, the rich flora includes more than 940 species of plants, 87 of which are endemic, rare or under threat of extinction, and your guides have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the local flora and fauna. Our destination is the village of Olympos – the capital of tradition and culture in Karpathos.

### Day 6: Olympos – Diafani Village

walking @ 2-3 hours

In the morning, we have a guided tour of Olympos village to discover the history and secrets of this ancient community. We may meet craftsmen making the traditional leather boots (made either for work or dancing), or musical instruments for feasts and festivals. Don't be surprised if you happen to come across women wearing their traditional dress and baking bread in ovens alongside the narrow paths of the village. Perhaps enjoy the hot fresh-made pastries accompanied by a welcoming greeting or *mantinada*.

Visit the cultural museum of Olympos to learn more of the cultural heritage and its people, then pass an array of stone windmills on the walk to Diafani village to relax beside the sea with a choice of traditional tavernas for dinner. There is a two-night stay in Diafani village, so plenty of time to explore.

### Day 7: Saria Island

walking @ 3-4 hours

We take a boat to uninhabited Saria Island in the far north of Karpathos. Our route crosses Saria from south to north and includes a guided tour of the abandoned rural settlement of Argos. On our return, pass a medieval hamlet once inhabited by pirates. Returning to the boat there is the opportunity to go snorkelling with a guide to discover the crystal-clear waters and marine life. We return to Diafani in the early evening and again there are several local restaurants to choose from for dinner.

### Day 8: Departure day

After breakfast transfer back to Karpathos airport from Diafani, or you can take the ferry to Rhodes, Crete, or other Dodecanese or Cycladic islands.

**Outdoor Travel** offers walks - guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals - in most parts of Europe including in **Tuscany**, **Piedmont**, the **Amalfi**, or **Cinque Terre** Coasts in Italy. Walk in Spain, France or England, Ireland, Switzerland, the coastal regions of Croatia and the **Lycian Coast** of Turkey.

**Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:**

- Call Toll free: 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: [www.outdoortravel.com.au](http://www.outdoortravel.com.au)
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details & reservations**