

GREECE & TURKEY – THE ISLANDS OF THE SUN GOD

8-days / 7-nights Moderate cycling in the Southern Aegean Dodecanese Islands & Rhodes - PREMIUM



The Greek island of Rhodes has been called the island of the sun god Helios since antiquity and with over 3000 hours of sunshine a year it is perhaps the sunniest spot in Europe. On a traditionally-styled motor yacht and by bicycle we explore Rhodes and the neighbouring Dodecanese islands. Highlights include ancient historical Rhodes town, charming Symi with its wonderful neo-classical buildings, and the towering volcano crater of Nissyros. This journey will introduce you to Poseidon, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Knights of St John and the sponge divers of Symi. It is a journey of legends and history and of beautiful and unique islands in a blue sea.

Sailing one of two comfortable PREMIUM motor yachts, built in the style of traditional Turkish gulets, and each with 15 spacious cabins, all air-conditioned and with an ensuite shower / toilet. Both boats have a roomy saloon for meals inside and an outside shaded rear deck and a spacious sun deck for relaxation.

These cycling tours are graded as moderate with some challenging short climbs. The routes average 25 to 40km per day mostly on sealed roads and on the uphill stretches time is allowed for you to stop and enjoy the scenery. Or, you are always welcome to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you. You may like to upgrade to an E-bike – ask when booking about cost and availability.

Cost from: **\$2550** per person (twin share lower deck) Single cabin supplement \$950

Departs Marmaris: 20th April*; 11th, 18th, 25th May; 31st August; 28th September; 12th October, 2019

** Denotes Southern Aegean cruise with different itinerary, from and back to Bodrum, Turkey – ask for details*

Cruise includes: 7 nights in double/twin or single cabins with ensuite, 7 nights at half board (breakfast and either dinner or lunch daily), English and German speaking cycle guide with cycling tours as per itinerary, 21-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, museum and archaeological site entries on the group visits.

Not included: Transfers to/from the ship in Marmaris (available at extra cost from Dalaman airport – please ask when booking), personal expenses, gratuities, bottled drinking water (flat rate €20 for the week), other meals and drinks, bicycle insurance (can be pre-paid if required, please ask for details). Some bike helmets are available on board but we recommend you bring or buy a helmet for this trip.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary – subject to weather and sailing conditions, may operate in reverse

Day 1: Arrive Marmaris

Make your way to Marmaris port by 2.00pm (ask about a group transfer from Dalaman airport at set time for extra cost). Relax with a cup of Turkish tea or explore the town before a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Rhodes

cycling @ 10km

A morning cruise from Marmaris to Rhodes then we explore Rhodes town by bicycle. We visit Mandraki harbour where, it is said, the Colossus of Rhodes once towered astride the harbour entrance. We cycle uphill to the ruins of the Acropolis of Rhodes, the stadium and the great temple of Apollo. We follow in the footsteps of crusaders past the Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes and the medieval lodgings of 'Knights Street'.

Day 3: Tilos and Nissyros Islands

cycling @ 23km

After an early morning cruise from Rhodes to Tilos, we cycle from Livadia to Megalochorio, where it is possible to visit the pygmy elephant museum, before returning to the boat. We sail to the volcanic island of Nissyros; on the approach to the island we can see the two small villages perched on the rim of the 430-metre high crater.

Day 4: Nissyros and Kos Islands

cycling @ 35km

We cycle to picturesque Nikia on the crater's rim. Have a strong Greek coffee in the village square before cycling to the crater itself with its steaming sulphur springs, then back to Mandraki harbour. We sail to Kos Island and explore the Roman Forum, the Fortress of the Knights and Ottoman-era mosques on a guided tour of Kos town.

Day 5: Kos and Symi Islands

cycling @ 28km

We cycle to the archaeological site of the Asclepeion of Kos, a temple dedicated to the god Asclepius where Hippocrates is said to have received his medical training, then continue to Zia, a traditional Greek mountain village. Later we sail to Symi Island and anchor in Panormitis Bay, a peaceful spot to relax and enjoy the sunset.

Day 6: Symi Island

cycling @ 21km

We visit the Byzantine monastery of Michalis Panormitis, with its famous icon of Archangel Michael Panormitis, the island's patron saint and guardian of sailors. We cycle a winding road over a ridge to the other side of the island, with plenty of time to stop and rest, to the island's capital city, Symi town, with its classical architecture and bustling harbour. In the evening, we can walk the 500 steps to upper Symi to view the deep gorge.

Day 7: Bozburun Peninsula

cycling @ 30km

From Symi it's a short cruise to the Bozburun peninsula in Turkey. We cycle from Bozburun village along quiet rural roads and visit the small mountain village of Bayir with its ancient plane tree in the main square. Local legend claims that walking three times around the tree brings good health and prosperity. One last climb before we descend into Ciftlik Bay where the boat awaits. We sail to Marmaris and have our farewell dinner onboard.

Day 8: Departure day. Tour ends after breakfast in Marmaris. Transfer to Dalaman airport at extra cost.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece and the coast of Turkey, the Amalfi Coast and Sicily and the Aeolian islands of Italy.

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

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