

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-east of the Aegean Sea, Karpathos is a hidden island paradise framed by towering mountains and shimmering, crystal-clear waters. Spanning just 85km, including nearby Saria Island, Karpathos offers a glimpse into a traditional and unspoilt side of Greece, making it an ideal destination for walking enthusiasts. Unlike many popular tourist spots, Karpathos retains its authentic charm, where warm smiles from locals greet you amidst a beautifully preserved environment.

Our journey along Karpathos' stunning coastal and inland trails takes you through nine traditional villages, each rich in unique history and architecture. You'll savour delicious recipes crafted from locally sourced ingredients. We walking route takes us up Mount Kali Limni, the island's highest peak at 1215m, and the picturesque mountain village of Olympos, once the heart of Karpathos' ancient civilisation. After each day's exploration, unwind in a traditional taverna or take a refreshing dip at a secluded beach.

The people of Karpathos take immense pride in their heritage, celebrating numerous festivals filled with traditional music and dance, offering you a chance to experience genuine island hospitality. You can relish fresh seafood and indulge in the mountain cuisine, all while discovering the unique spirituality that stems from the island's isolation and rich history. Karpathos is not just a destination; it's an immersive journey into the heart of Greek tradition.

Dates: 28 April; 19 May; 9 June; 27 October, 2025

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 Aperis 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 marine ecosystems. Your guides have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the local flora and fauna, including more than 940 species of plants, 87 of which are endemic, rare or under threat of extinction. Our destination is the village of Olympos – often referred to as a living museum because of the local community's effort to preserve traditional culture.

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 for either 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.

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