

Greece – Rhodes and Dodecanese Islands by Cycle Tour (2025)
Individual Self-Guided
11 days / 10 nights



This cycling holiday of island hopping takes you to three beautiful cycling islands in the southeast of Greece: Rhodes, Kos and Leros, with a stopover in Kalymnos. You will become familiar with the Greek islands of the Colossus and the Asclepeion, the crusaders and the sponge fishermen. The islands are each little paradises of their own, with both Italian and Turkish influences. You will enjoy a balance of cycling, cultural heritage excursions and boat trips on azure blue waters. The unknown Leros is the real surprise of this cycling holiday: a green jewel.



## **Itinerary Day to Day**

#### Day 1: Arrival on Rhodes

You will fly to Rhodes and you will be picked up at the airport and brought to your hotel. Kalavarda has been our cycling village of choice on Rhodes for 14 years now. You will stay at the Hotel Vouras, just 900 meters from the sea. If you arrive in the morning, you can already go for a little warm-up cycle ride, or visit the beach. Alternatively, go to Kameiros (3 km from your hotel) to see the ruins of an ancient city.

# Day 2: Day trip Kalavarda 39 km

Before you start the tour, you have a free day to go on a day trip. You will do a round trip following the coast, which is completely uninhabited and unspoiled here. You can limit yourself to a trip of around 20 km, at which point you will see Chalki and the surrounding islands. Or you could carry on cycling until you reach the fishing harbour of Kameiros Skala (33km). If you want to extend the trip even further, you could visit the castle ruins of Kritinia, making a trip of 38 km in total. If you didn't already do it yesterday, you can visit the ruins of ancient Kameiros (1 km extra).



## Day 3: Kalavarda - Rhodes City 40 km

This stage leading to Rhodes City, follows a trajectory that runs largely through the island's interior. Here you will encounter beautiful villages such as Theologos and Maritsa. Pastida is a large village and a very suitable place to stop for lunch. A particularly wooded route will bring you to the steepest incline of the day, which will lead you into Rhodes City through the back door. After climbing a hill scattered with ancient ruins you will make your descent to the centre. This route comes very near to the butterfly valley of Petaloudes (2 km extra, certainly recommended in the butterfly season (June to September).



#### Day 4: Rhodes City – Mastichari 28 km

The expected time of departure of your boat is 8:30 am. You will arrive a little before 11 am on Kos where you will start off with some sightseeing in the capital, which is well worth the visit. Ruins from ancient times snake through the city. Mosques remind us of the island's Turkish period and other buildings betray the many years of Italian influence. While on Kos you will pass by the Asclepeion. This ancient sanctuary is the birthplace of modern medicine. You will stay in Mastichari, the smallest and most intimate beach resort on Kos.



## Day 5: Mastichari round trip to Plaka 29 km

Today you will discover a beautiful part of central Kos. Again you have many options in terms of the length of the route. Whichever route you choose, you will get to see Andimachia, with its restored windmill, and Plaka, a forest in a ravine where semi-wild peacocks roam freely. The basic 29 km route can be extended if desired, with a visit to Magic Beach, for example, the first in a series of wonderful beaches on the south coast (5 km extra) or to the castle of Andimachia, a gigantic complex perched on a hilltop (7 km extra). You can even explore the whole peninsula of Kefalos, although this will add up quickly on the odometer.

#### Day 6: Mastichari – Leros

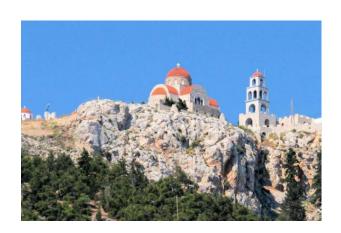
The boat to Kalymnos usually departs at 9 am from the pier opposite your hotel. By 10 am you will already be in Pothia, the capital of Kalymnos and the epicenter of the sponge fishing industry, even though the fishermen now travel far for their catch. You should have a couple of hours to spend on Kalymnos before you take the next boat around noon. On Leros it's a short but steep climb to your hotel, which has a great location with a view of the harbour and a castle.

#### Day 7: Leros rest day

A day to relax and do nothing, enjoy the swimming pool at the hotel with a view of the castle, and perhaps take a little walk to this historical construction. You will receive with your travel voucher an excellent walking route of Leros from the little seaside church of Agios Isodiros to Lakki. The hotel can take care of the transfers for you (to be paid for at the location). Leros is also good for snorkeling!

## Day 8: Leros Round trip 37 km

During this cycling trip you will visit both the remote church of Maria of the Crabs in Xirokampos and the little church on the micro-island of Agios Isidoros. This trip will allow you to see all the beautiful bays of this amoeba shaped island. In Lakki there are many beautiful buildings from the Italian period.



### Day 9: Leros - Rhodes City

The boat, a swift catamaran, should leave at 2:30 pm, in which case you will be back on Rhodes at 6:30 pm. On the way you will again encounter Leros, Kalymnos and Kos, and probably Symi too, where you will dock in the especially photogenic harbour.





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## Day 10: Rhodes City, rest day

Use your rest day in Rhodes to get a closer look at this magnificent historical city. You can do this with a city walking tour that will not only take you to the highlights (such as the knight's castle, the well-restored mosques and the Turkish bathhouse, the squares and the city gates) but also to the back streets and even the double city walls where you will find an unexpected oasis of quiet. The rich history of Rhodes goes back to the time of the crusades. If you were quite taken by Symi yesterday it is possible to make a return trip to the island today.

# Day 11: Rhodes City, departure

You will be cycling back to Kalavarda today, via the sea route, a route of secret paths that follows the coastline as much as possible. Just before arriving in Kalavarda you will briefly cut through the old part of Fanes, which in 2010 received a make-over with colourful frescoes painted by a local artist. You will be taken from Kalavarda to the airport for your return flight. If you are leaving early in the morning then a taxi will take you from Rhodes City to the airport.





#### **Route**



# **Technical Characteristics:**

**Tour Profile:** Moderate. Occasionally longer and steeper slopes without dominating (differences in heights up to 175 m). Daily distances to 65 km.

Distance: 165 km

Travel Season: Daily departures April 20- July 2 and August 21 -October 23

Season 1 April20-May 29 and October 1- 23 Season 2 May 30-June 16 and Sept 8-30 Season 3 June 17-July 2 and August 21-Sept 7



# <u>Price per Person:</u> all prices subject to confirmation on booking

Double Occupancy season 1	€ 898
Double Occupancy season 2	€ 955
Double Occupancy season 3	€ 995
Single Occupancy season 1	€ 1275
Single Occupancy season 2	€ 1300
Single Occupancy season 3	€ 1355
Surcharge solo traveler	€159
Bike Rental Hybrid Bike (Gazelle Medeo or Trek)	€ 55
Bike Rental E-Bike (Trek hybrid with electric motor)	€ 100
Dutch Guarantee Fund	€5

## Accommodation: 2\* and 3\* hotels.

## Included:

- 10 nights at hotel, 2 person room with shower or bath and lavatory
- Breakfast (10x)
- Dinner (2x)
- Transfers to/from airport on Rhodes
- Baggage transport
- Comprehensive route directions/ GPS tracks
- Technical support

## Not Included:

- All other meals and refreshments
- Ferry boats, around € 120,- (to be paid on spot)
- Excursions (entrance fee for museums/gardens/parks)
- Rhodes to Symi excursion, around € 30,-





# <u>Bikes</u>

# **Hybrid Bike**





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