

Bicycle Tours in Greece: Bike and Boat: Cycling Greece's Dodecanese Islands Plus! Samos

OVERVIEW


The Dodecanese islands, almost within hailing distance of Anatolia, are the furthest island group from the Greek mainland. Each island has its own charm and characteristic landmarks, ranging historically from the times of Byzantine and Ottoman rule to the Italian era and contemporary Greece. Our 12-day cycling tour of the Dodecanese features seven days on a privately chartered yacht, which will not only provide us with comfortable accommodations and freshly prepared meals, but will also allow us to explore the beautifully carved coastlines of the islands we visit, and enjoy leisurely stops in impressive bays with crystal-clear water. Cycle along quiet roads on hilly terrain and explore 9 different islands. Attractions include the wonderful medieval enclave of Rhodes Old Town; the gorgeous ensemble of Neoclassical mansions that surrounds the harbor on Sými; the grandiose temple-sanatorium of Asklepion on Kos; the rugged landscapes of Kálymnos; the cave and monastery on Pátmos, where St John had his vision of the Apocalypse...and many more.

***If this sounds great but you prefer a shorter trip, check out our 7 night, 8 day [Bike and Boat the Dodecanese Islands tour](#). ***

HIGHLIGHTS

Sail on a private yacht; Swim in the cool water after a ride; Enjoy exploring the Dodecanese islands including Kos, Rhodes, Patmos, Samos and ancient temples and monasteries.

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	Bike and Boat: Learn more about our Bike and Boat tours at Bike and Boat
Includes	12 days, 11 nights (7 nights aboard our gulet-style yacht); meals as noted in itinerary; 1 wine tasting; guided walking tour on Rhodes; admission to all the sites visited together (The Palace of the Grand Master on Rhodes, the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes, the Asclypeion on Kos, the Monastery of St. John on Patmos and the Heraion of Samos) and the usual.
Countries	Greece
Begin/End	Kos/Samos
Arrive/Depart	Kos Ippokratis Airport (KGS)/Samos Aristarchos Intl Airport (SMI)
Total Distance	450km (280 miles)
Avg. Daily Distance	25-63km (16-39 miles) per riding day
Tour Level	
Keep in Mind	We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour. Itineraries can change depending on weather conditions, coast guard restrictions, tour logistics and our captain's discretion. Limited to one private room.

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/greece/greece-bike-boat-plus>

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DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
Oct 07, 2023	USD\$6195	USD\$1200
Jun 01, 2024	USD\$6695	USD\$1200
Oct 05, 2024	USD\$6695	USD\$1200

*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	Test ride			
2	43km / 1017m (27mi / 3336ft)	Very hilly	★★★★	
3	38km / 995m (24mi / 3264ft)	Hilly	★★★★	
4	16km / 624m (10mi / 2047ft)	Mountainous	★★★★	
5	56km / 650m (35mi / 2132ft)	Rolling hills	★★★★	
6	49km / 1436m (31mi / 4710ft)	Very hilly	★★★★	
7	62km / 1076m (39mi / 3529ft)	Hilly	★★★★	
8	44km / 776m (28mi / 2545ft)	Hilly	★★★★	
9	27km / 612m (17mi / 2007ft)	Hilly	★★★★	
10	49km / 840m (31mi / 2755ft)	Hilly	★★★★	
11	45km / 981m (28mi / 3218ft)	Very hilly	★★★★	
12	Last Day			

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ARRIVAL INFO

Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the boat dock at Limenas Ko Harbor ([click here for map](#)). You won't miss the bikes and our boat.

Note: As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, [check with us](#) if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

We recommend flying into the Kos Ippokratis Airport (KGS)

- Bus, see schedule [here](#) (40 min/EUR 5)

or

- Taxi (20 min/EUR 37)

Hotel recommendations: If you are planning to arrive a day or two early, you are free to book any hotel and arrangement of your choice. You can find hotel recommendations in walking distance to the boat dock [on our website](#). You may wish to ask for a late check-out by 2 PM.

DEPARTURE INFO

Your trip ends on the final day after breakfast.

The below information will help you plan your departure. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#).

We recommend flying out of the Samos Aristarchos Intl Airport (SMI)

Getting from the ending hotel to the Samos Airport:

- Taxi (5 min/EUR 12)

Bicycle Tours in Greece: Bike and Boat: Cycling Greece's Dodecanese Islands Plus! Samos**Welcome to Greece!**

Highlights Neratzia Castle and the old town of Kos, test ride - Board the Yacht

Welcome to the island of Kos! We'll meet this afternoon to fit and test bikes before boarding our private yacht and home for the next seven days. Dinner together on board.

DAY 1

Distance 21 km (13 mi)

Meals Dinner

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Kalymnos Loop Ride

Highlights Kalymnos

This morning we cruise to Kalymnos for our ride. The views are spectacular – it's no wonder Kalymnos is rated a must-visit Greek island – so stop often to admire the scenery. Our lunch stop after a short but stout hill climb is worth the effort. Find time to visit the wonderful Archaeological and Nautical museums this afternoon. Dinner together on board.

DAY 2

Distance 43 km (27 mi)

Gain 1017 m (3336 ft)

Terrain Very hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Cycling on Nisyros

Highlights Visit to the island's Volcano, Paleokastro Castle, the picture-perfect village of Nikia

The island of Nisyros is one of Greece's more active but less known volcanoes. The last eruption of Nisyros in 1887 left a moonscape with colorful craters and very active fumaroles. Later this morning, enjoy a refreshment in one of the most photogenic squares on the Dodecanese before sitting down to an authentic lunch on the island's most famous balcony. Dinner together in the village square of Mandraki tonight.

DAY 3

Distance 38 km (24 mi)

Gain 995 m (3264 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Bicycle Tours in Greece: Bike and Boat: Cycling Greece's Dodecanese Islands Plus! Samos**Swim off the boat and ride on Halki**

Highlights Leisurely lunch and swim in a secluded bay, exploration ride on Halki, pastel-colored neoclassical architecture

Whatever Halki lacks in size, it makes up for in landscapes and colors. Brightly colored 19th Century houses - many of them lovingly restored - line the port of Emporios. Their ceramic-tiled roofs and wooden windows will charm you before you even step off the boat. Our ride today is short enough to allow you to enjoy the afternoon in this colorful town.

DAY 4

Distance 16 km (10 mi)

Gain 624 m (2047 ft)

Terrain Mountainous

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Cycle on the island of Rhodes

Highlights Rhodes' natural beauty, Ancient and Medieval monuments, afternoon walking tour

Traveling from Halki to Rhodes will feel like leaping between two different worlds. Our ride will lead us away from the coast, providing the opportunity to explore authentic villages and the island's natural beauty. This afternoon we'll take a walking tour to learn about the island's complex, multi-faceted history. Rhodes' ancient and medieval monuments, the legacy of the Colossus of Rhodes and the Crusades will tell the story of an island prized by all.

DAY 5

Distance 56 km (35 mi)

Gain 650 m (2132 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Cycling on the island of Symi

Highlights The Monastery of Archangel Michael, the pictureque settlements of Gialos and Chorio

The magic of the small island of Symi is revealed from the moment we enter the elegant harbor in Yialos. We will pedal to Panormitis Bay, on the island's southern tip, where Symi's most visited attraction is located. We will return in time to witness the afternoon light that highlights the beauty of Chora's pastel-colored neoclassical houses dating back to the island's glorious past.

DAY 6

Distance 49 km (31 mi)

Gain 1436 m (4710 ft)

Terrain Very hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

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Kos Loop Ride

Highlights Sanctuary of the God of Medicine, cypress forest, the tree of Hippocrates

Today we head back to Kos and will enjoy exploring the island on our bikes. Our route will allow you to connect several attractions including the famous ancient site of Asklepieion, the attractive villages of Lagoudi, Pyli, and Mastichari and the tree under which Hippocrates is said to have taught his pupils! Dinner together on board.

DAY 7

Distance 62 km (39 mi)

Gain 1076 m (3529 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Private Greek Yacht

Explore Leros on bike

Highlights Italian rationalist architecture, War Museum, the Medieval Castle of Pandeli

You'll be intrigued when we arrive at the port town of Lakki on Leros, thinking you've traveled back in time to 1930's Italy. During the Italian occupation this entire town was built in typically Italian rationalist style, which resembles art deco. After a week on board our yacht, we are on land tonight for a good night's rest in an elegant hotel.

DAY 8

Distance 44 km (28 mi)

Gain 776 m (2545 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Skala Hotel Patmos

Patmos Loop Ride

Highlights Monastery of St. John, the Cave of the Apocalypse, explore the alleys of Chora

The small island of Patmos is most renowned for being where St. John's vision and writing of the Bible's Book of Revelations took place. Today, along with its spiritual significance, the island boasts unique beauty with its sheer cliffs, volcanic soil and beautifully preserved villages, including the island's capital, Chora, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will have a day full of scenic cycling and memorable cultural visits.

DAY 9

Distance 27 km (17 mi)

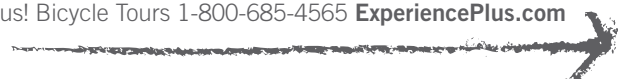
Gain 612 m (2007 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  Casa Cook Samos



Bicycle Tours in Greece: Bike and Boat: Cycling Greece's Dodecanese Islands Plus! Samos**Ride from Pythagorio to Samos Town**

Highlights The Heraion, Samos Wine Museum and our seaside retreat

Famous for its sweet wine, Samos is also historically significant. It was the legendary birthplace of Hera, and the sprawling ruins of her ancient sanctuary, the Heraion -- which we will visit on our ride today, are impressive. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the spectacular Archaeological Museum, with its colossal statue of a Kouros dating to the 6th Century BC.

DAY 10

Distance 49 km (31 mi)

Gain 840 m (2755 ft)

Terrain Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  Casa Cook Samos

Cycling from Pythagorio to Karlovasi

Highlights Spectacular coastal views, authentic villages of Samos and the town of Karlovasi

Our last ride might be the most impressive of the whole tour. We will ride through lush forests and beautifully kept villages with breathtaking panoramic views of the turquoise water below. Our destination is Karlovasi, a flourishing tannery and tobacco manufacturing center in the early 1900s. We will have time to explore the many magnificent neoclassical mansions from that period as well as the remains of the large stone-built factories at the "Ormos" seaside. Dinner tonight will be a special conclusion to our island hopping adventure.

DAY 11

Distance 45 km (28 mi)

Gain 981 m (3218 ft)

Terrain Very hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Casa Cook Samos

Farewell!

Highlights Say goodbye

Depart this morning after breakfast. Explore more of the Dodecanese Islands, jump over to Turkey, or fly to Athens.

DAY 12

Meals Breakfast

INCLUDED

WHAT'S INCLUDED

When you book a tour with ExperiencePlus! our goal is to ensure your only focus each day is to hop on your bike and explore scenic cycling routes in new destinations. Inclusions may differ depending on which tour style you pick but all ExperiencePlus! tours include the three most important aspects of a guided bike tour.

- Superb tour leaders who are fun and multilingual, bi-cultural experts, and cycling enthusiasts. They will support you and help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- High quality bikes selected for the terrain you are cycling on and correct bike fitting to ensure comfortable cycling. More details on our bikes page: <https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>
- Thoughtfully designed itineraries and routes that take advantage of stunning cycling destinations and the freedom of bicycle travel.

PRE-TRIP SUPPORT

- Bicycle training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Planning tips on what to pack, hotel recommendations and other helpful details from our Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>
- A gift of your choice (cycling jerseys, socks, or a t-shirt) as our way of saying thanks for choosing ExperiencePlus!
- *Traveler services including assistance booking extra nights at the tour starting and ending hotels. (*Not included on Explorer Tours.)
- See "What's Included" for tour-specific inclusions and be sure to check the "Keep in mind" section under "Tour Summary" online.

BICYCLES

For a full list of what's included with your bike see our bikes page (<https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>) . If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so. On Explorer tours we include a GPS device on all bikes. We ask that you bring your own helmet to ensure the best fit. Please ask if you would like us to provide you with a gently used helmet and we will do so.

NAVIGATING, DAYSHEETS AND VAN SUPPORT:

Each day you'll receive a daily briefing with a highlighted route map. About 14 days prior to your tour, we will provide you with access to RideWithGPS Experiences, our platform

to distribute information on each tour day's activities, meals and ride, as well as GPS-routes.

Daily information also includes Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information. On Classic, Bike and Boat and Expedition tours we also navigate using our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map. On Explorer tours the terrain and destinations are not always conducive to using chalk arrows so we'll ride as a group or you can navigate on your own with the GPS tracks. On tour you will have a support van providing water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, a lift for tired cyclists, and luggage transfers. On some itineraries the van will not be able to follow sections of the route that stray from the road for example onto cycling paths.

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Need More Miles? On many days it is possible to add miles to the day, just talk to your tour leader about your options.

Need Fewer Miles? If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM:

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this is for the entire tour leader team, not each tour leader. You can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your tour leaders did not quite meet your expectations, please let us know. *Tips are included in Expedition pricing.

PHOTOS:

By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or taken by our guides or travelers free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you on tour, you must inform your tour leader in writing at the start of the tour.

STYLES **OUR TOUR STYLES**

We realize that one size does not fit all and there are as many ways to travel by bike as there are different types of cyclists and travelers. No matter what you are looking for in a cycling vacation, we have a tour with just the right pace for you.

Classic Tours: Dream of traveling through a region by bike? then our Classic style bike tours are for you! Our unique chalk arrows lead the way as you explore small villages and world-class cities while traveling at your own pace.

- Tour Length: 7-15 days
- Hotels: 3-4 stars, most itineraries include at least one two-night stay at the same hotel.
- Road Type: Pavement, bike paths.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4.5

Explorer Tours: Travel further off the beaten path - we let the destination dictate where we ride, not the road surface.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days
- Hotels: 2-3 stars, occasional multi-night stays at the same hotel.
- Road Type: 30-50% gravel or hard-packed dirt, the rest pavement.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Group riding and GPS
- Price: \$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Bike and Boat Tours: Spend days cycling and your evenings relaxing on a private boat as you cruise to your next port.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days, some itineraries have land-based extensions available.
- Barge/Boat: 3-4 star, same cabin for the entire boat trip.
- Road Type: Pavement
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Expedition Tours: Multi-week tours where you spend long days on the bike with the added satisfaction of pedaling across multiple countries.

- Tour Length: 15-40 days
- Hotels: 2-4 stars, typically there is a 2-night hotel stay every 5-7 days.
- Road Type: Pavement with occasional hard-packed dirt or gravel.
- Multi-night Stays: On rest days
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 4-5

**LEVELS**

We know that travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. We have rated each day of our tours on a scale of 1-5. Our Tour Level's are an average of the day rating on tour. We recommend looking at the daily summary on the PDF and Website Itinerary to see details about each day's ride.

LEVEL 1 - 1.5

Level 1 - 1.5 days will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 50 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 20 - 50 km. (12-30 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 0-400 M (0-1200 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

LEVEL 2 - 2.5

Level 2 - 2.5 days are ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-60 km (18 - 38 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 400 - 600 m (1200 - 2000 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

LEVEL 3 - 3.5

Level 3 - 3.5 days are great for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km (30-45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 600 - 900m (2000 - 2800 ft)
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

LEVEL 4 - 4.5

Level 4 - 4.5 days are the best riding days for avid cyclists or very active individuals who are excited to challenge themselves on a bike.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km (45-55 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 900-1000m (2800-3600 ft)
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 – 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITION)

Our Expedition tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages mean limited van support so we recommend these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 500-2000 m (1600- 6500 ft)
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

REMEMBER

A tour level is the average of the days so we recommend you look at the day level on each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

CHECKLIST

TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

- Read through your Reservation Confirmation (link sent to you by e-mail), it has important information to help you plan your trip!
- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
- Complete the Customer Information Form: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/>
- We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/>
- Choose a bicycle training program: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>
- Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Review the arrival and departure information under the "Travel Information" tab to see meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, and other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
- Begin your chosen training program
- Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie Lists: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists on our website at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/>
- We'll email you your access code to Digital Daysheets, Hotel Itinerary, Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders, emergency phone numbers, and other important departure information about 2 weeks prior to your tour start date. All this will be provided to you via a feature called Experiences via the RideWithGPS App (tracks available but not necessary for navigation on Classic, Expedition and Bike & Boat tours).

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on just in case. See you soon!