



## CRUSADER PATHS

Greece and Turkey in one tour

**Spring: April 20 - 28**

**Autumn: October 19 - 27**

Groups of 8+ riders, choose your own date for a guided tour

### DESCRIPTION

**Cycle Greek islands Kos, Rhodes, Kalymnos, Nisyros, Symi.**

In the 14th century the Knights of St. John arrived to the Dodecanese islands from Jerusalem. Many harbor towns still bear the regal façade of that era with castles, forts, moats, and palaces. The entire old town of Rhodes has been declared a World Heritage Site.

Kos and Rhodes are the tour's anchor islands. Ferry rides extend the biking to day trips to Kalymno, Nisyros and Symi islands.

Get your passports out for day boats to Bodrum and Marmari in Turkey. Visit the Halicarnassus Mausoleum in Bodrum, one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World.

This tour is more price-y than others because it offers luxury accommodations and there are many sea transfers, often with the support vehicle.

Before or after your Crusader Paths tour, take time to visit Athens in a multi-day bike tour that includes the Acropolis, the Temple of Poseidon, Attica wineries and other famous interesting sites. If you are a family, the wineries tour can be substituted with a more child-friendly tour. See [Add-on tab](#).

If you only have one day to see Athens, consider our one-day tours at [Athens Day Tours](#).

### DETAILS

<b>2019 Dates</b>	April 20-28, October 19-27
<b>Duration</b>	9 days, 8 nights
<b>Add-ons</b>	Athens – see Add-on tab
<b>Arrival City</b>	Kos Island
<b>Arrival transfer</b>	yes, from Kos Airport
<b>Tour Start Point</b>	Kos Island
<b>Tour End Point</b>	Rhodes island
<b>Minimum Age</b>	8
<b>Minimum Pax</b>	8
<b>Maximum Pax</b>	14
<b>Total Mileage</b>	120 km, 193 miles
<b>Highest Elevation</b>	744 feet, 227 meters
<b>Rating</b>	Easy – see <a href="#">Ratings System</a>

## **ITINERARY**

Arrive to Kos by 12:00 noon to participate in late afternoon ride walking tour of Kos town.

Daily flights to Kos are available from Athens and various European cities. Or take the overnight ferry boat from Piraeus, depart roughly 17:00, arrive 05:30 am

### **Day 1: Kos**

Welcome to Kos, home of Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine. You are introduced to Kos town by a walking tour that includes the harbor's imposing Knights of St. John Crusader Castle. Welcome dinner on the harbor. **Walking, no biking.**

### **Day 2: Kos**

On your first full day in Kos guests are compelled to pay homage to Hippocrates by biking to the ruins where he maintained a school and clinic. After lunch a bike ride to Therma, the natural hot springs that flow out of seaside cliffs into the cool Mediterranean waters. **Biking: 26 kilometers, 16 miles**

### **Day 3: Kos and Bodrum, Turkey**

A day trip to Bodrum by boat. The mighty medieval castle guarding the harbor entrance cannot be missed, nor its Museum of Underwater Archaeology whose exhibits expertly recreate the inner contents of an ancient sunken ship. Also, the Halicarnassus Mausoleum, one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World. **Walking, no biking.**

### **Day 4: Kos and Nisyros**

We leave Kos for the day by biking to Kardamena and taking a boat to the tiny volcanic island of Nisyros having fewer than 1000 inhabitants. Hot springs and a descent into a dormant volcano are the island's highlights. Traditional Greek music and dancing in the evening. **Biking: 28 km, 17 miles**

### **Day 5: Rhodes**

We take the ferry to Rhodes whose Old Town said to be the largest medieval city in Europe and the epicenter of Crusader activity in Greece. Your first activity is a guided tour of this fascinating walled city, including a stroll through the dry moat. Also visit an active hamam (Turkish bath), the Jewish Quarter, the labyrinthine alleyways, hidden courtyards, and much more. **Walking, no biking.**

### **Day 6: Rhodes**

We cycle to the famous Valley of the Butterflies set in an enchanting shaded forest, and continue on to Seven Springs, another verdant spot flush with natural water. **Biking: 30 km, 18 miles**

### **Day 7: Rhodes and Marmari, Turkey**

A day trip by boat to Marmari, Turkey submerges us into an oriental atmosphere of Middle East cuisine, Islamic architecture, mosques and a busy bazaar selling fine jewelry, leather and carpets. **Walking, no biking.**

### **Day 8: Rhodes**

On our last day we cycle to Lindos, first inhabited in 3,000 BC. Its Acropolis was one of the most sacred in ancient Greece and later the Crusaders fortified its walls which tower 410 feet above the car-free town. **Biking: 35 km, 21.70 miles**

### **Day 9: Departure**

## ***COST***

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

<b>Crusader Paths Tour Cost</b>	3900 euros per person
<b>Single Supplement</b>	1500 euros

See [daily exchange rates](#)

## ***TOUR INCLUSIONS***

**Accommodations:** On Kos you luxuriate in 5-star seaside resort with every amenity imaginable. On Rhodes your hotel in the old city is located in a gorgeously renovated building constructed in 1300 AD. All accommodations are standard doubles with option for upgrade. All accommodations serve breakfast, usually buffet style. Tour prices are based on double occupancy. See [Accommodations tab](#) to request more info about this tour's accommodations

**Airport Transfers:** from Kos Airport to Kos hotel and to Rhodes Airport from Rhodes hotel

**Sea Transfers:** Kos to Nisyros, Kos to Bodrum, Kos to Rhodes, Rhodes to Marmari

**Bikes:** Specialized road bike or hybrid bike. Triple chain ring, 27 gears. Road bike has carbon fiber fork. Hybrids have front suspension. **Electric bike or carbon Tarmac bike** available as an upgrade on request. Regular pedals or toe clips on request. You are welcome to bring your own clip-in pedals and shoes. See [Our Bikes](#) and [Our Gear](#)

**Bike gear:** helmet, water bottles, handlebar pouch, odometer

**Support vehicle:** "Sag wagon" with bilingual driver who is also a bike mechanic. Vehicle carries spare parts, floor pump, ice cooler, water, nutritious snacks, bike tools, first aid kit, day packs, luggage and gives you a lift if you get tired.

**Tour Leader / Bike Guide:** the Tour Leader handles all the tour logistics and rides with the group.

**Meals:** Breakfasts are included at each hotel. Dinners are generally at trusted establishments within walking distance of the hotel. Dinner consists of 2-3 appetizers and salad chosen by us and shared by the group. You are offered an entrée choice, usually a meat, fish or vegetarian dish. Dessert, house wine, water or beverage for those who don't drink wine.

**Cue sheets with GPS profiles**

**Maps of the region**

**Trip packet:** useful and interesting information about the region

**Tour guide:** Private one hour archaeology tour with professional licensed guide in Rhodes old town

**Entrance fees to all museums and archaeology sites**

**CycleGreece jersey:** short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

**CycleGreece lightweight backpack:** 17" x 13", 43cm x 33cm

## Gratuities & VAT taxes

### ***TOUR EXCLUSIONS***

- Airfare to/from Greece
- Airfare or ferry to Kos and from Rhodes
- All lunches
- Alcoholic beverages (other than house wine)
- Travel insurance – see Extras tab
- Tips for CycleGreece guides and drivers, at your discretion

### TAKE NOTE

- Participants are required to sign our [Waiver](#)
- Participants are required to agree to the [Booking Agreement](#)
- Travel Insurance is required as a condition for participation in a CycleGreece tour

***See the website for more details about ACCOMMODATIONS, EXTRAS, ADD-ONS, MAP and BOOKING AGREEMENT***