



CRUSADER PATHS

Greece and Turkey in one tour

July 4-12, 2020

October 23-31, 2020

Tour biking destinations: Kos, Rhodes, Kalymnos, Nyseros, Symi.

Turkey destinations: Bodrum and Marmari

DESCRIPTION

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

2020 Dates	July 4-12 and October 23-31
Duration	8 nights, 9 days
Add-ons	Athens, see Add-on tab
Arrival City	Kos island
Arrival transfer	Yes, from Kos airport
Tour Start Point	Kos island

Tour End Point	Rhodes island
Minimum Age	18
Minimum Pax	8
Maximum Pax	14
Total Mileage	120 km, 193 miles
Highest Elevation	744 feet, 227 meters
Rating	Easy – see Rating System

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 & INCLUSIONS

Cost in euros based on double occupancy

9 Days Tour	4290 euros per person
Single Supplement	1170 euros

TOUR INCLUSIONS

8 nights 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. Triple chain ring, 27 gears, carbon fiber fork. Carbon Tarmac bikes are available as an upgrade for 400 euros. Electric bikes are available as an upgrade for 350 euros. 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: Tour Leader handles all the tour logistics and rides with the group

All Meals:

Breakfasts are included at each hotel

8 lunches — you choose from the menu

8 dinners consisting 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 or beer, water or beverage

Entrance fees to all archaeology sites and museums:

Bike Routes: Options (1) RideWithGPS App tour routes to upload to your iPhone or Android with voice narration – we provide a bike mount for your cellphone (2) GPX tracks to download to your device – bring your own bike mount

Cue sheets and cue sheet holders turn by turn directions plus distance/elevation profiles

Trip packet: useful and interesting information about the regions, packing tips, general travel info for Greece

CycleGreece jersey: short sleeved, rear pockets, locally made

CycleGreece lite backpack: 17” x 13”, 43cm x 33cm

Gratuities & VAT taxes

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- * Airfare to/from Greece
- * Airfare or ferry to Kos and from Rhodes to your next destination
- * Alcoholic beverages (other than house wine)
- * Drinks and coffee at café pit stops
- * Travel insurance – required. We are official Travel Guard agents and can book a policy or provide a quote for U.S. citizens. 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, Booking Agreement, Waiver

CYCLEGREECE

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