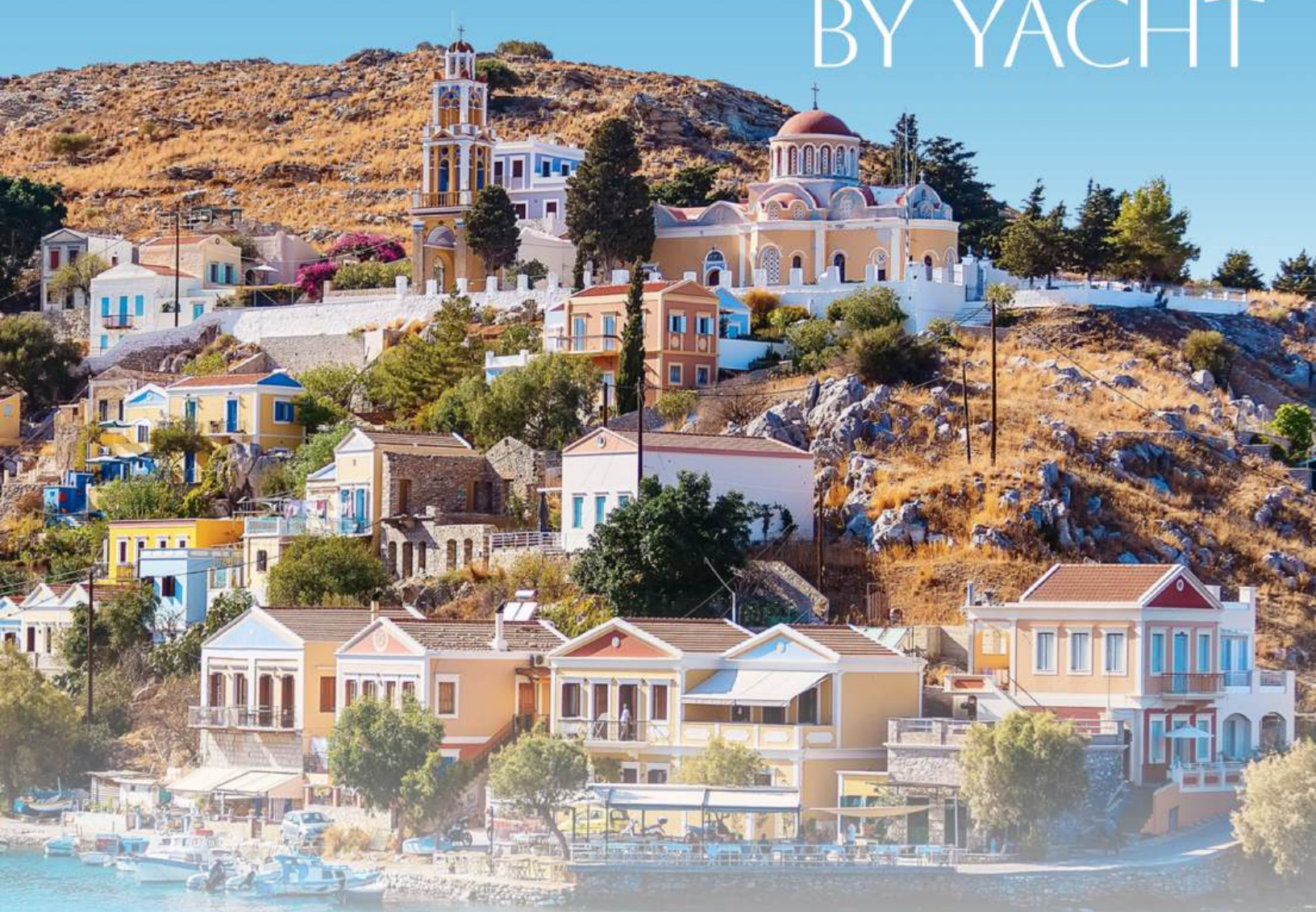


GREECE

THE DODECANESE BY YACHT



CHARTERLINK
Private Yacht Vacations



THE DODECANESE

The Dodecanese Islands occupy Greece's southeastern corner, stretching along the **Turkish coastline** between Rhodes and Leros. Rich in history, culture, and natural beauty, this region offers a distinctly different charter experience from the Cyclades. The islands are known for their medieval towns, traditional villages, crystal-clear waters, and a fascinating blend of **Greek, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Italian influences**. Popular destinations include Rhodes, Symi, Tilos, Nisyros, Kos, Kalymnos, and Leros, each contributing its own unique character to an itinerary filled with variety and discovery.

Rhodes is home to one of **Europe's best-preserved medieval cities**, while Symi enchants visitors with its **colourful neoclassical harbour and elegant waterfront**. Kalymnos is famous for its sponge-diving heritage and dramatic cliffs, while Nisyros offers the rare opportunity to visit an **active volcanic caldera**. Smaller islands such as Tilos provide a quieter and more traditional Greek island experience, often becoming unexpected highlights of a charter.

The Dodecanese are renowned for their **excellent cuisine, influenced by centuries of trade and cultural exchange**. Fresh seafood, locally **produced cheeses, honey, herbs**, and traditional Greek dishes are found throughout the islands. Turkish influences are also noticeable in certain regional specialties, adding further variety to the dining experience.

The **distances between islands are generally moderate**, creating a comfortable balance between time spent sailing and time spent exploring ashore. While some passages can be longer, many islands lie close enough together to allow for relaxed cruising days and varied itineraries. Having **flexibility remains an important ingredient to enjoying chartering in Greece**. Although the Dodecanese are often **less affected** by prolonged periods of strong wind than the Cyclades, weather conditions can still influence daily plans and routing decisions. While there are usually plenty of sheltered bays and anchorages available once you reach an island, stronger afternoon winds can make passages between islands more challenging. Trusting your captain's judgement is essential, and the ability to adapt an itinerary ensures that guests can take advantage of the best conditions available whilst experiencing **one of the most rewarding cruising destinations in Greece**.

July and Aug: Busiest and hottest months, with lively winds (84° - 95°F with water temperatures from 77° - 82°F)

June and Sept: Shoulder season with warm weather. (77° - 88°F with water temperatures from 73° - 80°F)

May and Oct: Quieter, with pleasant temp and mild waters (70° - 81°F with water temperatures from 65° - 75°F)

Language: Greek (**English widely spoken in tourist areas**)

Time zone: Eastern European Time (EET), UTC+2 (summer: UTC+3)

Electricity: **230V, plugs type C and F**

Tap water is generally safe on the mainland and in larger towns, though bottled water is commonly used on many islands.

Euro is the currency.

Flights in/out Rhodes or Kos.



DODECANESE CIRCUIT

7 NIGHTS (RETURN CIRCUIT)

PATMOS

TÜRKIYE (TURKEY)

✈ LEROS

KALYMNOS

KOS

NISYROS

SYMI

TILOS

RHODES

CHALKI

210NM ROUTE (RETURN)
21 - 28 HRS OVER THE WEEK
APPROX. 3 - 4 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

100NM ROUTE (ONE WAY)
10 - 14 HRS OVER THE WEEK
APPROX. 1 - 2 HRS SAILING PER DAY.

WINDS FROM THE NORTH WEST RANGING
FROM 15 - 35 KNOTS (17 - 40 MPH).





RHODES

Rhodes is an island where centuries of history are woven into everyday life. As the largest island in the Dodecanese, it has been shaped by ancient Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, and the Knights of Saint John, each leaving their mark on the landscape. The result is an island of remarkable contrasts, where medieval fortifications, elegant architecture, beautiful beaches, and vibrant modern life exist side by side.

The UNESCO-listed Old Town of Rhodes is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe and undoubtedly one of the island's highlights. Enclosed by impressive stone walls, its maze of cobbled streets, hidden courtyards, and historic buildings transports visitors back in time. Walking along the Street of the Knights and visiting the magnificent Palace of the Grand Master offers a fascinating insight into the island's role as a powerful stronghold during the Crusades.

Rhodes landscape is of picturesque villages, rolling hills, and beautiful coastlines. The whitewashed village of Lindos, crowned by its ancient acropolis, is among the most photographed locations in Greece. Perched above a sweeping bay of turquoise water, it combines stunning views, fascinating history, and traditional island charm.

Rhodes has long been a crossroads between East and West, and that influence is reflected in its culture, cuisine, and architecture. For many visitors, Rhodes serves as both a destination and a gateway to the wider Dodecanese. Its combination of rich history, excellent infrastructure, beautiful scenery, and easy accessibility makes it an ideal place to begin or end a yacht charter.



SYMI

Approaching Symi for the first time is an experience few visitors forget. As your yacht rounds the headland into Gialos Harbor, rows of colorful neoclassical houses rise steeply from the waterfront, creating one of the most photographed and instantly recognizable scenes in Greece. Unlike the whitewashed villages found throughout much of the Aegean, Symi's pastel-colored architecture reflects the prosperity the island enjoyed during its sponge-diving and shipbuilding heyday, giving the town a character entirely its own.

The harbor itself is a delight to explore on foot. Elegant mansions, boutique shops, waterfront cafés, and galleries line the promenade. Take time to browse the island's many artisan shops, where local artwork, handmade jewelry, and traditional crafts can often be found. The climb to the upper town rewards visitors with spectacular panoramas across the harbor and surrounding islands, offering some of the best viewpoints in the Dodecanese.

Beyond the town, Symi's dramatic coastline is among the most beautiful in Greece. Towering cliffs plunge into deep blue water, creating a landscape that feels both rugged and remote. One of the island's highlights is St George's Bay, a breathtaking anchorage enclosed by sheer cliffs rising almost vertically from the sea. Accessible primarily by boat, the bay's crystal-clear water and dramatic setting make it one of the most memorable swimming stops in the Aegean and a favorite among yacht guests.

Symi is also home to the Monastery of Archangel Michael Panormitis, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Greece. Located in a sheltered bay on the southern side of the island, the monastery attracts visitors from across the country and provides a fascinating glimpse into the island's religious heritage. Combined with Symi's rich maritime history and distinctive architecture, it adds another layer to an island already full of character.



TIMOS

Tilos is one of the quietest and least developed islands in the Dodecanese, offering a welcome contrast to some of the region's larger and busier destinations. With a small year-round population, rugged landscapes, and a strong commitment to environmental conservation, the island appeals to visitors seeking a more relaxed and authentic Greek island experience. Life moves at an unhurried pace here, shaped more by nature and local traditions than tourism.

The island's main harbor, Livadia, is a charming waterfront settlement where tavernas, cafés, and small shops line the bay. A stroll along the seafront provides a glimpse into everyday island life, while the surrounding hills create a dramatic backdrop to the harbor. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, making it easy to settle into the slower rhythm that defines the island.

Above the harbor lies the abandoned village of Mikro Chorio, one of Tilos' most intriguing attractions. Stone houses, narrow pathways, and the remains of a once-thriving community sit quietly on the hillside, offering beautiful views across the island and sea. Exploring the village provides a fascinating insight into the island's history and changing way of life over the past century. Tilos is also known for its natural beauty and extensive walking trails. The island's varied landscape includes rocky hills, fertile valleys, hidden beaches, and important wildlife habitats. Birdwatchers are particularly drawn to the island, while hikers can enjoy a network of trails connecting villages, chapels, and scenic viewpoints throughout the countryside.

For yacht guests, much of Tilos' appeal lies in its peaceful anchorages and uncrowded coastline. Quiet bays, clear water, and a genuine sense of tranquility make it an ideal place to enjoy a swim, spend time on board, and take a break from the busier destinations of the Dodecanese. Tilos offers a reminder that some of Greece's most rewarding experiences are often found on its smallest islands.



NISYROS

Nisyros is unlike any other island in the Dodecanese. Dominated by one of the youngest active volcanoes in Greece, the island offers a landscape shaped by powerful geological forces.

The island's main village, Mandraki, is built amphitheatrically above the harbor and is your starting point to visit the crater driving through terraces of olive groves growing in seemingly impossible places. A whitewashed, blue-domed church overlooks the crater valley to one side and the blue ocean to the other. The winding road climbs through the hills before descending into the vast Crater, one of the largest hydrothermal craters in Europe. Standing on the rim offers an impressive perspective, but walking down onto the crater floor is an experience unlike anything else in Greece. The sulphur is immediately noticeable and the sheer scale of the volcanic basin reaching 80ft - 100ft above you, provides a vivid reminder that the volcano remains active beneath the surface.

Reaching Nisyros by yacht adds an extra sense of adventure. The island's anchorages are more limited than many neighboring destinations, and access can be weather dependent, particularly when visiting some of the smaller bays around the island. These conditions have helped preserve much of Nisyros' authentic character and prevented the large-scale tourism seen elsewhere in the Aegean.

Nisyros offers a side of Greece that is both beautiful and unexpected with its extraordinary volcanic landscapes makes it one of the most distinctive destinations in the Dodecanese. The photo above does not do the valley justice.



KOS

Kos is one of the liveliest and most cosmopolitan islands in the Dodecanese with vibrant street life, and a bustling waterfront atmosphere. Unlike many smaller islands that quieten considerably outside the summer season, Kos Town remains a functioning year-round community. The island has welcomed travelers for centuries, and today its mix of historical landmarks, shopping, dining, and nightlife makes it one of the most popular stops in the region.

The heart of the action is Kos Town itself, where wide promenades, palm-lined avenues, and a maze of pedestrian alleyways. The town is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon browsing independent shops and local boutiques selling handmade jewellery, olive oil products, ceramics, leather goods, natural cosmetics, spices, locally produced honey, traditional sweets, artwork, and beautifully crafted olive wood items, including the chess boards for which Greece is well known. Along the way, cafés spill onto the streets, creating countless opportunities to pause for a coffee, a glass of wine, or a leisurely lunch while watching the world go by.

One of the town's most recognizable landmarks is the ancient Plane Tree of Hippocrates, which legend claims stands near the spot where Hippocrates, often referred to as the Father of Medicine, taught his students more than two thousand years ago. Nearby, the impressive Castle of the Knights dominates the harbor entrance. Walking through its stone walls provides beautiful views across the marina and coastline, while scattered throughout the town are Roman ruins, ancient mosaics, and archaeological sites that serve as reminders of the island's long and fascinating history.

For many yacht guests, Kos provides a welcome opportunity to experience a larger Greek island town before returning to the quieter anchorages of the Dodecanese.



KALYMNOS

Kalymnos is an island shaped by the sea. For centuries, it was known throughout the Mediterranean as the center of Greece's sponge-diving industry, and that maritime heritage remains deeply woven into the island's identity today. It has a rugged, dramatic appearance, with steep mountains, rocky cliffs, and deep valleys plunging into the waters creating a landscape that feels both wild and contrasting. Today, Kalymnos is equally famous for something entirely different. The island has become one of the world's premier rock-climbing destinations, attracting climbers from across the globe to its towering limestone cliffs

The island's main town, Pothia, wraps around a natural harbor lined with colorful houses and working fishing boats. A stroll through town offers a glimpse into authentic island life, where local businesses, markets, and family-run shops continue to serve a thriving year-round community. Visitors can browse shops selling natural sea sponges, local honey, handmade crafts, and traditional products that reflect the island's long maritime history.

Beyond the main town, Kalymnos offers a quieter side characterized by rugged terrain creating some of the most striking scenery in the Dodecanese, particularly when viewed from the water. These anchorages with excellent opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, and exploring by tender.

Spend the day making the most of your yacht's water toys, swimming in beautiful waters, soaking up the Mediterranean sunshine, and enjoying the exceptional cuisine prepared by your chef. As evening approaches, continue the celebrations on board with music, cocktails, and good company, or settle into a quieter rhythm at anchor, enjoying the stars and the perfect setting that life on board provides.



LEROS

Leros is an island that often surprises visitors. Unlike many Greek islands that center around a single town or harbor, Leros is made up of a collection of small communities connected by sheltered bays, rolling hills, and quiet coastal roads. The island's relaxed atmosphere, attractive waterfronts, and authentic character have helped it remain somewhat under the radar, despite being one of the most rewarding destinations in the Dodecanese.

The island's most recognizable landmark is the Castle of the Knights of Saint John, which stands high above the island between the villages of Platanos and Panteli. The climb to the castle is well worth the effort, with sweeping views across the island's many bays, neighboring islands, and the surrounding sea.

Leros also has a fascinating and unusual history. During the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese, the island was developed as a major naval base, leaving behind elegant examples of Italian architecture that can still be seen today, particularly around Lakki. The town's wide streets, pastel-colored buildings, and Art Deco influences create an atmosphere unlike anywhere else in Greece and provide a striking contrast to the traditional island villages found elsewhere.

Much of the appeal of Leros lies in simply exploring its many corners. Quiet bays, hidden chapels, small fishing villages, and scenic viewpoints are scattered throughout the island, rewarding those who venture beyond the main harbors. The island is also home to a regional airport with regular connections to Athens, making it a practical option for guests considering a one-way charter itinerary or those wishing to continue their travels elsewhere in Greece following their yacht charter.