

Regina

BODRUM – KOS – LEROS – PATMOS – LIPSI – KALIMNOS – BODRUM

DAY 1: In the morning explore Bodrum, or ancient Halicarnassus, which is situated on a peninsula facing the island of Kos, and is the hometown of Herodotus, known to some as the "Father of History" but to others as the "Father of Lies" because of his fanciful travel accounts. Guarding the harbor is the beautifully preserved Bodrum Castle of the Knights of St John built by the Crusaders. The castle now houses an excellent underwater archaeological museum where many of the artifacts were found in wrecks along the ancient local trading routes. This is a must see. Bodrum also has a colourful and vibrant bazaar and an old attractive town located around the harbor. For an additional charge a private guide around the town and its sights can be arranged. After lunch set sail to explore the Gulf of Gokova where there are many beautiful anchorages and protected areas for swimming and sunning in unspoiled natural settings. Visit Cleopatra's Beach whose unusual fine white sands were said to have been imported from Egypt by Marc Anthony for Cleopatra. Three small islands here offer several anchorage options for an overnight stay.



BODRUM

DAY 2: Situated only 5km off the Bodrum peninsula is Kos, one of the most fertile islands in the Dodecanese. Like Rhodes, it is abundant with ancient remains and beautiful beaches. The landscape of modern Kos Town, the island's capital and main port, is picturesque. The Castle of the Knights prevails over the port, while Hellenistic and Roman ruins are scattered everywhere. The Asclepion is Kos' most important ancient site and is located on a pine covered hill 4km southwest of Kos Town. Amongst the many sandy beaches, Agios Stefanos, sitting next to the ruins of two 5th century basilicas, is a must. At Masthari you can find a number of secluded spots on the sandy shores to rest and relax.



KOS

DAY 3: Leros' gentle, sloping countryside is spotted with smallholdings and huge, impressive, almost-landlocked bays resembling lakes more than open sea. Platanos, the capital of Leros is 3km north of Lakki, the main port. This tiny picturesque village spills down the narrow hillside to the port of Agios Marina. On the east side of Platanos, a massive castle crowns the mountainside. Set on the wide Alinda Bay, are the adjoining resorts of Krithoni and Alinda, which have a lovely long, tree-shaded sandy beach. At Belfoutis Bay you will find a shady sand and pebble beach and a good taverna. A good spot for snorkeling, Xirokambos Bay is a mellow resort with a sandy beach. Leave after lunch for Patmos.



LEROS

DAY 4: Leave for the Dodecanese Island of **Patmos**. For both Orthodox and Western Christians, Patmos has long been a place of pilgrimage, for it was here that St John wrote his divinely inspired Book of Revelations. Once a favorite destination for the devout, Patmos is now just as popular with sun and sea worshippers. All boats dock at the glitzy Skala, which sprawls around a large curving bay. Wrapped around the immense Monastery of St. John the Theologian lies the beautiful hilltop village, Hora. With its immaculate whitewashed houses and maze-like alleys, it is absolutely enchanting. The Monastery of St. John is well worth a visit and a nice walk up from the harbor for views from the hilltop village of Hora. Inside the monastery is the cave where St. John is said to have written his Book of Revelations. Explore the village of Hora and the many shops. There are a number of sandy tree-shaded beaches around the island. Psili Ammos is the best beach and is only accessible by boat.



PATMOS

DAY 5: After a leisurely breakfast, sail for **Lipsi**. In the small taverns and cafes here you will find interesting local delicacies such as traditionally produced thyme honey, wine, local cheeses, and grapes. Also to be found in the market are loom-woven fabrics, carpets and "fookadia", cloth pouches used to strain cheese. There are numerous small churches and monasteries dedicated to a multitude of saints scattered around the island. So many in fact, that the legend is that there is one church for each family in Lipsi. One that should not be missed is the church of Aghios Nektarios, built around 1980 by father Nikiforos, the parochial priest of Lipsi at the time, and a favorite baptistery for the inhabitants of the island.



LIPSI

Day 6: Cruise to the stunning island of **Kalimnos**. famous for its sponge diving tradition, Kalimnos is the 4th largest island in the Dodecanese chain. This is the ideal spot to buy the soft natural sponges for which this area is known. In the town of Pothia, visit one of the few remaining sponge factories in Greece to learn more about the gathering and processing of natural sponges as an age old industry. Kalimnos is also fantastic for swimming in the crystal clear waters along the many beaches and secluded anchorages along the coast.



KALIMNOS

DAY 7-8: Cruise the short distance to Turgutreis Port. A swimming stop at Karaincir on the way back to Bodrum harbour is optional. In the evening, Bodrum offers a world famous nightlife with bars and nightclubs to rival any of the best international hot spots.

Disembark in the morning.