

**North Aegean Islands – Samos – self-guided:
8-day hiking semitrekking with 6 walks
on the green island Samos
2024 (ASWM214I)**



Our hiking philosophy: active during the day, and in the afternoon a warm shower, a good meal and a comfortable bed in a small-scale accommodation.

We invite you to join us!

[more information: www.annahiking.nl](http://www.annahiking.nl)



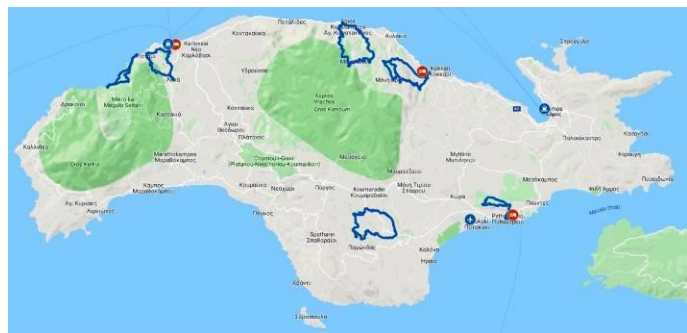
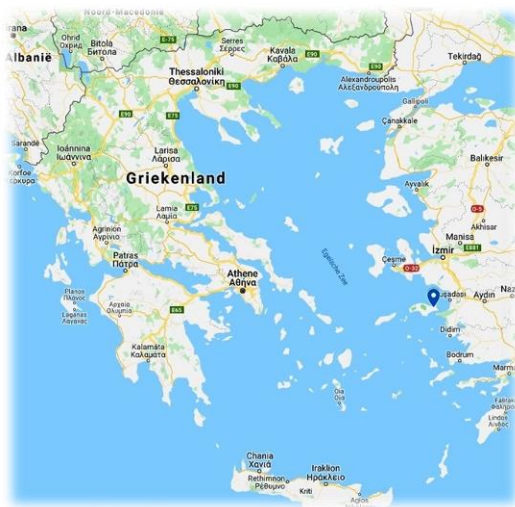
About AnnaHiking and S-Cape

In 1991 we visited Greece for the first time. Our love for the country, the culture, the climate, the food, the language and the Greek has grown ever since. We feel at home here and want to communicate this feeling to others.

Many people are familiar with the Greek “islands with beautiful beaches”. Many islands also boast a splendid inland with historical paths, ideal for hiking. Samos is such an island with much more on offer than beaches alone, and we’d love to introduce it to you.

Our agent S-Cape explored several hiking routes on Samos and described them in detail. As an individual traveller you’ll have these descriptions together with GPS-tracks and marked detailed maps, so you can find your way easily. The tour documentation also contains background information, tips for the best meals and several other useful trivia.

The tour location



General tour information

Samos belongs to the North Aegean islands and is situated in the Aegean Sea. It’s accessible through Athens by ferryboat (about 10 hours) or by airplane (through Athens or chartered flight).

You’ll stay in three locations on the island: Karlovasi, Kokkari and Pythagorion. The 3 locations of stay are all on the seaside, offering plenty of opportunities for a swim in the Aegean Sea.

Your trip starts in the north-west, in the coastal town Karlovasi from where you walk to picture perfect Potami Beach and the nearby dramatic waterfalls in a narrow canyon. Walking along the coast, you reach the deserted beaches of Mikro and Megalo Seitani, considered one of the island’s most idyllic beaches.

From the lively seaside resort Kokkari, you make two great walks through the famous nightingale valley, one of the greenest parts of Samos. In the old picturesque mountain villages of Manolates and Vourliotes you find a couple of cozy taverns for a rest.

You conclude your trip in Pythagorion in the south, which is named after the island’s most famous son, Pythagoras. On foot you discover the olive groves and orange fruits yards around Myli. Around Pythagorion you walk along and over the ancient city walls and may visit the impressive Efpalinos Tunnel, dating back to the 6th century BC. The lively cafés in



Pythagorion are the perfect spot to conclude this great holiday with a glass of famous local wine.

The walks are mostly via rocky footpaths, dirt roads and occasionally cobbled footpaths (kalderimia). The routes are waymarked. Most routes are about 4½ hours net walking time; sometimes you may choose from more options.

Though the island attracts tourists in the summer season, the paths are very quiet and you will not meet many hikers during the walks, except the popular waterfalls in Potami. Some mountain villages are lively with local cafés and a tavern, other villages don't offer any facilities. Most of the days you will be able to have lunch in a café or taverna; you may always take a packed lunch with you.

It's a tour for active people that desire peace and nature and enjoy both idyllic beaches and lively villages.



Trip highlights

- ❖ Exquisite beaches and turquoise waters at Potami and Seitani.
- ❖ Waterfalls in a canyon.
- ❖ Idyllic mountain villages in the nightingale valley.
- ❖ The aqueduct of Efpalinos, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Modular set-up: extensions/alterations/abbreviations

You may extend your stay in any of the accommodations of the tour.

You may rent a car on Samos; information is to be found in the roadbook. This will also allow you more freedom to explore the ancient sites near Pythagorion and drive to the starting points of the walks, who are all circular.

Of course you may combine the arrangement with (parts of) other tours we offer. We'll help you with the logistics.

For all your wishes: ask for an estimate!

About the North Aegean islands and Samos

The **North Aegean islands** are a number of disconnected islands in the north Aegean Sea, also known as the *Anatolian Aegean islands*, belonging to Greece and Turkey. The islands do not form a physical chain or group, but are frequently grouped together for tourist or administrative purposes.

The islands of the north Aegean were in such a position that shipping and trade contributed greatly to the development of a significant culture. The culture reaches its peak around 3000BC. The growth of settlements such as Iraiou in Samos forms evidence of the importance of these centers at this time.



The inhabitants of the islands were actively involved in the Greek War of Independence. However, due to their position close to the Asia Minor coast, the Turks did not let go of their hold on the islands easily. It was not until 1912 when the islands of the north Aegean were finally incorporated into the Greek state during the First Balkan War.

Samos is situated just off the coast of Turkey (“Asia Minor”), from which it is separated by the 1.6-kilometre wide Mycale Strait. The area of the island is 477 km² and it is 43 km long and 13 km wide. The island's population is 33,814, which is the 9th most populous of the Greek islands.

Samos' relief is dominated by two large mountains, Ampelos and Kerkis. The Ampelos massif (colloquially referred to as "Karvounis") is the larger of the two and occupies the center of the island, rising to 1,095 metres. Mt. Kerkis, though smaller in area is the taller of the two and its summit is the island's highest point, at 1,434 metres.

Samos is the birthplace of the Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras, after whom the Pythagorean theorem ($a^2+b^2=c^2$) is named, the philosopher Epicurus and the astronomer Aristarchus of Samos, the first known individual to propose that the Earth revolves around the sun.

You may visit the archeological site Pythagoreion, the sanctuary of Hera and the Efpalinian aqueduct, a tunnel of over a kilometer long and a marvel of ancient engineering. All these are part of a UNESCO world heritage site.

Samos is home to many surprising species including the golden jackal, stone marten, wild boar, flamingos and monk seal.

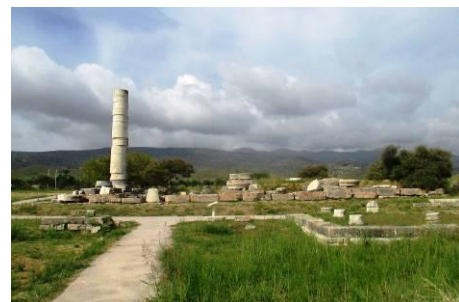
A great portion of the island is covered with vineyards, from which muscat wine is made. The Samian climate is typically Mediterranean, with mild rainy winters, and warm rainless summers. Samos is one of the sunniest places in Europe with almost 3300 hours of sunshine annually or 74% of the day time. Its climate is mild and wet in winter and dry in summer.

The accommodations

The package is available in tourist class and in upgraded hotel category. It is possible to combine both packages and use hotels of both categories; ask for an estimate.

The tourist hotel range is somewhat more standard and does not always have a swimming pool. The hotels are:

- **Karlovasi:** hotel Astir or similar, see www.astirofsamos.com
- **Kokkari:** hotel Athena or similar, see www.hotelathena-samos.gr
- **Pythagorion:** hotel Samaina or similar, see www.samaina-hotel-samos.com





The upgrade hotels are bigger, offers more luxury and have more facilities like a restaurant and a swimming pool with pool bar. The hotels are:

- **Karlovasi:** hotel Samaina Inn or similar, see www.samainahotels.gr/samaina-inn (including 3 dinners)
- **Kokkari:** hotel Arion or similar, see www.arion-hotel.com
- **Pythagorion:** hotel Lithos or similar, see www.lithos-hotel.gr

Booking

The arrangement may be booked with start date from 28 April until 9 October in the standard hotels, and from 1 May until 9 October in the upgrade hotels. May and mid-September/October are the best months to book your walking holiday on Samos. In July and August it may be quite hot.

Prices per person 2024

STANDARD CLASS CATEGORY



hotel Astir



hotel Athena



hotel Samaina

# of travellers	room type	28-4 / 7-5 26-9 / 9-10	8-5 / 4-7 1-9 / 25-9	5-7 / 31-8
travelling alone	single	€ 730	€ 825	€ 885
2 persons	twin or double	€ 455	€ 510	€ 550
2 persons	single	€ 635	€ 730	€ 785
3 persons	triple	€ 460	€ 515	€ 560
3 persons	double/twin + single	€ 485	€ 550	€ 595
3 persons	single	€ 605	€ 695	€ 755
4 persons	2 double/twin	€ 410	€ 460	€ 505

UPGRADE CLASS CATEGORY



hotel Samaina Inn



hotel Arion



hotel Lithos



# of travellers	room type	1-5 / 19-5	20-5 / 1-6 21-9 / 9-10	2-6 / 21-6	22-6 / 19-8	20-8 / 20-9
travelling alone	single	€ 1480	€ 1670	€ 1775	€ 1950	€ 1880
2 persons	twin or double	€ 780	€ 875	€ 930	€ 1015	€ 980
2 persons	single	€ 1385	€ 1575	€ 1675	€ 1855	€ 1785
3 persons	triple	€ 605	€ 650	€ 700	€ 745	€ 700
3 persons	double/twin + single	€ 950	€ 1075	€ 1145	€ 1265	€ 1215
3 persons	single	€ 1355	€ 1540	€ 1640	€ 1825	€ 1750
4 persons	2 double/twin	€ 635	€ 685	€ 745	€ 790	€ 745

Note:

- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- The dates apply to the start day of the tour.
- In the standard class category the price for triple room is even (somewhat) higher than for a double room. This is because the hotels Astir in Karlovasi and Samaina in Pythagorion don't have triple rooms. When 3 people book a triple room, in those two hotels they'll have a double/twin and single room.
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an 'overnight tax' is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tour organisations are not allowed by law to pay this tax.

The rates per room per night were until 2023: € 0,50 for 2*-hotels, € 1,50 for 3*-hotels, € 3,00 for 4*-hotels and € 4,00 for 5*-hotels.

It seems they'll be raised to: €1,50 for 2*-hotels, €3,00 for 3*-hotels, €7,00 for 4*-hotels and €10,00 for 5*-hotels.

Included

- 7 overnight stays including breakfast.
- IN THE UPGRADE CLASS: 3 DINNERS IN HOTEL SAMAINA INN.
- Hiking map of Samos; sent by post. If you live within the European Union we'll send it to your home address, otherwise the package will wait for you in the first accommodation.
- Detailed destination guide, route book and maps; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- GPS-tracks per walk, sent by WeTransfer.
- Use of the Active Nav app for navigation with your smartphone.
- Transfer from airport to Karlovasi and from Pythagorion to airport. *(If a rental car is booked from the airport, a discount of €65 per booking is valid.)*
- Booking fee and telephone assistance.

Not included

- Flight/ferry and other travel expenses to Samos: see below.
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Insurances.
- Transfers to the start and from the end of the walks, between accommodations and all other transfers not mentioned in the program. Should you always travel by bus, the cost would be around €20 p.p. for the transfers in the program.
- Everything else not mentioned under "included".



Prebooked extra's and discounts

- Taxi Karlovasi-Kokkari: €44 per taxi (until 4 persons).
- Taxi Kokkari-Pythagorion: €44 per taxi (until 4 persons).
- Discount if you use a (rental) car from and to the airport: €65 per booking.

How to reach Samos

By airplane

There are charter flights from most European countries and domestic flights from Athens. Check out the website of Samos Airport (<https://www.smi-airport.gr/en>) for details. The transfer from Samos Airport to Karlovasi is included in the package. If you opt for a rental car for the duration of the trip, there is a reduction (see Dates and prices per person).

By ferry

Samos is served by several ferries to Karlovasi (start location of this trip), Vathy and Pythagorion. From Piraeus (Athens) to Karlovasi port is app. 10 hours (cabins on board). Itineraries in low season app. 3 times per week and in high season almost daily.

There is no connection from Pythagorion to Piraeus! Ferries from Pythagorion are to Patmos, Kusadasi (Turkey) and some nearby islands only.

There are ferries from Vathy to Piraeus, 3-4 times per week. Duration of the trip is app. 10 hours and there are cabins on board.

Luggage

You carry a day pack with water, lunch, warm and rainproof clothing, possibly swimming gear, items for personal care, binoculars/camera etc.

The remaining luggage stays in the accommodation. You'll travel to the next location by public bus or taxi and take your luggage with you to the next accommodation.



In the tour documentation you'll receive before departure you'll find a list with essential and advised items.



Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately. Mind: the elevation profiles are not all on the same scale!)

Note: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Day 1: Arrival in Samos

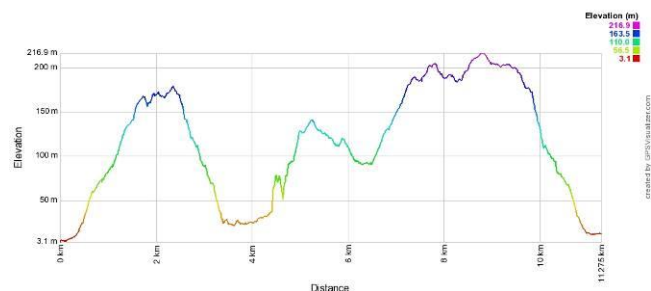


After your arrival at Samos airport a taxi will take you in about 1 hour to Karlovasi. This town on the north coast is often called the ‘ugly duckling’ of Samos referring to the abandoned warehouses and tanneries: remains of a rich trading history during the early 1900’s. But behind this façade there is a lively town with a unique character. The Aegean University contributes to the lively spirit.

Near your hotel is the neighbourhood of Meseo Karlovasi with a lovely village square to sit for food and drinks.

overnight stay: Karlovasi

Day 2: Circular walk via Potami beach and Leka (GR00192)



Leaving the port of Karlovasi behind you, you ascend via a beautiful paved track (so-called kalderimi) to Old Karlovasi, built well-hidden for pirates behind a hill top. You may have a Greek coffee at a local café, before continuing your walk. Through dense forest you reach the cave of Agios Antonios where you find a chapel deep inside the cave.

Next stop is at Potami beach from where you head inland, along the oldest Byzantine church of Samos, to the waterfalls. You may want to reach the actual waterfalls by walking inside the cold waters! The walk continues uphill through dense vegetation and vineyards to the tiny settlement Agios Panteleimonas with its refreshing spring. The view from the shaded town



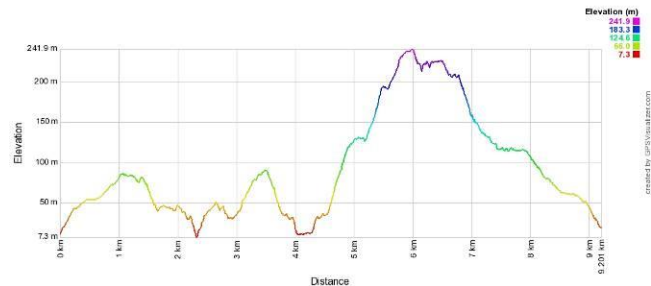
square in Leka over Karlovasi is overwhelming. You cross Old Karlovasi once more on your way back down to the coast.

walking time/distance: 4h / 11,5km

ascent/descent: 400m

overnight stay: Karlovasi

Day 3: Circular walk from Potami to Seitani Beaches (GR00193)



Today's walk starts in Potami beach that you reach by taxi or on foot. The coastal walk is via narrow trails, sometimes high above the sea. First you reach the pebbled beach of Mikro Seitani and then the sandy beach of Megalo Seitani, declared a Natura 2000 protected area.

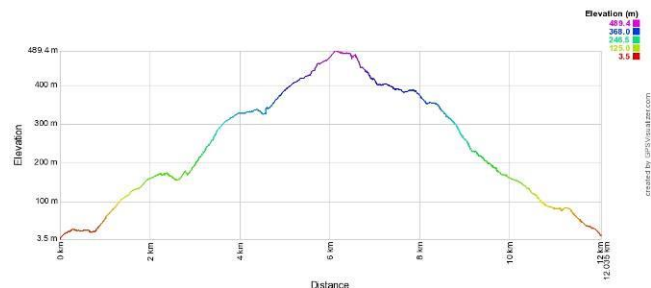
After a refreshing swim the walk continues inland along numerous olive groves. From a view point you can admire the gorge that widens to the beach of Mikro Seitani. Back in Potami, you can relax on the beach and transfer back to Karlovasi, or even walk back all the way.

walking time/distance: 3,5h / 9,2km

ascent/descent: 380m

overnight stay: Karlovasi

Day 4: To Kokkari, circular walk Vouliotes and Vronta monastery (GR00194)



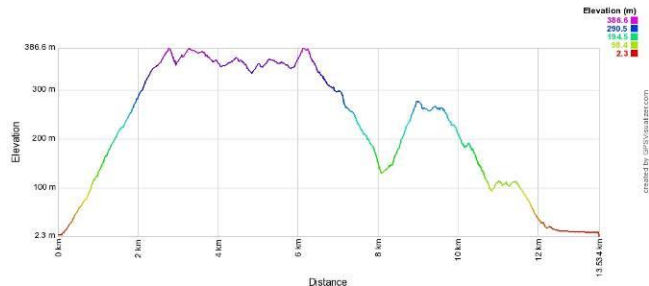
In the morning you travel by taxi or local bus to Kokkari. For more comfort you can prebook a taxi transfer.

famous and likely the most-walked hiking route of Samos. It is a great loop walk from Kokkari that crosses beautiful forest landscape with stunning views over Kokkari, Vathy and the Turkish coastline and passes through the picturesque village Vouliotes. Optionally you make a small detour to the historic monastery of Vronta, built in 1566, burned in 1999 and nowadays almost completely restored again.



walking time/distance: 4,5h / 13,0km
 ascent/descent: 480m
 overnight stay: Kokkari

Day 5: Circular walk from Agios Konstantinos (GR00195)



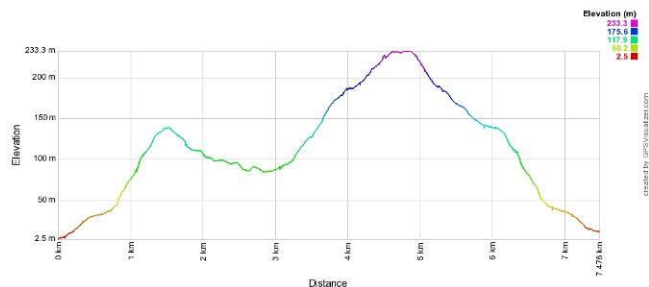
The route of today starts in nearby village Agios Konstantinos that you reach by local bus or taxi.

From the small port you ascend through the traditional village of Ano (Upper) Agios Konstantinos, where you head further south via a beautiful intact cobbled path. Via terraced fields, vineyards and olive groves you reach the village of Stavrinides. Further eastwards you come to one of the most picturesque villages of Samos: Manolates. After a refreshing drink in a local café, the route continues towards Vouliotes. Through dense vegetation and welcomed shade, you reach the chapel of Agios Spyridonas from where you have a spectacular view of Manolates. The walk concludes with a pleasant descent through olive groves and forest of pine trees to Agios Konstantinos.

By bus or taxi you head back to Kokkari.

walking time/distance: 4,5h / 13,5km
 ascent/descent: 500m
 overnight stay: Kokkari

Day 6: To Pythagorion, circular walk to Ancient City walls (GR00197)



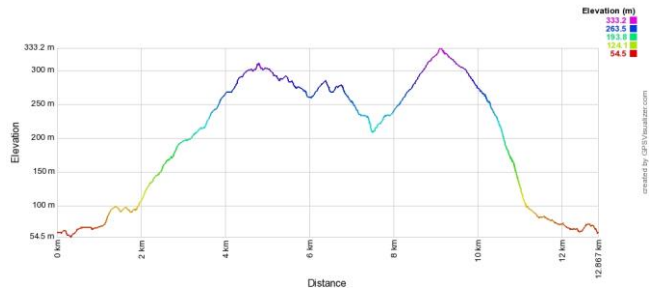
In the morning you travel by taxi or local bus with a stop over in the capital town Vathy to Pythagorion. For more comfort you can prebook a taxi transfer.

There are several options to spend your afternoon. You may enjoy time on the lovely sandy beaches nearby, visit the archaeological museum in Pythagorion, go and explore the 1 km long Eupalinos aquaduct built in the 6th century BC or make a round walk over Mt. Kastro and the ancient city walls.



walking time/distance: 2,5h / 7,5km
ascent/descent: 250m
overnight stay: Pythagorion

Day 7: Circular walk from Myli (GR00196)



You take a taxi to the nearby village of Myli from where you start today's long hike, exploring the rural landscape around Myli. There is a remarkable ancient olive tree of about 2500 years old that has a trunk with a diameter of 3,5 meter! Luckily it was saved from the devastating forest fires of 2000 by the locals. It is impressive to see how this area turned to a lush green hillside in the past 2 decades!

Definitely worth visiting is the Byzantine Monastery of Megali Panagia near the village Koumaradei from where you have great views over the plain of Chora to the south. After your return in Myli, you take a taxi back to Pythagorion.

walking time/distance: 4,5h / 13,0km
ascent/descent: 340m
overnight stay: Pythagorion

Day 8: Departure from Samos



After breakfast you will be transferred to the nearby airport of Samos by taxi and your arrangement comes to an end.