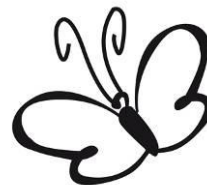




AnnaHiking

Actieve vakanties in Griekenland

www.annahiking.nl



**Island-hopping Dodekanese:
15-day hiking tour on
Kos, Kalymnos, Leros and Patmos
2024 (DKWH214I)**

Also bookable as 8-day tour Kos and Leros



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



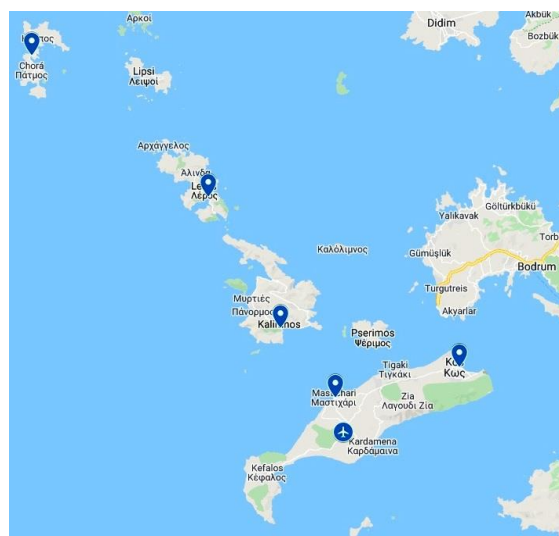
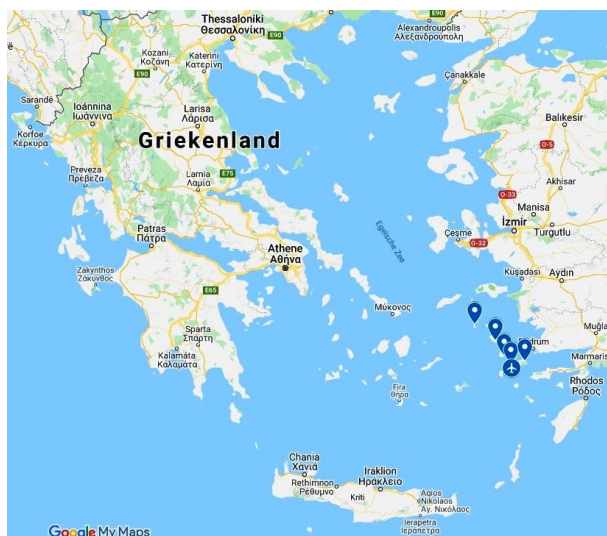
About AnnaHiking and Omega Bike & Hike

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, ideal to explore by bike. The Dodekanese islands have so much more on offer than beaches alone, and we’d love to introduce them to you.

Our agent Omega Bike & Hike designed a wonderful hiking tour on 4 of the islands. They are on the spot and very competent and we gladly put you in their care.

The tour location



General tour information

The islands Kos, Kalymnos, Leros and Patmos are situated in the south-east part of the Aegean Sea, just out of the Turkish west coast. The region is well known for its moderate climate. The islands are surprisingly green and due to numerous unpaved paths perfectly suitable for hiking.

Kos has an airport and may be reached by charter flights. The other islands are reached by one of the many ferry connections.

The first 3 nights are spent on Kos in the village Mastichari. Here you make a couple of walks, f.i. to a forest with half-wild peacocks. On the 4th day you sail to Kalymnos, island of the sponge-divers. On day 6 you proceed to Leros, where you’ll spend 3 nights in the harbour town Lakki. Then you go to Patmos, the spiritual island. You’ll walk along the cave where the evangelist John wrote the bible book Apocalyps and along all other connecting sanctuaries. After 3 nights you return to Kos, where you’ll stay another 3 nights in the capital Kos Town.

Most walks are 3½ to 5 hour net walking time. The paths and country roads generally are in good condition. There may be loose stones though and some parts may be steep.

We thus recommend you to start the tour well trained and prepared with well worn-in ankle-high walking boots.





It's a tour for people who seek a variety of islands and like to explore the inner land by foot.

Modular set-up: extensions/abbreviations

The arrangement can be extended with free days in every accommodation.

For a shorter time we also offer an [8-day tour on Kos and Leros](#). You may also make your own selection from the islands, as long as you start and finish on Kos because of the flight. We'll gladly do a tailor-made program for you.

You may proceed to the neighbouring island [Rhodes](#), where we offer a bike tour. You may then fly back from Rhodes.

With the nightboat you may sail to the [Cyclades](#) (Santorini). From Santorini lot of other ferries connect you to the other Cyclades. Here we offer several hiking tours.

Finally you can 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 Kos

Kos is a long and narrow island (290 km², 25.000 inhabitants). This lovely green island is the third in size in the Dodekanesos archipel. It is situated in the Aegean Sea, close to the Turkish coast, north-west of Rhodes and south-east of Samos.

The north-east is a fertile plane, which mostly contributes to Kos' reputation as hiking and biking paradise.

South you'll find the Dikeos, a well-sized mountain with it's summit at 846m. Here are only unpaved roads and a hiking path towards the summit. In the forests on the slopes you'll find a wide variety of birds.

To the west is an old plateau, at 100-150m above sea level, with deep gorges. It's partly in use for agriculture (cereals) but the largest part is wild. In one of the gorges is a lovely forest (Plaka, see walk 2) where half-wild peacocks roam about. The utmost west is the accidented peninsula Kefalos with a 426m summit.



Kos has magnificent beaches. Apart from the beaches around the plateau you'll find splendid beaches at the northern coast between Kos Town and Mastichari. These are the beaches which attract the majority of tourists. Except from some agriculture tourism is the sole means of existence.

The coastal area of Kos is an important breeding place for several kinds of sea turtles, amongst whom the protected *Caretta caretta*.

During history Kos always prospered. Hippocrates, the founder of medicine, is from Kos. Graduated physicians still pledge the oath of Hippocrates and his symbol, Aesculapius' staff (the snake around a cup) is still the symbol of medicine. Aesculapius' staff is named after Asklipios, god of medicine). To him the Asklipion temple was dedicated; this is the most important excavation on Kos from ancient times.

About Kalymnos

Kalymnos (111 km², 16.000 inhabitants) is a moderate sized island with relatively many inhabitants, who almost all live in Kalymnos Town or Pothia, or in the old capital Chora.



Apart from some small villages and the oasis Vathy the island is uninhabited and barren. Just these contrasts between barren and inhabited and the small green patches make Kalymnos special. The irregular coast line causes many blue coves. Pothia is a lovely situated and still not touristic town; not many of those in the Aegean!

The island attracts very little tourists, only some on the west coast, due to lack of an airport and vast beaches. It does have day tourists, mostly from Kos. They stay in the capital, looking for traces of Pothia's rich history as centre of sponge diving. Nowadays not many sponges are left and the few remaining are of sore quality. Some inhabitants are still divers, but just out of the Lybian coast or even outside of the Mediterranean.



About Leros

Leros (53 km², 8.000 inhabitants) is situated just north of Kalymnos, but the contrast with it's neighbour is vast. Where Kalymnos is rough and barren, Leros is green and hilly.

Leros has a bizarre coast line. Two deep inlets form natural harbours: Lakki in the south-west and Agia Marina in the east. The larger ferries port in Lakki, while the catamarans of Seaways port in Agia Marina (Express) or Lakki (Pride).



Leros, Artemis' island, is foremost a hiking island. On the way you enjoy the small-scale landscape and the marvellous views on the irregular coast. The capital is Platanos, dominated by the Kastro.

Lakki is a bit strange because in Italian times it was the garrison town and since the Italians left, it deteriorated.

In history Leros acquired a bad reputation as leprosy colony and later as dumping place for psychiatric patients. Nowadays the island deserves more appreciation as a place where tourists are the minority and staying is pleasant.

About Patmos

Patmos (34 km², 3.400 inhabitants) is situated north-west of Leros and south of Samos. Like Leros it's an amoeba-shaped island with numerous inlets and coves.

Patmos is also called the Holy Island. It's full of big and small monasteries and countless churches and chapels, built mostly in honour of the evangelist John. He was supposed to have written the Apocalyps here. The two most important monasteries are built in this remembrance.

Above Chora the great Johanniter monastery stands out; from a distance it looks more like a castle. A little lower on the slope you see the Spileo monastery where the Apocalyps was supposedly written.

Chora is one of the most picturesque villages on the Dodekanese islands. The white cubic houses are draped around the Johanniter





monastery on the hill and remind you of the Cyclades. West of Chora is the green valley of Kambi and east of that the beach village Grikos.

Skala, the harbour village, is situated on the neck of land in the middle of Patmos; the island is not even 1 kilometer wide here! In the northern part of Patmos is only one village: Kambos. Paved and unpaved roads and paths take you to the remote beaches, of course each provided with at least one chapel.

The accommodations

During the tour you'll stay in mid-class hotels (2** or 3**), all rooms with en-suite bathroom. In Kos Town the accommodation is more luxury. Keep in mind that shower curtains and provisions to hang the shower head are not standard in Greece.

Should the mentioned hotel not be available, we'll accommodate you in similar hotel.

The first hotel is [Sea Breeze](#) in Mastichari. It's situated at the sea front and at 300m from the port of call for the ferry to Kalymnos.

On Kalymnos you'll stay in the small-scale hotel [Panorama](#). It's situated a bit higher on the slope giving you a splendid view over the town and the harbour.

On Leros you'll stay in hotel [Bianco](#) in Lakki. It's situated close to the sea with lots of cosy tavernas nearby.

On Patmos you'll stay in hotel [Hellinis](#), at the sea front and at 1km of the centre of Skala, the harbour town. From the hospitable and comfortable hotel you oversee the harbour and the white village Chora on the hill.

For your overnight stay in Kos Town at the end of the tour you have two options. Standard is the 4*-hotel [Alexandra](#), with swimming pool, situated close to the inner port, 1 kilometer from the ferry landing. For upgrade you may choose the more luxury 4-* hotel [Aktis Art](#), at the sea front (at the boulevard), with swimming pool, 750 from the ferry landing. See the price table.

Breakfast is included and served in the hotel. As a rule breakfast time is between 8 and 10, but check the service at the hotel reception. Should you want to have your breakfast earlier because you want to make an early start, ask the reception for the possibilities.

Booking

The arrangement may be booked from 21 April until 30 June and from 22 August until 20 October (last departure 3 November!). Keep in mind that availability is very limited around Greek holidays (Easter, Pentecost) unless you book very early. We don't offer the tour in summer because of possible heat and complete full accommodations.

Prices per person 2024

<i>Kos Town Alexandra hotel (standard accommodation)</i>	double/twin	single travelling 2 pax	solo
21-4 / 20-6	€ 735	€ 1185	€ 1265
21-6 / 30-6	€ 775	€ 1270	€ 1350
22-8 / 4-9	€ 890	€ 1520	€ 1600
5-9 / 19-9	€ 775	€ 1270	€ 1350
20-9 / 20-10	€ 735	€ 1185	€ 1265



<i>Kos Town Aktis Art hotel (upgrade accommodatie)</i>	double/twin	single travelling 2 pax	solo
21-4 / 18-5	€ 825	€ 1270	€ 1350
19-5 / 17-6	€ 960	€ 1520	€ 1600
18-6 / 30-6	€ 1170	€ 1870	€ 1950
22-8 / 19-9	€ 960	€ 1520	€ 1600
20-9 / 20-10	€ 825	€ 1270	€ 1350

NB:

- Price is per person, flight excluded.
- The dates apply to the start day of the tour.
- From January 1st 2018 in Greece an 'overnight tax' is applicable. This tax has to be paid at check-in at your accommodation. Tourorganisations 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 lifted to: €1,50 for 2*-hotels, €3,00 for 3*-hotels, €7,00 for 4*-hotels and €10,00 for 5*-hotels.

Start and end of tour: Kos airport

Included

- 14 overnight stays including breakfast.
- Transfer from the airport to Mastichari (day 1) and from Kos Town to the airport (day 15).
- Luggage transfers on Kalymnos, Leros and Patmos from and to the harbour.
- Transfers on Kalymnos and Leros from and to the harbour.
- Transfer on dag 7 (Leros) from Lakki to Agios Isidoros.
- Detailed roadbook and maps; digital, sent by WeTransfer, to be printed by you at your own wishes.
- GPS tracks per hike: sent by WeTransfer.
- Telephone assistance and reservation fees.

Not included

- Flight and insurances.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Ferry tickets (around €91, price 12/12/2022, depending on available ferries).
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Bus tickets, taxis and other transfers other then mentioned under 'included'.
- Everything else not mentioned under "included".

About the transfers

You'll be picked up at the airport and brought back to the airport at the end of the tour. This is included.

Transfers between the islands are by ferry. The fare is at your own cost.

The hotels on Kos (Mastichari and Kos Town) are so close to the harbour that a luggage transfer is not necessary, if you use a wheeled trunk or backpack which enables you to move about easily. Otherwise you may take a taxi (not included).





The distances are:

- In Mastichari 300 meter from the hotel to the boat.
- In Kos Stad 1200 or 900 meter from the boat to the hotel.

On Kalymnos, Leros and Patmos your luggage will be transferred from and to the harbour. On Kalymnos and Leros you may drive with your luggage. This is included in the price. The walking distance is 800-1200 meter.

Note! You'll take your own luggage to and from the ferry. Luggage transport starts and ends at the quay.

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 or is transferred.





Day to day program

(You can download the elevation profiles separately.)

Note 1: walking times mentioned are net times without breaks.

Note 2: the elevation profiles are not all on the same scale.

Day 1: Arrival on Kos (DKWH01)

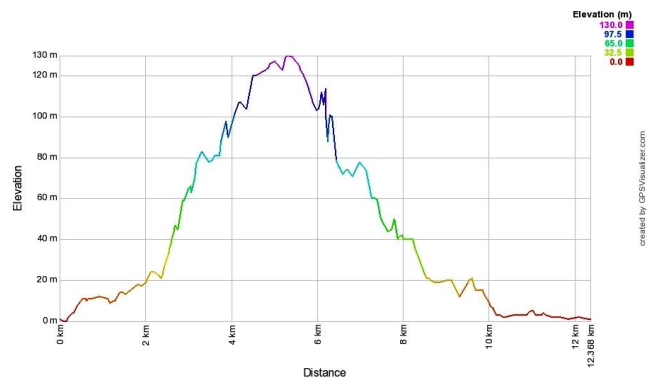


You fly to Kos. By taxi (included) you'll travel the 7km to the village Mastichari. It's a small seaside village with golden beaches and a lively ferry port.

You'll stay in Hotel Sea Breeze, at the sea front. The hotel is run by Kostas, his wife Eleni and their daughters. Within 100m from the hotel you'll find several tasteful restaurants.

overnight stay: Kos Mastichari

Day 2: Kos – circular walk Mastichari and beach (DKWH02)



From Mastichari two hiking routes are available, so you may reverse the order of day 2 and 3.

The program shows you first the shortest route: a circular tour from the accommodation. You explore the hills and fields and end with a beach walk.

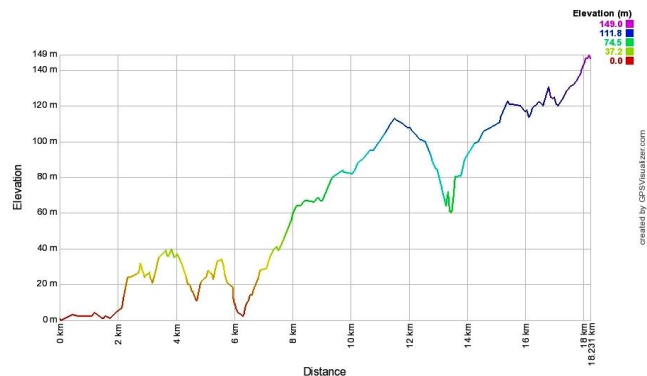
walking time/distance: 3h30' / 12,4km

ascent/descent: 150m

overnight stay: Kos Mastichari



Day 3: Kos – walk Mastichari-Plaka-Andimachia (DKWH03)



Today you make the longer walk from Mastichari. First you hike to the Plaka forest where half-wild peacocks dwell. Then you continue to Andimachia. In the village you'll find a splendid mill and you may visit a traditional house.

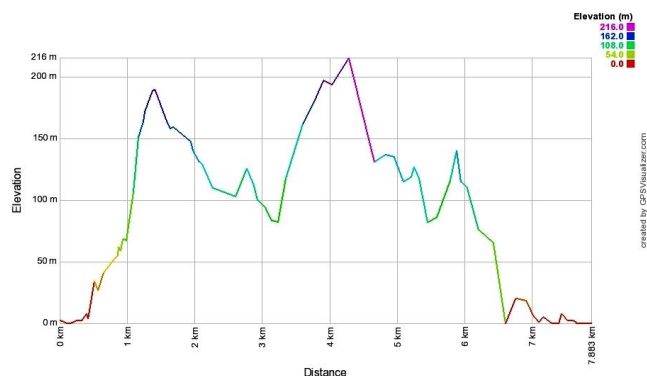
From Andimachia you take the public bus or a taxi back to Mastichari (own cost). If you're so inclined, you may also walk back to Mastichari. This will take you 1½ hour and it's not in the elevation profile.

walking time/distance: 5h / 18,2km

ascent/descent: 250m / 100m

overnight stay: Kos Mastichari

Day 4: To Kalymnos, walk Sava monastery (DKWH04)



The local ferry to Kalymnos ports directly opposite of your hotel. If you take the 9 o'clock boat, you'll be in your Kalymnos hotel around 10. You'll stay in hotel Panorama with indeed magnificent view over the harbour village Pothia.

There's ample time for the walk to the Sava monastery. The monastery contains several orthodox churches and chapels and is situated on a hilltop. Past the monastery you'll wander by narrow paths through the rough landscape back to Pothia. You may shorten the walk to 1½ hour if you return directly from the monastery.

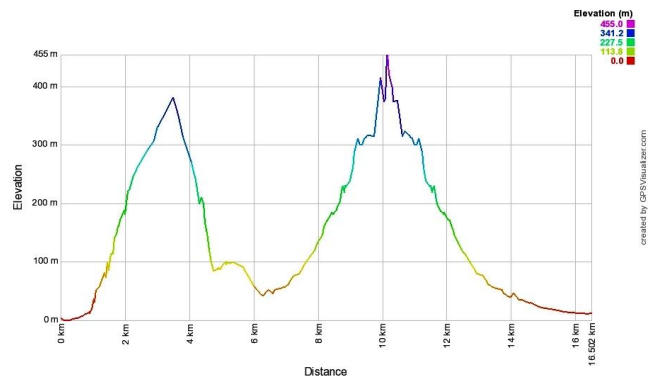
walking time/distance: 3h30' / 8km

ascent/descent: 400m

overnight stay: Kalymnos Pothia



Day 5: Kalymnos – walk Pothia-Kyra Psili chapel-Vathi (DKWH05)



Kalymnos is a beautiful barren island, with the oasis of Vathi as sharp contrast. This is the aim of today's walk, starting upwards through the alleys of Pothia. From the town edge you'll follow an old mule path to a mountain ridge.

On the ridge you go back and forth to the high chapel of Kyra Psili ("High Lady"); you may skip this detour and so save 2 hours walking time. Then you descend into the green oasis. The walk ends in the small harbour of Vathi, Rina, situated at a cove. You'll return to Pothia by public bus (own cost).

walking time/distance: 5h / 16,5km (withoug Kyra Psili chapel: 3h / 9,5km)

ascent/descent: 800m (without Kyra Psili chapel: 400m)

overnight stay: Kalymnos Pothia

Day 6: To Leros (DKWH06)

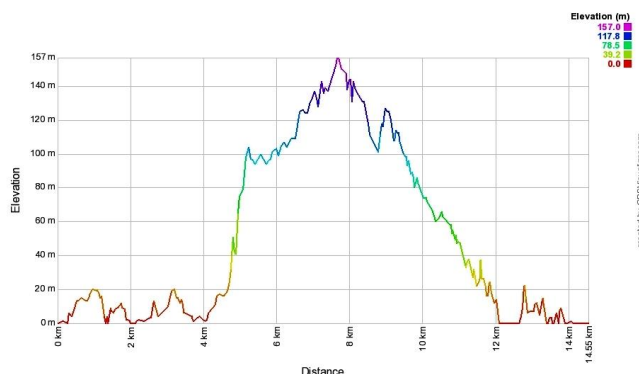


Between Kalymnos and Leros is a daily service (sometimes even twice per day) by fast catamaran. On Leros you'll stay in Lakki in Hotel Bianco. The hotel is situated close to the sea front with many cosy restaurants nearby.

overnight stay: Leros Lakki



Day 7: Leros – walk Agios Isidoros chapel-Lakki (DKWH07)



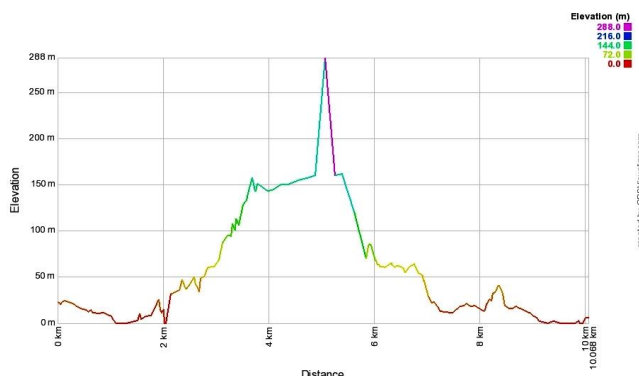
Also on Leros you'll may to walks. Today's walk starts with a transfer to Agios Isidoros (included), a chapel on a rock in the sea. You first walk along the coast, then through the hills past remote chapels and you end at the imposing bay of Lakki.

walking time/distance: 4h / 15km

ascent/descent: 200m

overnight stay: Leros Lakki

Day 8: Leros – walk Tourtouras (DKWH08)



For the Tourtouras walk you'll take the public bus to Xirokambos (not included). The walk follows the flanks of the Tourtouras mountain with an optional climb to the top, without path. At the summit a splendid panorama awaits you. You may skip the climb. Along narrow roads you walk back to Lakki.

walking time/distance: 3h45' / 10km (without summit: 3h / 9km)

ascent/descent: 300m (without summit: 150m)

overnight stay: Leros Lakki



Day 9: To Patmos (DKWH09)

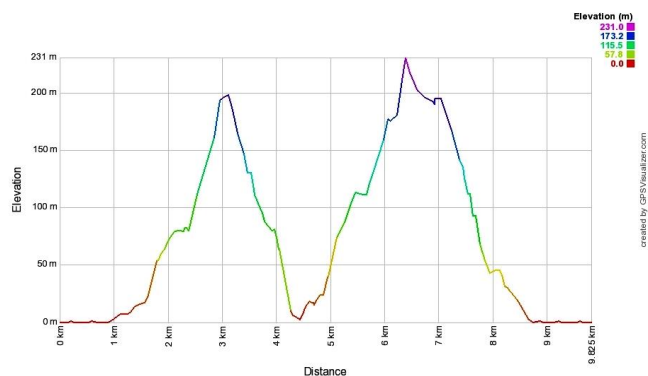


Also between Leros and Patmos an almost daily catamaran service exists. Besides there are the slower local ferries Nisos Kalymnos, Patmos Star and Anna Express.

On Patmos you'll stay in Skala, the port, in hotel Hellinis. The hotel is situated directly on the sea front and 1 kilometer from the centre of Skala.

overnight stay: Patmos Skala

Day 10: Patmos – loop walk ‘apostle John’ (DKWH10)



The most important walk on Patmos consists of two loop walks in the form of an “8” from Skala. Both loops make up for 2 hours net walking time. Especially the first loop has many points of interest.

Patmos is called the holy island because evangelist John wrote the book Revelations (Apocalyps) here. All sanctuaries concerning this process are situated on the walking route.

First you pass the cave monastery where the Apocalyps was supposedly written. Then you walk to the former capital Chora with a large Johanniter monastery, from a distance resembling a castle. The city is made of white plastered buildings including many churches, chapels and monasteries.

The second loop descends from Chora to the green west coast and ascends along the large Evangelismos monastery back to Chora. You may also do the walk in two days, then you do the second loop tomorrow.

walking time/distance: 4h / 10km

ascent/descent: 450m

overnight stay: Patmos Skala



Day 11: Walk Patmos of your own choice (DKWH11)



Had you done only one loop of the Evangelist John walk the day before, you may do the second loop today. In that case you take the public bus from Skala to Chora and back after the walk.

In your information package you'll find an overview of the other marked walks on Patmos. You may choose one of these, following the map. Amongst others there's a short circular walk from Skala or a longer one from Vagia.

overnight stay: Patmos Skala

Day 12: Back to Kos, city walk (DKWH12)



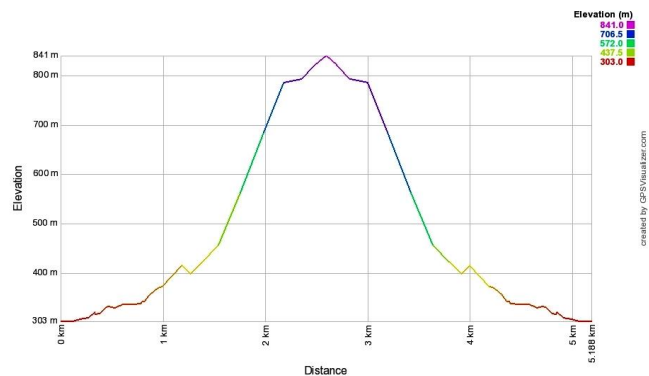
The fast catamaran will take you past Leros and Kalymnos to Kos Town. You'll stay in hotel Triton or similar.

Upon arrival you may do the described city walk along all places of interest from the ancient, Turkish and Italian times.

overnight stay: Kos Town



Day 13: Kos – walk Zia-Dikeos summit (DKWH13)



For this most elaborate walk you'll take the public bus (or taxi or rental car) to Zia. The lovely village has unfortunately become very touristic, but you immediately leave the village for an almost alpine walk on a mediterranean island.

A mountain path takes you in 1½ hour to the second highest summit of Kos, the Dikeos. You'll admire views until Kalymnos in the north and Nisyros in the south. A 1 hour walk brings you back to Zia.

walking time/distance: 2h30' / 5,2km

ascent/descent: 550m

overnight stay: Kos Town

Day 14: Kos – bike tour Asklepio or excursion to Bodrum or Rhodes (DKWH14)



No lack of bicycle rentals on Kos! In your tour documentation you'll find the description for a circular tour of 20km along the coast and through the hilly innerland, with a visit to the famous excavations of the Asklepion. You may extend the tour with 18km to make a detour along the coast to the sulphur baths of Thermi and back.

Another option is an excursion to Bodrum (Turkey) or Rhodes. Both cities have a beautiful historic centre, protected by UNESCO. In Kos you may book several ferries or day tours.

overnight stay: Kos Town

Day 15: Departure from Kos (DKWH15)

Should your return flight be late in the afternoon, you may make a bike tour today.

You'll be transferred from the hotel to the airport. Should you leave by boat to another island, you walk to the port yourself.