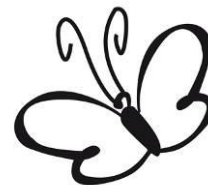




AnnaHiking

Actieve vakanties in Griekenland

www.annahiking.nl



Dodekanese islands: Kos and Leros 8-day hiking tour on Kos and Leros 2024 (DKWH224I)

May be extended with Kalymnos and Patmos



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)



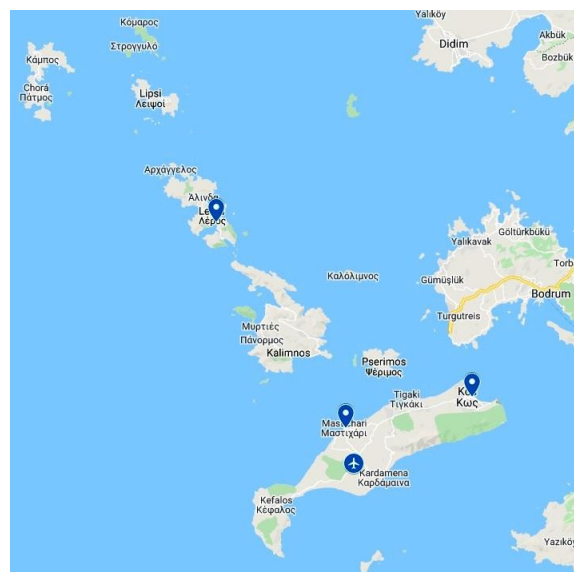
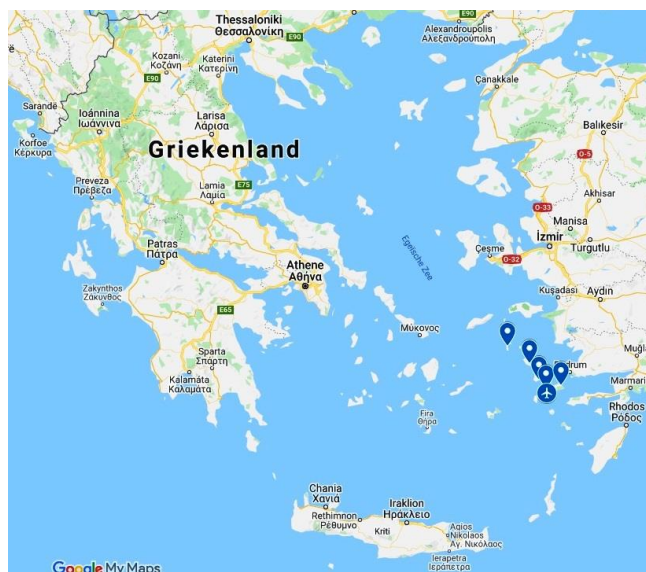
About AnnaHiking and Omega Bike & Hike

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 Kos and Leros. 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 and Leros 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. Leros is reached by one of the many ferry connections.

The first 2 nights are spent on Kos in the village Mastichari. On the 3th day you sail via Kalymnos, island of the sponge-divers, to Leros. On Kalymnos you have a short stop-over to taste the atmosphere of the island and maybe make a short walk. On Leros you'll spend 3 nights in the harbour town Lakki. You return to Kos, where you'll stay another 2 nights in the capital Kos Town.

The 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.

We also offer a 15-day tour [Kos, Kalymnos, Leros and Patmos](#), which in its turn may also be shortened. You might f.i. opt for 3 of the 4 islands.

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 its 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 Asklepios, god of medicine). To him the Askleion temple was dedicated; this is the most important excavation on Kos from ancient times.

About Leros

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



Leros has a bizar 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 lepre 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.

The accommodations

During the tour you'll stay in mid-class hotels (2** of 3***), all rooms with en-suite bathroom. 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 a 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 Leros you'll stay in hotel [Bianco](#) in Lakki. It's situated close to the sea with lots of cosy tavernas nearby.

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 in the period from 21 April until 7 July and from 22 August until 29 October 2023 (last outgoing flight 3/11). Keep in mind that availability is limited around Greek holidays (Easter, Pentecost) unless you book very early. We don't offer the tour in mid summer because of possible heat and complete full accommodations.



Prices per person 2024

Kos Town Alexandra hotel (standard accommodation)	double/twin	single travelling 2 pax	solo
21-4 / 25-4	€ 455	€ 730	€ 810
26-4 / 7-7	€ 490	€ 800	€ 880
8-7 / 21-8	NOT BOOKABLE		
22-8 / 10-9	€ 525	€ 870	€ 950
11-9 / 25-9	€ 490	€ 800	€ 880
26-9 / 27-10	€ 455	€ 730	€ 810

Kos Town Aktis Art hotel (upgrade accommodatie)	double/twin	single travelling 2 pax	solo
21-4 / 25-5	€ 525	€ 795	€ 875
26-5 / 24-6	€ 600	€ 945	€ 1025
25-6 / 7-7	€ 705	€ 1110	€ 1190
8-7 / 21-8	NOT BOOKABLE		
22-8 / 26-8	€ 705	€ 1110	€ 1190
27-8 / 25-9	€ 600	€ 945	€ 1025
26-9 / 27-10	€ 525	€ 795	€ 875

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

- 7 overnight stays including breakfast.
- Transfer from the airport to Mastichari (day 1) and from Kos Town to the airport (day 8).
- Transfers on Leros from and to the harbour.
- Transfer on day 5 (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.
- Luggage transport and transfers according to the program.
- Telephone assistance and reservation fees.

Not included

- Flight and insurances.
- Ferry tickets (around €64, price 12/12/2022, depending on available ferries).
- Lunches, diner, drinks and other personal expenses.
- Overnight tax (see above).
- Bus tickets, taxis and other transfers not 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 always 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 Leros your luggage will be transferred from and to the harbour; you walk (800-1200 meter). Should the Leros boat port in Agia Marina you'll travel with your luggage transport to the hotel (4km); this is included.

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 (DKWH20)



From Mastichari two hiking routes are available. The shorter is a loop through the hills and fields and ends with a beach walk.

The longer route takes you to 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.

	<u>hills and beach loop</u>	<u>to Andimachia</u>
walking time/distance	3h30' / 12,4km	5h / 18,2km
ascent/descent:	150m	250m / 100m
overnight stay:	Kos Mastichari	



Day 3: Via Kalymnos to Leros, optional walk on Kalymnos (DKWH21)

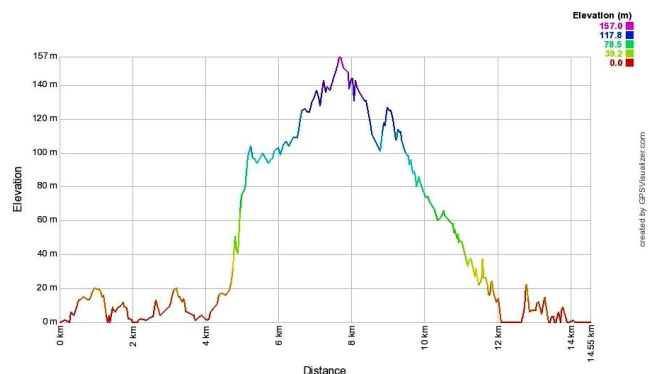


The local ferry to Kalymnos ports directly opposite of your hotel. On Kalymnos you take the connecting ferry to Leros, which usually departs late in the morning. You'll have a short stop-over on Kalymnos and may take a taste of the atmosphere in the capital Pothia. This used to be the most important harbour for sponge-diving in Europe.

Some days the boat for Leros departs mid-afternoon. In that case you might have time to make a short walk to the Sava monastery (1½ or 3½ hours). 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 4: 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.

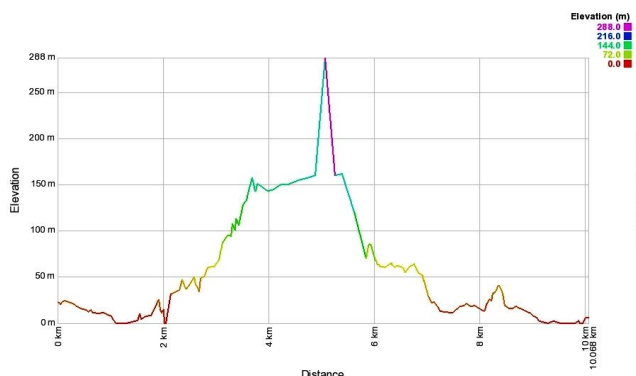
walking time/distance: 4h / 15km

ascent/descent: 200m

overnight stay: Leros Lakki



Day 5: 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 6: Walk Leros castle, to Kos, city walk (DKWH23)



In the morning you can make a walk to the interesting castle of Leros and pay it a visit. You climb towards the castle through narrow alleys. You may take the same way back or descend past the photogenic windmills and the bay of Pandeli.

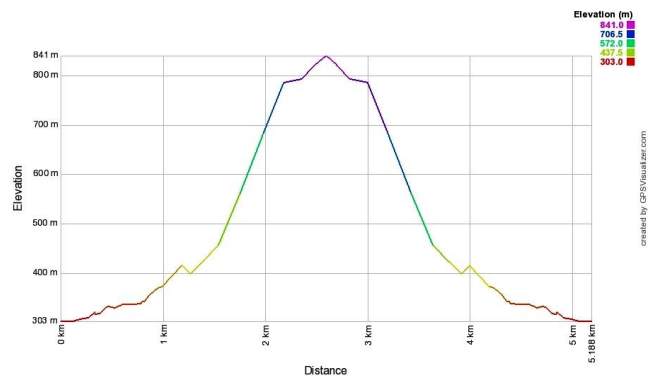
The fast catamaran will take you past Leros and Kalymnos to Kos Town. You'll stay in hotel Triton or similar.

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 7: 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 8: Departure from Kos, optional bike tour Asklepio (DKWH24)



Should you have a late flight, you may make a bike tour.

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.

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