



The Greek Dodecanese Islands Convention Tour: Kos & Rhodes

11 days

When it comes to island-hopping in Greece, the Dodecanese offer a captivating blend of sun-soaked serenity and ancient splendor. On this Convention Tour, explore the region's unique character as you float between islands just a stone's throw from the Asian mainland. Alongside fellow Group Coordinators and Go Ahead Tours staff, discover Kos' golden beaches and Rhodes' impeccably preserved Medieval City—both rivaling Athens in historical allure. Enjoy easy connections to the pristine shores of Kalymnos, Plati, Pserimos, and Symi, and spend blissful days soaking up the sun, culture, and coastal charm—ensuring that you head home with a tan and memories of an ancient paradise.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 wine tastings
- 3 food tastings
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 ferry transfer
- 2 on-tour flights

Included highlights

- Convention Tour meeting
- Athens culinary walk
- Acropolis
- Acropolis Museum
- Regional wine tastings
- Kos' Sanctuary of Asklepios
- Plane Tree of Hippocrates
- Kos island catamaran cruise
- Rhodes Old Town
- Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes
- Apolloniatis Women's Cooperative visit
- Greek cooking class

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep hills and stairs.

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

Athens → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Athens

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Greece! Transfer to your hotel, where you'll get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers over a welcome dinner, served with your choice of beer or wine.

Day 3: Convention Tour meeting, food walking tour, sightseeing tour of the Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

Join your group for a Convention Tour meeting, a series of presentations and discussions designed with Group Coordinators' questions, experiences, and interests in mind.

- Begin with a keynote address by senior members of Go Ahead Tours staff, followed by an insider's view of the company and tours.
- Discuss tour planning and recruiting best practices with Go Ahead Tours staff and your fellow Group Coordinators.
- Get an overview of the many benefits available to you as a Go Ahead Tours Group Coordinator and learn about program updates, from new app features to added perks.
- Enjoy coffee, tea, mineral water, and an included lunch.

Spend the afternoon in the vibrant Athenian center, which is known for its galleries, boutiques, and delicious foods from all over the country. Join your local guide in Monastiraki Square for an introduction to the neighborhood, which is often considered the city's melting pot thanks to its variety of cultures.

- Start with exploring the shops next to Varvakios Agora, the most well-known market in Athens. Each store is full of traditional products like handmade pottery

and souvenirs carved from the wood of olive trees. Tuck into one shop with your group and taste your way through different Greek meats and cheeses, paired with raki and wine, of course.

- Sit down at a classic Greek cafe, where you'll learn about local eating and drinking customs as you share plates of regional specialties with your fellow travelers.
- Enjoy a little caffeine jolt with a coffee or iced cappuccino while you savor a traditional Greek dessert.

Next, follow the lead of your local guide as they introduce you to the highlights of Athens—the bustling ancient capital that's home to the world's first democracy, just as the golden light of sunset begins to bathe the city in a warm glow.

- Pass through village-like Plaka—the historic “neighborhood of the gods” built in the shadow of the iconic Acropolis.
- Set off on a walking tour around the Acropolis of Athens, a millennia-old, UNESCO-listed citadel and the enduring image of Greece. As twilight approaches, the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, Erechtheion, and other ancient ruins take on a magical hue under the fading light.
- Step inside the Acropolis Museum, a 150,000-square-foot space dedicated to exhibiting every artifact recovered from the Acropolis and its foothills. First opened in 2009, it chronicles the history of Greece, from the Bronze Age to Byzantine times, through more than 4,250 different items.

Kos → 3 nights

Day 4: Flight to Kos & honey tasting

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

Board a flight to your first Dodecanese island: Kos, a beautifully bright locale known for its Greek and Roman historical sites, as well as its picturesque beaches. Upon arriving, pay a visit to a family-owned honey business for a tour and tasting, and learn more about one of the island's most famous exports. Prized by

Hippocrates—the “father of modern medicine”—and known for its purity, Koan honey is beloved in Greece and consumed around the world. (Some 50 families produce 200 tons of it each year!)

- Arrive at the facility and meet your guide, who'll walk you through traditional beekeeping methods and honey production processes.
- Indulge in a tasting of locally produced honeys—including typical variants like thyme and pine—paired expertly with delicious Greek loukoumades (sweet, fried balls of dough, drenched in honey syrup).

Continue to your hotel and freshen up before sitting down for an included dinner, served with your choice of beer or wine.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Kos, winery visit, Zia village & tavern dinner

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner

Join your Tour Director and spend the first part of your day exploring one of Greece's southernmost islands, a place influenced by over 5,000 years of Ottoman, Roman, and Venetian history.

- Begin at the ruins of the Asklepios, an ancient medical center and healing temple built in honor of one of Kos' most famous sons: Hippocrates himself.
- Head into town to see Neratzia Castle, built in the 14th century by the Knights of Saint John; the Loggia Mosque, one of two Ottoman-era mosques on the island that still hold prayers; and the Tree of Hippocrates, a plane tree under which Hippocrates taught his students.
- Enjoy free time for lunch, then see what pieces of ancient history you can find in charming Kos Town.

Spend an evening indulging in the food, wine, and village life that make the island of Kos truly special. Begin with a visit to a local winery, where you'll meet up with a guide for a tour of its facilities.

- Walk through production rooms and aging cellars, then enjoy a tasting of local wines like assyrtiko and mavrotragano—paired with typical island bites.

- Set out for the enchanting hilltop village of Zia and sit down for a mouthwatering tavern dinner.
- Admire panoramic views of the surrounding landscape while savoring your meal, then wrap up and head back to your hotel.

Day 6: Kalymnos, Plati & Pserimos island cruise

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Enjoy a day of island-hopping around some of the lesser-traveled Dodecanese—complete with relaxing vibes, delicious food, and plenty of picture-perfect scenery. Begin by boarding a ferry, cruising through the fjord-like Vathy valley, and docking on the sponge-farming island of Kalymnos. Disembark and enjoy free time in Vathy's port village. (We recommend sampling the local orange juice and visiting the sponge factory.)

Head back to your boat and sit down to an included buffet lunch as you sail to the nearly uninhabited island of Plati. Here, you'll have time to go for a swim before continuing on to Pserimos. With a population of fewer than 100 permanent residents, this little slice of paradise lays claim to pristine beaches, walking paths, and lively tavernas. Kick back and relax, then weigh anchor for the return trip to Kos.

Rhodes → 3 nights

Day 7: Ferry to Rhodes & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Head south to Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese islands and the former site of an ancient wonder of the world: the Colossus of Rhodes. Sit down for an included lunch at a local restaurant, then set out for a guided tour.

- Visit the harbor to view the site of the Colossus of Rhodes. Originally built in 290 B.C., this hulking bronze-and-iron statue of the Greek sun god, Helios, stood until an earthquake felled it just 54 years after it was first erected. It lay in disrepair, in fulfillment of an oracle, for centuries until invading forces melted it down.
- See the traditional windmills of the Old Town before walking to the UNESCO-listed Medieval City, where Gothic and Ottoman architecture beautifully coexist. Learn how the walled city was built by order of Saint John of Jerusalem and how various groups, from Italians to Ottomans, have called it home over the centuries.
- Walk up the cobbled Street of the Knights to

the Palace of the Grand Masters: an enormous structure adorned with towers, arched gates, and statues. Hear how it was restored during the 20th century by the Italians, and how it became the holiday home of politicians like King Victor Emmanuel III and Benito Mussolini.

Freshen up at the hotel before coming back together with your fellow Group Coordinators for tonight's included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 8: Apolloniatises, cooking class & wine tasting

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch, wine tasting

Climb aboard your bus and head beyond Rhodes to the hill town of Apollona. There, you'll link up with the pioneering women behind Apolloniatises, the first cooperative of its kind in the Dodecanese.

- Hear Apolloniatises' story, from its founding in 2005 to its present work of creating sustainable employment for the women of the village and promoting Rhodian traditions and culture.
- Snack on homemade sweets, including melekouni—Rhodes' most famous dessert. Crunchy and sweet, it's made by binding sesame seeds, citrus, and spices with thyme-honey.
- Browse their collection of handcrafted goods. If something catches your eye, consider taking it home—you'll support their mission and leave with a one-of-a-kind souvenir.

Ready to get your hands dirty? After returning to Rhodes, meet a group of culinary experts for an immersive cooking class. You'll uncover the secrets behind dolmades (rice-stuffed vine leaves), tiropita (a feta-and-phylo pie), and other delectable Greek dishes before discovering your favorite local vintage during a guided wine tasting. Afterward, sit down as a group to enjoy your creations, along with other plates, during an included lunch.

Please note: Groups larger than 25 will be split into two for the cooking class.

Day 9: A day on Symi Island

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

This morning, board an express ferry from Rhodes to the small island of Symi: the "jewel of the Dodecanese," known for its colorful villages, panoramic viewpoints, cliffside beaches, and unique atmosphere. Make your way to the village of Panormitis, where you'll have time to enter its 18th-century monastery. Dedicated to the Archangel Michael and visited by many who

pray for health, the abbey has peaceful courtyards, a small museum, and elaborate frescoes around its grounds. After your visit, continue back to the main town of Ano Symi and enjoy some free time to explore at your own pace.

Enjoy an included dinner, served with beer or wine, this evening with your group before heading to bed ahead of tomorrow's return to Athens.

Please note: On select days, your ferry will stop at St. George Bay for swimming. Please check with your Tour Director prior to this activity to properly prepare.

Athens → 1 night

Day 10: Flight to Athens

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Today, fly to Athens and celebrate your trip with your fellow Group Coordinators over a farewell dinner, served with your choice of beer or wine.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.