

REGENCY YACHT VACATIONS

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Turkey Yacht Charters

Ten Day Cruise for a Luxury Power Yacht

This itinerary was designed for a luxury power yacht of about 100 feet cruising at about 16 knots. Sailing yachts will not cover these distances in the same time, please ask us about alternate itineraries.

Day One

BODRUM to KOS

It's just a short trip across to Kos, about 1 hour.

After Rhodes, Kos is the second largest and most popular island in the Dodecanese and there are superficial similarities between the two. Here also the harbor is guarded by an imposing castle of the Knights of St. John; the streets are lined with grandiose Italian public buildings; and minarets and palm trees punctuate extensive Hellenistic and Roman remains. Kos Town boasts a thoroughly commercialized old town, lining the pedestrian street running from behind the market on the Platia Eleftherias as far as Platia Dhiagoras and the isolated minaret overlooking the western archaeological zone.

One of the few areas of town to survive the 1933 earthquake, today it's crammed with expensive tourist boutiques, cafes, and snack bars. About the only thing remaining here is a capped Turkish fountain with a calligraphic inscription found where the walkway cobbles cross Odhos Vienizelou.

Kos is also the birthplace of Hippocrates (c. 460-370 BC) who is generally regarded as the father of scientific medicine.

Day Two

KOS to SYMI

Distance: about 50 nautical miles; Time: 3 hours

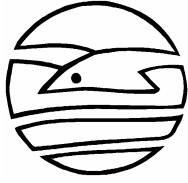
Symi has no big sandy beaches, but there are plenty of pebbly stretches at the heads of the deep, protected bays, which indent the coastline.

Symi, the island's capital and only proper town, consists of Yialos, the excellent natural port, and Horio, on the hillside above. Incredibly, less than one hundred years ago the place was richer and more populous (25,000) than Rhodes; its wealth generated by shipbuilding and sponge diving, skills nurtured since classical times. Under Ottoman, Symi, like most of the smaller Dodecanese, enjoyed considerable autonomy in exchange for a yearly tribute in sponges to the sultan, but the Italian imposed frontier, the 1919-22 Greco-Turkish war, the advent of synthetic sponges, and gradual replacement of the crews by Kalymniots spelt doom for the local economy.

Vestiges of past nautical glories remain in still-active boatyards at Pedhi and Harani, but today the souvenir shop sponges come entirely from overseas. At the lively port, an architecturally protected area since the early 1970s, a number of restaurants, spice stalls, jewelry stands, and sponge stands can be found. There is also a museum housed in a fine old mansion at the back of the village concentrating on Byzantine and medieval Symi.

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Day Three

SYMI to RHODES/RHODOS TOWN

Depart from Symi and head southeast to Rhodes.

Distance: about 25 nautical miles; Time: 2 hours

It's no accident that Rhodes is among the most visited of the Greek islands. Not only is its east coast lined with numerous sandy beaches, but the capital's nucleus is a beautiful and remarkably preserved medieval city – the legacy of the crusading Knights of St. John who used the island as their main base from 1309 to 1522.

Rhodes has layers and layers of history on her. In addition to the numerous historical and archeological curiosities, Rhodos Town also has a number of modern attractions from restaurants to casinos to nightclubs.

Day Four

RHODOS TOWN to LINDOS

A short cruise down the east coast of Rhodes to Lindos.

Distance: about 25 nautical miles; Time: 2 hours

There is a small harbour in Lindos where we can anchor. Nearby are some beaches, however, they are usually very crowded during peak season. The main attraction, though, is the acropolis. On the bluff looming above the town, the ancient acropolis with its 1900s restored Doric Temple of Athena and imposing Hellenistic stoa is found inside the Knights' Castle – a surprisingly felicitous blend of ancient and medieval culture. Though the ancient city of Lindos and its original temple date from at least 1,100 BC, the present structure was begun by local ruler Kleoboulos in the 6th Century BC and replaced by the present structure after a fourth-century fire.

Day Five

RHODES/LINDOS to KASTELLORIZO

We will steam on an easterly heading with wind on our stern.

Distance: about 75 nautical miles; Time: 5 hours

Kastellorizo is a great destination with a very quaint little harbor. Quayside along the harbor are a number of very nice little restaurants and bars. The town is attractive and well worth a stay for a night or two.

One of the lesser known attractions of Kastellorizo is a grotto on the eastern side of the island. The grotto has an entrance that is little over one meter high, too low to enter by tender. It must be swum into with snorkel gear on. Once inside, your breath will be taken away by the beauty of the cavern which is illuminated by the pre-noon sun reflecting through the water.

Day Six

KASTELLORIZO to KAS and then to KEKOVA SOUND

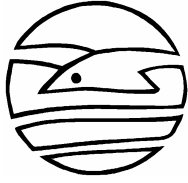
It only takes about an hour to go from Kastellorizo to Kas. Kas has a well protected harbor, but it is sometimes very crowded. It is here that we need to stop in order to clear into Turkey after leaving Greece again.

After clearing into Turkey, we will continue in an easterly direction to Kekova Sound

Distance: 20 nautical miles; Time: 1.5 hours

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Day Seven

KEKOVA SOUND

Venturing to Kekova Sound for more than a day trip may be one of the high points of your visit to Turkey. Kokova Island is close by the notched shore, whose many inlets create a series of lagoons. Anchoring each is a little fishing community. The apse of a Byzantine church backs Tersane, whose bay is a favorite swimming spot. Ucagiz has small pansiyons and waterside restaurants. Kale, the jewel of the sound, is a pleasing jumble of boxy houses built up a steep crag alongside layers of history: Lycian tombs, a tiny Greek amphitheater, and the medieval ruins of Simena Castle atop the rocky hill. As you cruise the waters between the villages you can look overboard to see ancient Roman and Greek columns, buildings, stairways, and ubiquitous Lycian tombs, the last up to their lids in water – the sunken remains on ancient cities. To go diving, you must obtain a permit in advance.

Day Eight

KEKOVA SOUND to FETHIYE

We will depart from Kekova Sound and head in a northwesterly direction to Fethiye.

Distance: about 70 nautical miles; Time: 4.5 hours

Fethiye was rebuilt after the original town was destroyed in an earthquake in 1957. Although it looks modern as a result, it's still an old-fashioned agricultural community where goats and sheep are herded along the main roads on their way to market. Fethiye was known in antiquity as Telmessus and was the principal port of Lycia from the Roman period onwards. In front of the town hall is the finest of several scattered tombs, representing a two-story Lycian house with reliefs of warriors on both sides of the lid.

Another attraction is the impressive rock tombs that were carved into the cliff that looms above the town. The largest is the Tomb of Amyntas, presumably the burial place of a 4th Century BC ruler or nobleman.

Day Nine

FETHIYE to DALYAN RIVER

We will depart the Fethiye area and continue in a westerly direction to the mouth of the Dalyan River.

Distance: about 35 nautical miles; Time: 2 hours

Here we can anchor off Istuzu Beach near the mouth of the Dalyan River. Istuzu Beach stretches for five unspoiled miles with the Mediterranean on one side and a freshwater lagoon on the other. In June and July, Caretta sea turtles lay their eggs here; signs along the beach mark possible nesting places and warn you not to stick umbrellas in the sand or behave in ways that could disturb the turtles.

At the mouth of the Dalyan River, local boats can be hired for a trip up the river to the ruins of the ancient city of Kaunos. With the boat you may continue up the river to the town of Dalyan where there are many shops and restaurants. If you continue upstream, eventually you will end up in the lake that feeds the river. On the western shore there is a local natural hot mineral bath house that is frequented by locals, although visitors are welcome to bathe for a small fee.

Day Ten

DALYAN RIVER to MARMARIS

Distance: about 35 nautical miles; Time: 2 hours

Modern Marmaris has a palm-lined waterfront and a well-stocked bazaar where you can pick up carpets, local honey, and rose jam, frankincense, carpets and other items. There's also more westernized shopping at the Netsel shopping mall next to the marina which has coffee bars, Ralph Lauren and Lacoste stores. Depart after lunch ashore for the airport.

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