Aegean Coast

THE AEGEAN COAST OF BODRUM AND
THE NORTH DODECANESE ISLANDS

DEPARTING & ENDING IN BODRUM
(BODRUM | KALYMNOS | TELENDOS | PATMOS | LIPSI | LEROS | TURGUTREIS | KISEBUKU | BODRUM)

CRUISING AEGEAN GREECE & TURKEY BOUTIQUE STYLE...

Sailing by Gulet yacht is quite simply a perfect way to visit the Aegean Coast of Bodrum and the nearby Greek islands. No carrying luggage, no catching ferries, and no need to keep track of time, means that there is so much MORE to experience of the Dodecanese islands' authenticity, stunning natural landscapes, and an unaffected character that lends absolutely everything to their charm.

While island hopping and exploring the coast, you can anchor in some of the most secluded spots, which let you really get the feel for the places that most visitors leave at sunset. We give you a boutique version of Island hopping, discovering historical sites, tiny harbor villages, untouched beaches and bays, and a choice of great activities; all while making yourself at home in the spacious comfort of your luxurious private cabin. On board you enjoy the relaxed company of your fellow guests, large lounge areas and deck, immaculate crew service, and magical feast after feast on board each day for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The Aegean Coast around Bodrum offers some of the most pristine and beautiful bays and coves. The Blue Voyage was first made famous here where cross winds are excellent for sailing, the idyllic bays are secluded and fringed with dramatic pine forested coast lines. The Dodecanese islands that we visit are a loose collection in the Aegean Sea, situated off the west coast of Turkey, between Patmos and Kalymnos. These islands offer a tranquil, picturesque charm that has almost vanished from many of the better-known Greek island resorts. The footprints of cultures from the Greeks and Romans to crusading medieval knights, and from Byzantine and Ottoman potentates to 20th-century Italian bureaucrats are all found here, along with many remote islands that are begging to be explored.

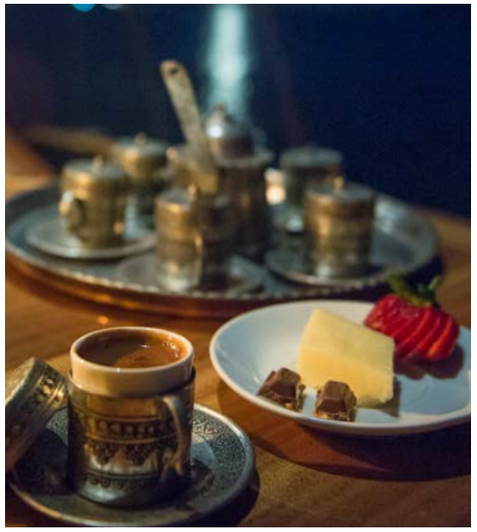
Ms Nikola in secluded bay near Patmos

LUXURY CABIN CHARTER BOUTIQUE STYLE:

Wake up on board to the warm Aegean sun and crystal clear waters each morning, relax into the rhythm of life on the sea, and enjoy some wonderful sailing between the islands. Disembark to explore the white-washed Greek towns and harbors, boutique shopping, fabulous culinary experiences, and to soak up the unique atmosphere of the Greek Islands. While away your time on board relaxing, dining with your friends and group, reading, pulling anchor to explore some of the stunning bays for swimming whenever the mood takes you. Our excellent crew will look after you wonderfully throughout your trip.

Guests book deluxe cabin-only which offers a cruise holiday experience like no other with all the 5-star comfort and luxury amenities of a private charter. This affordable vacation option is ideal for singles, couples or small groups. Children from 8 years of age are welcome. The guests you join on board are international, and we bring together like-minded travellers, often of similar ages, in order to create the best, shared experience possible.

Our privately-owned, stylish and well equipped yachts vary in size from 4 to 8 cabins; the maximum capacity being 17 passengers on the M/S Flas VII. During your cruise a professional and personable crew provide an impeccable service and experienced seamanship, while exquisite cuisine is prepared to your liking by the yacht's chef. We also offer activities and imaginative shore excursions, ranging from Yoga sessions on board, cooking workshops and hiking, to guided tours and special restaurant recommendations.



OUR GULET YACHTS FEATURE

- 5 star luxury standards
- Uniformed, English-speaking crew including chef
- Optimized for sailing as guests wish
- Adjustable a/c throughout
- 2 generators & inverters
- En suite bathrooms with flush w/c & enclosed shower
- Spacious cabins
- Flat screen TV, DVD hook up & movie library
- Free WiFi
- Satellite antenna
- Stereo system/ iPOD dock
- Orthopedic beds & pillows
- 100% fine cotton linen and fluffy towels
- Zodiac dinghy with H/P motor water ski, wakeboard and ringo
- Paddle board
- Snorkel & fishing equipment for adults & kids

DAY 1 - SATURDAY - BODRUM

From Bodrum airport, transfer the short drive to the bustling resort town of Bodrum and board your luxurious sailing yacht. Your captain and crew will be waiting to welcome you on board in Bodrum Harbor.

Year round balmy temperatures, international marinas, elegant boutiques, chic cafés and nightclubs, and a variety of delightful dining experiences attract many to the vibrant Bodrum harbor. The 15th century Crusader castle, the world class Museum of Underwater Archaeology, and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, bring an important historical dimension to this picturesque city.

Spend the first night on board in Bodrum harbour, or if all guests have arrived to the yacht then be free to depart for Kalymnos.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY - KALYMNOS

Pass through customs in Bodrum and then depart for Kalymnos.

Before arriving to the harbour of Kalymnos, anchor in the hidden natural harbour of Vathi, which is the most fertile spot of the island. The lovely houses of the village of Rina trickle down the slopes of two hills, while a small part of the settlement lies in the verdant valley that extends to the fishing village and the natural fjord-like gulf beyond. The charming village fringed with citrus orchards boasts one main street and a scattering of houses; an unexpected patch of lush vegetation on an otherwise dry and arid-looking island. Vathi is the only place on the island that is lucky enough to have it's own spring water supply, and here it is used carefully to cultivate citrus fruits, figs, grapes and anything else that can be persuaded to grow!

This deep blue inlet is also home to a cluster of picturesque church remains dating from the early Byzantine period to the more recent past, and a short but lovely hike from the yacht takes you to explore them. Here stop for lunch on board, and swimming and snorkelling in the most incredible waters. You can even try some rock climbing here as this is a great spot for it, before watching the sunset with cocktails on deck and stepping on shore to dine at one of the 2 tiny tavernas in Vathi where the octopus is a must-try!

Kalymnos is eternally tied to the sea: beautiful shores, a fascinating seabed excellent for diving and snorkelling, and mouth watering seafood gastronomy, not to mention the fearless and open-hearted residents who are the descendants of sponge divers. Kalymnos has never relied on tourism so has remained wild and unspoiled, and is one of the most authentic destinations among the Greek islands. Only relatively recently has Kalymnos begun to attract devoted **rock climbers** from all over the world to scale the craggy cliff faces.

Sponge diving was a thriving trade in the mid-19th Century up to the early 20th Century, and Kalymnos was one of the centers of this activity. In early Spring time the legendary and daring sponge fishermen would venture out to ply the deep open waters of the Aegean Sea and the treacherous Mediterranean as far as North Africa, 'skin diving' to depths of 30 meters. Before the first suits were designed, the divers would descend to the seabed weighed down by a heavy marble stone. The legacy of this local trade is evident today and a cherished source of pride and identity for the islanders, young and old.

Pothia, is the bustling port and capital of Kalymnos that spreads amphitheatrically on two hills, featuring pink and orange buildings of Italian origin, narrow back streets, and moored yachts, **bars and restaurants** lining the waterfront. There are still sponges on sale everywhere.

The **Monastery of Agios Savvas** is located on top of the hill above Pothia. Dedicated to Agios Savvas, the patron saint of the island, this lovely stone church has a red tiled roof and some exquisite and newly restored frescos. Its location provides excellent views of the town, overlooking the port and seascape beyond. The beautiful **Monastery of Agioi Pantes** is also located close by, and is still residence to the elderly nuns. There are long skirts and shawls available for women to wear when visiting this otherwise private area, and you can see the lovely gardens as well as the kitchen and sleeping quarters. It is a rigorous uphill climb to the monastery but a comfortable descent on the return.

DAY 3 - MONDAY - TELENDOS – PATMOS

On the way to Patmos your yacht will visit the islet of Telendos, which is located 700 meters from Kalymnos. Until 535 CE this tiny island was actually part of Kalymnos until an earthquake separated the two. It is a lovely quiet spot with **no roads and no cars**; just warm and **genuine Greek hospitality**. A strip of tavernas offering fabulous views back to the escarpment of Kalymnos itself lines the waterfront, and the tiny village has a paved and shady main street which soon leads you to a couple of lovely **beaches** on the west side of the island.

Away from crowds, Telendos is a haven for soaking up some quiet time, as well as another hotspot for **climbing**. Spend the day lazing in the sun, walk along the sea front in the shade of the tamarisk trees, and swim or snorkel in crystal clear waters from your gulet yacht in one of the small secluded coves dotted around the island.

The **On the Rock** establishment on Telendos offers a choice of incredibly tasty Greek signature dishes including freshly caught fish, octopus and moussaka, which taste even better from this fantastic location by the sea. Don't miss sampling a few from the extensive cocktail and Greek beer menu.

From here, sail to **Patmos** and dock in the main port of Skala..Patmos' breathtaking scenery and special atmosphere have made it an ideal getaway for those seeking inspiration or a quiet retreat. The island is built around the important **Monastery of St. John** and its medieval fortress, which is visible from nearly everywhere on the island, and stands overlooking Chora as a reminder of Patmos' historical and spiritual significance. St. John is said to have penned the Book of Revelations and the Apocalypse here on Patmos. The monastery houses some spectacular frescoes and a museum well worth visiting. The smaller monastery of the Apocalypse halfway down the hill from Chora, grew up around the grotto where the Evangelist is said to have heard the voice of God.

Other **sites of interest** in Patmos include a library where there are rare manuscripts 2000 books and 13000 documents; the monastery of Zoodochos Pigi in Chora, an example of a real island temple with gorgeous 16th and 18th century icons; and the commune of Evaggelismos in southern Chora, an active monastery where there is a handicraft school for Patmian needlework.

The **village of Chora**, which grew up around the monastery, is built in the Cretian style of many of the first settlers here, and is probably the most beautiful in the Dodecanese, especially by night. From here you can see the 3 windmills, the port at Skala and many of the beaches along the west of the island. On a clear day you can also see the island of Lipsi and the Turkish coast beyond. Patmos' incredible beaches have also helped to establish this island as a popular travel destination. Those looking for more seclusion can visit one of the many isolated beaches and coves around the island and surrounding islets, accessible only by boat, which is ideal for our Gulet yacht guests! Despite Patmos's relatively upmarket reputation, accommodation often doesn't quite match that, so visiting the island on board a luxury yacht lets you explore the island and still sleep in the lap of luxury.

Although Patmos is traditionally a place of spiritual pilgrimage, it is has diversified somewhat, and you'll also find there **great designer boutiques**, Greek style local cuisine, cafes with spectacular views, and what's more after dinner the island certainly doesn't just sleep and there is a lively buzz into the early hours.

The **International Film Festival of Patmos** takes place this year from July 21 – 27 and the **Patmos Festival of Religious Music** happens late August - early September. The latter is staged in the dramatic grounds of the Apocalypse Monastery, showcases world class Byzantine and ecclesiastical music performances (mostly choral), and more recently also a program of secular concerts by popular Greek artists too.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY - LIPSI

Wake up to the sunshine, have a relaxing breakfast on board and then spend the morning exploring **Lipsi**. Perhaps head out and cruise to one of the untouched bays or sandy beaches along the coast for swimming and relaxing on board.

The virgin nature, crystal clear waters, beaches and the relaxing atmosphere of Lipsi Island attract tourists looking for **total seclusion and privacy**. This is a frequent destination among naturists and hikers, as many beaches can only be reached on foot or by boat. A fortress crowns the uppermost peak of the island, and in the scattering of small tavernas and cafes below you will find local delicacies like the traditional thyme honey, wine, cheese and grapes.

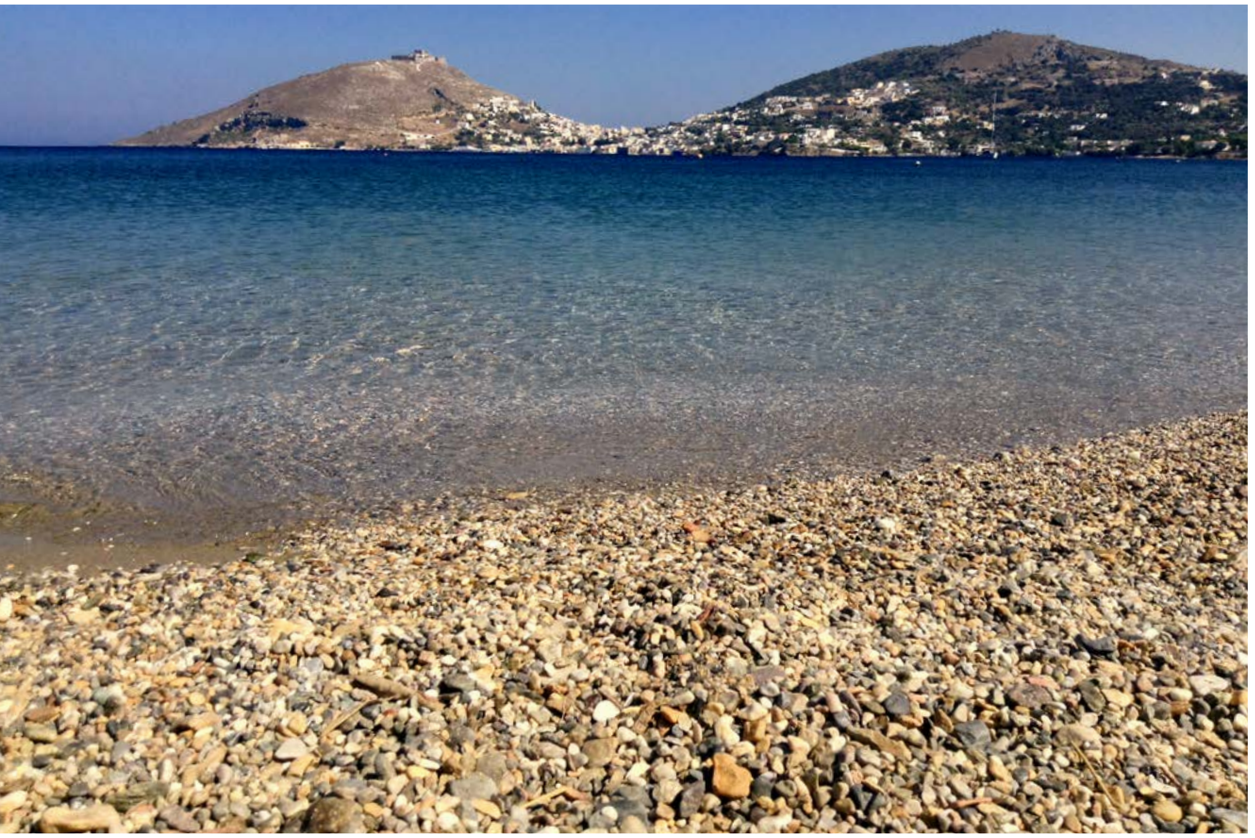
There are so many small **churches** in the island that it is said there is 1 church for each family in Lipsi. **Panaghia tou Harou** architecturally has a local feel, Byzantine in perception yet austere and unpretentious. As yet unexcavated, the church was built sometime between the 7th and 8th Century CE. The holy icon of the Virgin here, holding Jesus crucified, is reputed to be of miraculous powers. The uniqueness of the concept and the skill of the rendition make this icon one of the brightest moments in hagiography.

Now to Lipsi's **beautiful beaches**! Lientou is by far the most popular and located in town. Venture a little further and discover the Kampos, Platys Yialos - a delightful sandy strip of land stretching out to sea, and the exceptionally stunning sandy beach of Papandria in the south facing the island of Leros. Chochlakoura beach is loved for its pebbles, flat rocks and scenic caves, while Tourkomnima, Xirokampos, Monodendri and Kamares are all remote beaches of wild beauty, and definitely worth the expedition to visit.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY - LEROS

Cruise to the small island of **Leros**, the island of Diana, Goddess of Hunting. This is an island of small fertile valleys sandwiched between rolling green hills, deep coves and pretty beaches. Depending on the winds, dock in the harbor of Agia Marina or the more secluded bay of Panteli.

Pandeli is the oldest fishing village in Leros, where most of the residents are still in the fishing trade, and located in the island's most picturesque spot surrounded by enchanting landscapes of green trees, steep mountains and excellent coves. The small settlement is built amphitheatrically around the natural bay and joins



with **Platanos**, the quaint harbor of **Agia Marina**, which has selective local shops located in old traditional buildings that sell antiques and handcrafts. The town of **Alinda** is also gorgeous with its attractive pebble beach and hip beach clubs. These waterfront towns hold most cultural interest, with their neoclassical buildings and pleasant village atmosphere.

Leros has a magnificent **crusader castle** or better known as Kastro, It is a strong medieval fortress presiding over the villages of Pandeli and Agai Marina, with spectacular views of the mountainous landscape and the sea. It is a rigorous uphill climb from either village, but once at the top it is truly picturesque and a lovely walk back down directly into either village.

The island is a paradise for foodies with a rich culinary heritage, featuring many unique Lerian specialties. You can find the best combination of the local and fusion cuisine, witnessed by the seaside **El Greco Restaurant** on the Panteli beach. Make sure to try the tuna carpaccio and phyllo bread stuffed with soft goat cheese.

The patisserie-cafe **To Paradosiako**, meaning 'The Traditional' in Greek, is in Agia Marina's harbor, has a lovely setting on the water and offers some of the most delicious and creative treats you can find. With contemporary and spiced up traditional flavors, you will be spoilt for choice with what's on offer here.

After dinner Leros comes alive in bars and nightclubs that feature local Bouzouki as well as contemporary music, warm hospitality and a laid-back ambience, which is at its best in Panteli and Agia Marina.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY - TURGUTREIS & ORAK ISLAND

From here cross back into Turkish waters and from Turgutreis, sail south to into the Gulf of Gokova, a stunning stretch of the Aegean where the sea displays its most remarkable hues. The rugged coastline with its myriad small bays and harbors gives way to a lush backdrop of pine-clad hills and mountains. Drop anchor near Orak Island, one of the Gulf's large islands, and this one known for its rich sea life and crystal clear water, a perfect site for snorkelling.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY - KISEBUKU (OR CIFTLIK)

This morning cruise to the gorgeous Bay of Kisebuku. Take advantage of the calm midday hours, sailing smoothly along the Gokova shores. Late afternoon come into the Bodrum harbor, or continue to Ada Bogazi, another lovely anchorage, for the last night.

DAY 8 - SATURDAY

Disembark in Bodrum. (If there are guests wishing to end the cruise in Kos then this can be arranged in advance. Guests transfer via ferry to Kos and transfers onward to Kos airport)

Take to the sea on this dream private cruise holiday with your nearest and dearest, relax into the laid back rhythm of life on the sea, revitalise in the crystal clear waters of the Aegean and enjoy a kind of luxury hard to match on a regular villa or resort vacation.

- Greek Island harbor fees are included.
- Optional touring where entrance fees are required or the service of a guide and /or van are needed are extra.
- Optional restaurants off the yacht are not included in the price, but meals off board will be deducted from the daily catering fees. Restaurants on-shore requires reservations.
- Includes arrival transfer from Bodrum airport on arrival day. Departure transfer to the airport or other incurs additional charges.
- Includes beer, wine and soft drinks. Nominal charges for other drinks on board will be incurred.
- On a 7 day cruise embarkation is on Saturdays, and disembarkation the following Saturday.
- Route applies according to weather changes at the discretion of the captain.