

MARKETING GREECE

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Discover
Greece

Lesvos

A symphony of culture, food and natural beauty in the North Aegean

May 28-31

Discover Greece invites you on a 4-day trip to explore Lesvos, the Greek island famous as the home of ouzo and its UNESCO-protected petrified forest

Mytilene

Explore Lesvos' cultural and commercial hub

The capital and main port of Lesvos is a magnet for visitors, filled with handsome old buildings that line up along the waterfront and the impressive church of Agios Therapon as the centrepiece. All of this is crowned by a Franko-Byzantine castle rising out of pine forest on the hill behind it.

As the hub of Lesvos' cultural and business life, Mytilene offers a multitude of ways to spend your time. Sights like the ancient theatre, Ottoman baths and mosque await and the streets are lined with wonderful neoclassical buildings with an Anatolian flavour.

There are rare treasures to track down in the Archaeological Museum, the Teriade collection of modern masters and the Theophilos Museum, as well as libraries, galleries and folklore exhibitions to discover.





The Petrified Forest

Visit the Pompeii of the plant world in Lesvos

Discover the remnants of an ancient ecosystem that once flourished on Lesvos that now constitutes one of the largest petrified forests in the world.

Frozen in time after volcanic ash rained down on this part of the North Aegean up to 20 million years ago are the remnants of the trunks, branches, roots, leaves, seeds and even some animals that once flourished within an ancient forest and have now been fossilised in a veritable monument of nature.

Central to understanding this astonishing legacy is to visit the forest's Natural History Museum, just outside the town of Sigri. The museum is literally built around a number of fossilised tree trunks, lying exactly where they fell millions of years ago in an area that is, now part of UNESCO's World Geoparks Network.

The home of ouzo

Discover the essence of the legendary Greek summer

Lesvos is the heart of Greece's ouzo production, notably in the village of Plomari on the island's south coast. Ouzo-making here can be traced to the 19th century when merchant families from Asia Minor settled and began producing the anise-scented distillate in bronze or copper stills. Each added their own character in the form of secret blends of herbs and spices that gave different versions of the subtle liquorice taste. A legend was born and a country has been celebrating ever since.

So what better way to learn about this unique grape- or grain-based spirit than to visit an ouzo distillery? You'll witness the production processes (traditional and modern), learn just when the aniseed is added, and what herbs and spices give the best result: fennel seed, star anise, mastic, cardamom, coriander, cloves, cinnamon and salt from the local Kalloni saltpans. Just don't expect to come away with the secret formula.





A world of authenticity

Admire the unique architecture, traditional crafts and local tastes

The minimalist aesthetic of the Aegean islands has not influenced Lesvos, where the architecture includes houses in the island's villages that have been painted with different colours and appear to each be of a different style. Meanwhile, the stone buildings with wooden ceilings by the sea offer yet another architectural touch.

In the villages, you'll find locals occupied with crafts such as ceramics, wood-carving and copper-plating, while the few remaining traditional potters in Agiassos and Mantamados village happily pass their knowledge on to the visitors who also admire craftwork involving semi-precious stones and silver, *velentzes* rugs and hand-made baskets.

On the food front, Lesvos is renowned in Greece for its juicy sardines, which are salted in a curing process that has seen them referred to as the Greek version of sushi. Don't leave without tasting *ladotyri*, a hard cheese matured and preserved in olive oil as well as the local olives and of course the island's virgin olive oil ... the product of more than 10 million olive trees on the island.

A nature lover's escape

Discover a paradise for sports and nature lovers

If you are looking for an island that's perfect for nature activities in the Aegean, Lesvos is the one for you. Abundant landscapes with scattered cultural monuments and spectacular views await through activities such as hiking, birdwatching and watersports.

Birdwatching at the Kalloni wetlands allows you to discover a rich ecosystem for migratory birds, with more than 250 species (including flamingoes) living or passing through Lesvos each year.

And as a volcanic island, Lesvos offers a number of natural thermal springs in remote natural settings, such as the thermal springs of Eftalous, known for their therapeutic properties since antiquity.

Meanwhile, windsurfers and kitesurfers won't be disappointed during their summer holidays in Lesvos. And there are trails that include rural roads and mountain paths that have become popular hiking and cycling routes across the island.

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What we offer:



**Four nights'
accommodation**



**Flights with airline
partner Aegean**



**Airport and hotel
transfers**



**Complimentary meals
on a full-board basis**



**Access to activities according to
the trip itinerary**

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