



Greek Island of Lesbos - 6 nights

7 nights /6 nights / 6 riding

Best Airport- Odyseas International

Weight limit : 100kg



Overview

Discover an unforgettable horseback riding adventure through scenic trails and historic sites of Molyvos-Lesvos. This trip of one week begins with an introductory ride, followed by varied excursions including races near Molyvos Castle, ancient mountain paths to Petri village, and a coastal trek to Skala Sikamineas with a swim in the sea. Experience nature, history, and local culture across diverse terrains, culminating in relaxing swim or sauna trails, beach rides, and opportunities for exhilarating canters. Perfect for riding enthusiasts seeking scenic beauty and adventure.

Riding

The terrain and landscapes of this horseback riding journey are incredibly diverse and breathtaking. Riders will traverse sandy roads, lush forests, and mountainous paths with steep ascents and ancient cobblestone routes. The trails include historic mountain paths used since ancient Greek times, coastal areas with stunning sea views, and scenic mountain villages built in traditional architecture. Along the way, there are encounters with natural springs, remote beaches, and rugged countryside dotted with sheep, cows, and friendly animals. The landscapes range from lush greenery and shaded forests to rocky hillsides and pristine coastlines, offering a varied and picturesque backdrop for every ride.

During the summer months, you will leave early with riding starting between 5 am and 7 am to avoid the afternoon heat, which can reach 40°C in July and August. Breakfast is often taken on the trail rather than at the hotel. This will leave you with free afternoons to explore the island. A boat trip can be organised to a beautiful nearby island with crystal blue waters. You can also stroll through the authentic Greek village, discover the hot springs, or relax on the sandy beaches of Petra.

During the winter months, temperatures range from 20°C to 30°C. You can enjoy longer hikes with traditional Greek lunches or picnics.

Level & riding fitness

This horseback riding experience is suitable for riders who have a secure seat at walk, trot, and canter, and are comfortable performing rising trot and posting. Riders should be able to mount and dismount unaided. You'll be in the saddle up to 6 hours, covering distances from 10 to 30 kilometers. Participation in grooming and saddling is required, making it ideal for those who enjoy being actively involved in their riding experience. The program welcomes individuals aged 8 to 80.

Weight limit of 100kg.

Group size & guides

This trail will be led by a team of experienced and friendly guides. Rita Mihalaki, who has been guiding since 2012, is a qualified riding instructor and show-jumping athlete. Fluent in Greek, English, Dutch, and some German, Rita's passion for horses and her idyllic village surroundings in Molyvos create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for riders.

Nicole Bomba, speaks English and Greek. She is easy-going and attentive to safety, often sharing her love of local culture and history during the rides.

Zuzanna Wrobel, who joined in 2023, is enthusiastic about horses and Greece, bringing her friendly, communicative personality to ensure an enjoyable experience for all guests.

Group sizes 1-8 riders maximum

The horses

The horses available for the rides are well-cared-for, calm, and in excellent condition, ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for riders. The yard provides nine horses, with additional horses available upon request. The herd mainly consists of Arabian-type warmbloods, known for their calm and gentle temperament, blending energy with tranquility. These horses are mostly around 1.50 to 1.60 meters in height and weigh between 400 to 500 kilograms, with one larger cob horse weighing approximately 650 kilograms. Their balanced temperaments and reliable nature make them ideal companions for riders of all levels, providing a smooth and enjoyable journey through Greece's beautiful landscapes.

Tack & riding equipment

The riding is conducted in the English riding style, which emphasises a balanced and close contact with the horse, focusing on proper posture, timing, and soft aids. Riders will use English-style equipment, including a well-fitted saddle, bridle, and stirrups designed for comfort and security. Helmets are mandatory for safety, and grooming and saddling are part of the participation requirements, allowing riders to learn and connect more deeply with their horses.

Accommodation & dining

From May 1 to September 30, guests can stay at the [Bella Vista Hotel](#), a charming 4-star beachfront property in Eftalou, just 3 km from the village center and 6 km from the riding yard. The hotel offers a shuttle bus with regular transfers to the village, as well as private transfers to and from the yard. Facilities include a swimming pool, restaurant, recently renovated comfortable rooms with TV, hairdryer, and mini-fridge, as well as free WiFi and parking. Babysitting services are available upon request. The half-board package includes breakfast and dinner, with drinks not included. Vegetarian and special diets can be accommodated upon request.

For those visiting from March 1 to April 30 and October 1 to December 20, [Elpiniki Villas](#) provide a cozy alternative. Located within the village and just a 10-minute walk from the beach, the villas feature beautiful gardens, a swimming pool, and self-catering kitchens. Breakfast is self-served, with guests choosing their supplies during a visit to the local mini-market on the first day. Dinner is enjoyed at a nearby harbor tavern about 15 minutes away on foot, with options to order additional dishes at own expense. Many evenings feature live Greek music with bouzouki performances. Drinks are not included, but vegetarian and other dietary options are available on request.

Itinerary

Day 1

Get acquainted with your horse, introductory meeting and ride the horses in the manege.

Day 2

In summer, the days start between 5 am and 7 am. You will then have free time to enjoy a delicious traditional lunch and explore the town.

This trail has it all! You'll start at the yard with a small intro and then prepare the horses.

The day begins with a ride toward Molyvos Castle, enjoy the sandy roads of Molyvos before riding uphill to the local race track. Every year, horse races are held here on the name day in celebration of the churches. Depending on the riders levels you'll either do a controlled canter or race each other at full gallop.

Once the adrenaline rush is over, you'll descend the mountain. On hot days, we stop at a natural spring with fresh water for the horses where we often encounter sheep who also come by for a drink. We then turn toward the nearby forest "Alysos," where we canter in the shade of the trees.

The ride will cover around 10km.

Day 3

Riding: 4 hours

This mountain trail takes you along centuries-old paths still used today. It is the perfect way to immerse yourself in the past since this is how the ancient Greeks traveled between villages and transported goods. You'll ride past churches, over wooden bridges and ancient cobblestones, and view the ruins of the ancient water mill of Ligonas, which dates back to the 3rd century.

Ascending steep hills, you'll reach the mountain village of Petri with only 50 residents, built in traditional architecture of stone and wood. There you'll stop for a small pic-nic while enjoying the mesmerising view of nearby Petra. This ride has a few opportunities for fast canters as the terrain is challenging, and on the way back you'll walk next to the horses for about 10 minutes. There also are other animal encounters on this trail, as we pass sheep and cow farms where the animals are not fenced; sometimes a friendly donkey follows for a small part of the trail!

The ride will cover around 20km

Day 4

Riding: 5.5-6hours

This is the longest trail day. Leaving in the morning, you will head East from Molyvos, following trails that will take you past the coastal town of Eftalou - site of the famous natural hot springs. Arriving to Skala Sikamineas you will stop for lunch, enjoy a well deserved swim

in the sea and exploration of this wonderful harbour village. In the afternoon, you will remount your horses and return to Molyvos via the same route.

You will cover around 30km today.

Day 5

Today, you are free to explore this beautiful Greek island. Your hosts can organise a boat trip to a nearby island or a full day boat excursion. The village also has a charming tourist train to explore the old town, or you may prefer to spend the day relaxing on the beach, some of which are rocky, or head to Petra with its white sandy shores. Just 5 minutes from your hotel, there are stunning hot springs open to the public, which are perfect for the cooler months.

Day 6

Riding: 2 - 4 hours

Your ride today is dependent on the seasons.

In Spring/Autumn you follow a 4hr trail over the mountains on a steep path to Vafeios, you start to climb along the beautiful narrow path through a path known for its butterflies, they are not there the whole period, but we do see them often, once we get halfway through the mountain of Lepetimnos the mesmerizing views reveal themselves. The halfway break is at this fantastic sanctuary called fairyland. Yiannis the owner, is fantastic host and chef, where he will prepare the most delicious lunch and you also have the option to use the sauna and natural spring bathtub, beautiful location and a perfect relaxation spot.

You will cover approximately 15km.

In summer, the day is focused on a 2 hr. swimming trail so make sure your swimsuit is under your riding clothes. You'll ride about 1,5 hr to the remote beach of Eftlou where you'll remove the horses saddles and your riding gear. Hop on bareback and ride the horses into the sea for a refreshing dip. Adventurous riders can head a little deeper so that their horses actually goes for a swim. Once everyone has had enough of the water, the horses are tethered to dry in the sun whilst riders relax. Later, saddle up and ride back to the stables.

You will cover approximately 8km.

Day 7

You will ride 2hours

Today you'll head towards the sea of Molyvos and down the mountain towards the sandy beach of Molyvos, where you'll take the horses in the water and gallop along the shore. You'll pass close the touristic village of Molyvos and head back into nature, passing through dirt roads with opportunities to pick up the pace and enjoy some canters.

You will cover around 10klm

Packing list

Please use this list as a guide, considering the time of year you are traveling

- Riding helmet
- Riding pants
- Long-sleeved shirts to avoid sunburn
- Riding shoes/boots that are comfortable to walk in
- Casual clothing for evenings
- Swimsuits
- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sweater
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, sun hat
- A light jacket
- Toiletries
- Sandals
- Insect repellent
- Passport and a copy of your travel insurance
- Diving equipment if desired

Price includes

- Half Board at the accommodation
- Transfer to and from the hotel to the stables
- Mineral water
- Swimming in the sea with horse (Summer months)

Price excludes

- Flights
- Insurance
- Lunches
- Airport Transfers
- Alcohol at the hotel

Recently added to Saddle Travel, this is an exploratory ride.

Flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com

Please book your flight to MJT Odyseas International Airport at any time this usually means booking a connecting flight from Athens, Thessaloniki or during the summer months many airlines offer direct flight such as Tui, Jet2, Corendon and Sunwen.

Option of private transfer upon request.

There are also buses and taxis that go from the capital to Molyvos.

Climat

Summer season: 32-40°, hot daytime, frisky night time temperature jackets required, some mosquitoes, sea rides to cool off. The rides start very early in the morning to avoid heat (6-7am). We do shorter rides averaging at 15hrs a week, swimming is included and beach canters

Spring and autumn season: 20-30°, some rainy days, nature at its peak with beautiful colors, crossing small rivers in the mountains. Start later in the day (9-10am), longer trails, more mountain trails than beach rides, no swimming. We average on 20hr a week.

Santé

Pour des vacances sereines à l'étranger visitez :

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece/health>

Consultez votre médecin traitant au moins 8 semaines avant de partir pour qu'il puisse vous conseiller et effectuer, le cas échéant, les vaccinations nécessaires adaptées à votre âge et à votre état de santé.

Documents de voyage

La Grèce étant membre de l'Union européenne, les ressortissants français, quel que soit l'objet de leur visite, ne sont pas soumis à une obligation de visa pour les séjours de moins de 3 mois.

Ils sont admis sur le territoire grec sur présentation d'une carte nationale d'identité ou d'un passeport en cours de validité.

Pour plus d'information visitez:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece/entry-requirements>

Il est de votre responsabilité d'avoir les bons documents de voyage.

Payment & Cancellation Terms

saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

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