



Greek Island of Lesbos

8 days / 7 nights / 5 riding

Best Airport- Odyseas International

Weight limit : 100kg



Overview

Discover the beautiful Greek island of Lesbos, where traditional villages, rugged mountains, olive groves and quiet beaches provide the perfect setting for a Mediterranean riding holiday. Based near the picturesque town of Molyvos, this seven-night holiday offers the opportunity to explore the island's varied landscapes on well-trained horses, with spectacular views across the Aegean Sea. Ride along sandy tracks, climb into the hills to discover traditional villages, enjoy exhilarating canters through the countryside and experience the thrill of riding along the beach.

Experienced riders can enjoy a varied programme of trail rides, including an excursion to the hilltop village of Petri, a visit to a secluded outdoor sauna and, depending on the season, the opportunity to swim with the horses in the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea and enjoy an exhilarating gallop along the local race track. For those who are new to riding or would prefer a more relaxed experience, a separate beginners' programme combines riding lessons with shorter guided hacks. With welcoming local hosts, authentic Greek hospitality and a wonderful combination of riding, relaxation and sightseeing, this holiday is a fantastic way to experience the natural beauty and laid-back atmosphere of Lesvos.

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

The riding takes place through the varied landscapes of northern Lesvos, with routes passing through olive groves, forests, mountain tracks, traditional villages and along the beautiful coastline. The terrain ranges from quiet sandy roads and open tracks ideal for cantering to steeper, more challenging mountain paths. Beach riding is a particular highlight, with opportunities for faster riding when conditions permit. During the warmer months, riders may also have the unforgettable experience of taking their horses into the sea.

The advanced programme includes five guided trail rides, an introductory riding lesson and one free day, with rides lasting approximately two to four hours. The beginners' programme offers four riding lessons and two shorter guided hacks, providing a more relaxed

introduction to exploring the island on horseback. Routes and riding activities may be adjusted according to the season, weather and riders' abilities.

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 your 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

Welcome to the beautiful Greek island of Lesbos! Arrive at your accommodation and settle into your surroundings before making your way to the stables in the afternoon to meet your hosts, guides and horses. Your riding adventure begins with a one-hour introductory lesson, giving your hosts the opportunity to assess your riding ability and match you with a suitable horse for the week ahead.

Riding: Approximately 1 hour.

Day 2

Today's ride takes you along the sandy tracks and quiet country roads surrounding Molyvos towards the picturesque hilltop village of Petri. Home to just around 50 residents, this traditional Greek village sits approximately 300 metres above sea level and offers breathtaking views across the bay of Molyvos and the surrounding countryside. The ride includes some challenging uphill terrain as you make your way into the mountains, but the spectacular panoramic scenery makes the climb well worth the effort. On arrival in Petri, stop for a light, authentic Greek lunch and coffee, soaking up the peaceful atmosphere before returning to the stables along the scenic trails.

Riding: Approximately 4 hours, covering 14km.

Day 3

Today's adventure depends on the season, with two wonderful ways to experience the coastline of Lesbos.

Spring and autumn – Petra Beach Ride: Follow the quiet back roads of Molyvos towards the neighbouring coastal town of Petra. The route takes you over steep hills and through beautiful countryside, passing historic sites including ancient watermills, with the possibility of spotting fossilised trees along the way. On reaching Petra, enjoy the opportunity for an exhilarating gallop along the long sandy beach, with the Aegean Sea stretching out beside you. On the return journey, cross a small bridge and visit the secluded Church of Agia Fotini before heading back to the stables.

Summer – Swimming with Horses: During the warmer months, today's ride offers the unforgettable experience of swimming with your horse in the Aegean Sea. Ride for approximately 45 minutes to the secluded beach at Eftalou, where you will remove the horses' saddles and prepare to enter the water. Climb back on bareback and ride into the refreshing sea. More adventurous and confident riders may have the opportunity to venture into deeper water where the horses can swim. Afterwards, relax on the beach while the horses dry off in the sunshine before saddling up for the return ride. Remember to wear your swimming costume beneath your riding clothes!

Riding: Approximately 2 hours. The Petra Beach route covers around 10km.

Day 4

Today's ride explores the beautiful coastline and countryside surrounding Molyvos. Begin with a gentle climb offering wonderful views across the surrounding landscape before descending towards the beach, where there is the opportunity for an exhilarating canter along the sand. The horses can also enjoy a refreshing paddle in the shallow waters of the Aegean Sea. Continue towards the picturesque village of Molyvos, following traditional cobbled lanes and quiet local tracks before heading through the surrounding forest, where there are further opportunities for some lovely canters on the way back to the stables.

Riding: Approximately 2 hours, covering 9km.

Day 5

Today is yours to relax and explore the beautiful island of Lesbos at your own pace. You might choose to wander through the cobbled streets of Molyvos, visit its impressive medieval castle, browse the local shops or enjoy a leisurely lunch at one of the traditional Greek tavernas overlooking the sea. Alternatively, spend the day relaxing on the beach, swimming in the Aegean or discovering more of the island's charming villages and beautiful coastline.

Riding: No riding.

Day 6

Today's adventure takes you into the mountains on a scenic trail towards Fairyland, a beautiful secluded retreat surrounded by nature. Begin with a steep climb through the forest along a narrow track affectionately known as Butterfly Path, where thousands of butterflies can be seen during the spring months. Emerging from the trees, enjoy open tracks perfect for long canters and magnificent panoramic views as you make your way towards Fairyland. This peaceful haven has been lovingly created by local chef and restaurant owner Yiannis, who welcomes you with drinks and lunch while preparing the outdoor sauna. There are changing facilities and the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing cold plunge in spring water, as well as a beautiful yoga deck and plenty of peaceful corners in which to unwind. After some time relaxing and enjoying the surroundings, saddle up for the return journey through the traditional village of Vafeios, descending through the mountains with breathtaking views towards Molyvos Castle.

Riding: Approximately 4 hours, covering 20km

Day 7

Your final riding day takes you along the peaceful back roads of Molyvos towards the local race track, where confident riders can experience an exhilarating gallop. The horses know the track well and enjoy the chance to stretch their legs, making this a particularly exciting experience for accomplished riders. The group can be divided according to ability, with a slower alternative available for those who prefer a more relaxed pace. After leaving the race track, stop at a natural spring where the horses can enjoy a drink before continuing through the surrounding forest. The relatively flat terrain provides plenty of opportunities for lovely canters as you enjoy your final ride through the beautiful Lesvos countryside.

Riding: Approximately 3 hours, covering 10km.

Day 8

After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your hosts and horses and begin your journey home.

Riding: No riding.

Please note that the itinerary may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, riders' abilities and travel arrangements.

Beginners Programme

For guests who are new to horse riding or would prefer a gentler introduction to exploring Lesvos on horseback, a separate beginners' programme is available. This seven-night holiday combines four riding lessons of approximately one hour each with two guided hacks,

allowing riders to build their confidence and develop their skills in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The programme includes a short hack of approximately one hour to the secluded Church of Agia Fotini, as well as a longer ride of approximately two hours through the beautiful surrounding countryside. During the summer months, the longer ride may include the opportunity to swim with the horses in the sea, while in cooler weather the route takes riders through the peaceful local forest. With riding sessions generally lasting between one and two hours, there is plenty of free time to enjoy the beaches, traditional villages and relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere of Lesvos.

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

- 7 nights hotel accommodation
- 5 days riding as per itinerary (16 hours in total)
- Lunches and dinners (half board)
- Transfer to and from the hotel to the stables
- Mineral water
- Swimming in the sea with horse (Summer months)

Price excludes

- Flights
- Insurance

- Breakfast
- Airport Transfers

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.

Private transfers are available as well as airport shuttles.

Climate

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.

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

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.

Contact details

+44 1497 888 228 WhatsApp
trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com
The Coach House
Clyro Court
Clyro
Hereford
HR3 5LE
Wales

CN: 05411320

<https://saddletravel.com>

