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GREECE





EAST  
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**Greece** is a popular charter holiday destination for both luxury motor yachts and sailing yachts alike.

With its combination of natural beauty, ancient history and breathtaking architecture, Greece is understandably one of the world's top charter yacht cruising areas

The cradle of European civilization, Greece is suffused with history and Culture. Once the epicenter of the ancient world, it still contains archaeological sites and treasures dating back to the Classical era that combined with its natural wonders ensures a collection of some of the world's most compelling cruising grounds. Greek heritage is strong throughout, and each of the islands has a charm, pride and personality of its own.

## Cyclades

The Cyclades islands beg to be approached by sea, revealing their charms slowly or in a sudden moment of sheer drama. You could see them all in ten days, but chances are you'll be tempted to linger longer. Made up of 39 islands in the Aegean Sea, the combination of steady winds, dramatic landscapes and natural harbors makes the Cyclades a perfect sailing destination. Ideally situated for island hopping, these islands are blessed with an astonishing wealth of historical sites and legacies left by countless successive civilizations over the course of five millennia. Rocky, arid landscapes promise breathtaking views with stunning white buildings offset by bright-blue church domes perched above aqua-marine waters.

From the cosmopolitan island of **Mykonos** to the rustic and traditional villages of **Santorini, Paros**, all the islands abound with simplicity and charm, but each remains unique. Fortunately there are plenty of the Cyclades to go around, with something to appeal to everyone! Watch the rousing colors of the cliffs, sea grottoes and tucked away beaches as you approach the island of Milos. For a peaceful night with spectacular views anchor off Folegandros. Cruise around Santorini's satellite islands of Thirassia, Palea and Nea Kameni and discover some of the Cyclades' finest and most secluded beaches. Take a morning swim on the island of Sifnos whilst your crew set up a breakfast picnic on the beach. Sip on some locally made ouzo in the cool breeze on deck of your yacht. Don't miss to take a dip in the hot springs on Milos. Legend has it the waters will captivate you and put you under Venus' spell.

## Ionian Islands

Scattered off the west coast of Greece, the Ionian Islands are the most verdant in the region and therefore promise the most spectacular landscapes.

The seven islands run from the base of the Adriatic to the Peloponnese and thanks to their close proximity to Italy, are tinged with a distinct and appealing Venetian flavor.

Cypress trees, firs and olives are kept

Green by the winter rainfall, while the summer's blue skies and stiff afternoon breezes enhance some of the best sailing waters in the Mediterranean. From the busy tavernas lining the fishing harbors of **Corfu** and **Zakynthos** to the tranquil fishing villages of Ithaca and **Lefkas**, each island has its idiosyncrasies of culture and cuisine and as such the island chain provides endless compelling charter possibilities.

Corfu is the most northern island in the archipelago and an ideal place to begin your cruise. Explore the rich history and beautiful setting, a favourite of artists, composers and poets wanting to escape the crowds of the French Riviera before swimming in the warm waters of the secluded beaches.



## Dodecanese

The most distant island chain from mainland Greece, the islands of the Dodecanese are strung out along the aquamarine waters of the Aegean Sea. Due to their occupation by the Turks and then the Italians, these islands share a unique architectural heritage of castles, minarets, and Art Deco buildings from the Mussolini era, combined with a beguiling mix of sea, mountain and meadow.

The close proximity of the islands make them perfect for island hopping, creating a vacation packed with diversity and adventure. The well-preserved medieval city of **Rhodes** abounds with tiny, traditional villages, bustling high-rise cities and coastlines full of golden sand beaches that have long attracted a glamorous clientele and yachting enthusiasts. The charming and tranquil island of Simi boasts a brilliant coastline of over 84km and a medley of hidden coves and superb beaches waiting to be discovered whilst a handful of premier restaurants and elegant bars come to life when the sun goes down.

From the cosmopolitan to the arty, the Dodecanese without missing **Kalymnos, Kos, Karpathos** are a serene yet chic island group that alone are worthy of a two-week cruise.

## Mainland Greece

Over the millennia, artistic heritage, mythical tradition and charming lifestyle have become irrevocably intertwined and the cities of mainland Greece abound with fine restaurants, chic bars and fascinating exhibitions. Cruises often start in Athens, the 3,400 year old capital and the site of the 2004 Olympics where you can marvel at the sacred rock of the Acropolis that has towered over the city for thousands of years.

The coastline of the Peloponnese, the southernmost section of mainland Greece, is dotted with secluded bays and coves. Separated by the **Corinth Canal**, it is full of ancient ruins, myths and legends (the likes of Hercules and Helen of Troy). Located in central mainland Greece and flanked by the Aegean Sea, the beautiful and unique region of Thessaly holds a landscape that is truly inspiring with intense natural beauty and imposing cliffs dominating the views. From there cross to the **Sporades** islands! This group of islands in the east coast of Greece are known for their beauty, green nature and their amazing beaches.

Only 3 of them - the biggest ones - are habited, **Skiathos, Skopelos** and **Alonissos**. The Sporades are fertile and heavily wooded, with pine-forested mountains sloping down to some of the best beaches in the Aegean, and the local architecture is more characteristic of Northern Greece, with less whitewashing and more stone roofs. In Alonnisos don't miss The National Marine Park that includes both land and sea and constitutes a vigorous ecosystem with great biological diversity, interesting geological structures and important cultural elements.



## Turkey

Caught between eastern and western worlds, Turkey not only straddles two continents, it straddles time itself. The captivating Mediterranean and Aegean coastlines offer vast cruising potential, with a history that is quite literally carved into the landscape of scenically gnarled coastlines and sparkling waters. A place where Persian, Lycian, Carian and Roman influences abound, you can marvel at the ancient Temple of Apollo, relax on the stunning Cleopatra Beach, paraglide over lagoons and dine on gourmet seafood, it is a land of legends, leisure and increasingly, luxury. Dive overboard into the incredible waters around Bodrum and head to shore to discover pretty beaches, forested coves and quaint fishing villages on a cruising vacation that offers all the diversity you could wish for. Gocek, probably the most beautiful spot on the Turkish coast with its forest-clad mountain range, providing the dramatic backdrop to the plains, coastal towns, villages and beaches that are scattered throughout the region. Skopea Limani is a paradise for cruising. 12 km long with little islands and numerous coves for swimming the bay around Gocek, the water is calm and the atmosphere very peaceful. Ceneviz is said by some to be the most beautiful cove on the Gulf of Antalya, bounded on one side by sheer mountain and on the other by pine-encased beach. Bursting with relics from an ancient civilisation, the Turkish Riviera, often referred to as the Turquoise Coast, is dotted with idyllic fishing harbours, white washed buildings and pristine beaches surrounded by olive groves, rocky crags and pine woods.

Enigmatic charm and sparkling waters make this gateway to the Orient a vast and wonderfully diverse cruising area.



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