

# Olives & Mastica



Lesvos, also known as Mytilini, is Greece's biggest secret. It is the third largest island, yet comparatively unaffected by packaged tourism. You will find a rich culture, a proud people and a lovely walks that acquaint you with Lesvos' natural beauty. And don't forget, this is the island where ouzo was born!

Lesvos' southern neighbor Chios is renown for the unusual Mastic Villages which hark back to medieval days when the Genovese city-state colonized Chios in the 14th and 15th centuries. Chios is the only place where mastic, an anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory, is cultivated. Chiotese put mastic in cheese, liqueur, gum, shampoo, ice cream, body lotion, you name it.

## Trip Highlights

- Marvel at Mytilini's elegant 19th century architecture
- Bathe natural thermal hot springs in the sea
- Hike on cobble stone paths and through gnarly olive groves
- Swim on the expansive sandy beach in Petra
- Walk to the fascinating medieval mastic villages in Chios

## Day 1: Molyvos

Rendezvous in Mytilini where the vehicle transfers you to the charming fishing village of Skala Sikaminia. From here you hike along the mostly flat coastal dirt road with Turkey in the distance. Bathe in the outdoor thermal hot springs oozing up from the sea — one is en route in the middle of nowhere, the other at Eftalou, a Turkish hammam. 8 miles (13.30 km)

## Day 2: Molyvos

Molyvos is considered Lesvos' prettiest city with an imposing Genovese castle dominating the red-roofed town. Today's walk is to pretty Petra with its long sandy beach and church atop a towering rocky pinnacle. Optional traditional Greek cooking class. 6 miles roundtrip (10 km)

## Day 3: Plomari

Transfer to Agiassos a traditional mountain town brimming with local handcrafts and produce. Then a hike downhill from Paleohora to Plomari, the town known as the birthplace of ouzo. There are ouzo connoisseurs in Plomari and several ouzo factories offering tastings of this soothing anise drink. 7 miles. (12 km)

## Start and End Points

Start: Mytilini, arrive by over-night boat or plane

End: Chios, depart by over-night boat or plane

## Trip Duration

8 days

## Rating

Easy walks average 5 miles

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## Day 4: Mytilini

An 8 mile morning walk west of Plomari to hot springs in a tiny sea cove accessible only by foot or boat. Afternoon transfer to Mytilini, the island's capital, a city with gorgeous 19th century mansions reminiscent of San Francisco's Victorian houses.

## Day 5: Lesvos to Chios

Take a 2 hour walking tour of Mytilini that takes in the fortress, the ancient theatre and the lively Ermou Street. Ferry transfer to Chios, the island's capital. 2 hour walking tour of the old Turkish quarter, the Byzantine castle, harbor and Voukianou Square.

## Day 6: Mesta

You are now in mastic territory, a product once as valuable as silver. To defend against raiding pirates, the homes were built defensively, one next to the other forming barrier walls which prevented invaders from finding the village entry. Walk the trails that connect the mastic villages. 5-6 miles (9 km)

## Day 7: Mesta

Continue hiking the paths that connect the mastic villages., including visiting the Olimbo Cave. A special town is Pirgi with its dazzling walk designs and a startling history as Christopher Columbus' hometown. Enjoy a farewell toast of the hearty mastic liqueur. 5-6 miles (9 km)

## Day 8: Departure

Daily flights to Athens Airport and overnight ferries



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## Trip Price

Trip price depends on the number in your party, level of accommodations, extent of services requested and optional activities sought. See "Pricing" link on website and "Vacation Profile Contact Form"

**Note:** tour prices are based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. Exchange rates found at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

### Cost per person

1-4 persons: 2170 euros  
5-8 persons: 2030 euros  
9-12 persons: 1960 euros  
12-16 persons: 1910 euros

### Basic Inclusions:

- ◆ 3 and 4 star hotels
- ◆ daily breakfast
- ◆ Ferry Lesvos to Chios
- ◆ Transfers between overnight destinations
- ◆ Transfers to hikes where needed
- ◆ maps
- ◆ day to day itinerary with activities and logistics
- ◆ pre-tour trip packet with info about Greece, the region you will visit, recommended places to eat, phone numbers and other useful information

### Exclusions:

- ◆ International and domestic air fare
- ◆ meals except breakfast

### Optionals

- ◆ Aegea hiking guide throughout the trip
- ◆ Walking sticks
- ◆ Culinary class in Lesvos
- ◆ Mastic, grapes, or olive harvesting tour in Chios

### Travel Times

Best mid-April to October. August is the mastic harvest in Chios, so even though it is hot at this time, it is worth traveling to experience this period.

