



# Dodecanese

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Marco Polo Mansion (p505)
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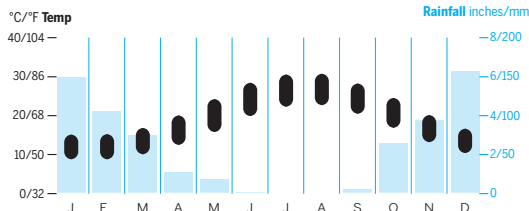
## Why Go?

Ever pined for old Greece, where you can still catch a sense of that authentic magic? Enter the remote Dodecanese (Δωδεκάνησα; do-de-ka-ni-sa) Islands in the south-eastern Aegean. These far-flung isles lie in the sunniest corner of Greece and are home to some of the most deserted beaches you could ever hope to get shipwrecked on, with water so clear that at times you think the fishing boats are floating on thin air.

Hikers, naturalists and botanists flock to Tilos, while climbers scale the limestone cliffs in Kalymnos; divers have underwater caves and ancient wrecks to explore, while kitesurfers visit southern Karpathos for its legendary winds. Archaeologists and history buffs have a bevy of ancient sites to let their imaginations loose, and sybarites can find myriad beaches, free of the package crowds, to worship Helios.

## When to Go

### Rhodes



**Apr & May** Prices are low, there are few tourists and the sea is warming up.

**Jul & Aug** Peak season for accommodation and visitors – book ahead.

**Sep** The best time to visit: prices are down, beaches empty and the sea's warm.



## Dodecanese Highlights

- 1 Wander beneath Byzantine arches and along the ancient cobbled alleyways of **Rhodes' Old Town** (p501)
- 2 Follow the winding road up to the traditional mountaintop village of **Olymbos** (p522)
- 3 Test your mettle diving for wrecks or climbing limestone cliffs on **Kalymnos** (p551)
- 4 Find the deserted beach you've always dreamed of on **Lipsi** (p566)
- 5 Go hiking or birding on postcard-perfect **Tilos** (p532)
- 6 Enter the fabled volcano of **Nisyros** (p535), home to an imprisoned Titan
- 7 Feel your pulse quicken as your boat pulls into **Symi's** (p527) gorgeous Italianate harbour
- 8 Make a pilgrimage to **Patmos** (p561), where St John wrote 'Revelations'
- 9 Stay a while – or maybe even forever – on the tiny islet of **Telendos** (p555)