

The Authentic Island of Chios

July 14-25, 2027

**A magical journey into “Greek summer”
and reconnecting to our roots**

Cost

\$3800

Number of people

21

Accommodations

10 nights

5 nights in elegant
apartments in the
Castle of Chios

Endotera

Apartments

<https://endotera-chios.gr/>

Double-occupancy

Village Houses

5 nights in village
houses in a
traditional, seaside
village

Trip Leader

Kim Walden

260 N DeVilliers St

Pensacola, FL 32502

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850-450-2220

Come with us for an inspiring cultural and community journey to Chios—one of Greece’s most diverse, beautiful, and culturally rich islands! Chios is the ancestral home of our lead guide Kate, whose grandparents were born there in a small seaside village. Think of this trip like a “Mama Mia” experience of reconnecting to our roots, the earth, the sea, fresh homemade food, village life, authentic Greek culture, exquisite nature, and joyful community!

We will enjoy this extraordinary island during the height of “Greek summer”—swimming at a different gorgeous beach every day! Imagine eating octopus and Greek salad with your feet in the sand, just a few meters from the sea, after a day of hiking through aromatic trees, cooking with a grandmother in her garden, and swimming in the shimmering Aegean sea.

Together, we will experience the natural, cultural, and agricultural gems of Chios! We will explore underground church caves, castle-like medieval villages, traditional farms, a Mediterranean forest, a Byzantine monastery with famed mosaics, a black stone beach from a volcanic explosion, temple sites, and tiny Greek churches speckled through the landscape. We will visit the Mastiha Museum to learn about the island’s history and the famed mastiha tree that only produces its healing resin on Chios!

As a group, we will cook with a local grandmother from Kate’s village, take a guided forest hike with a local storyteller, and practice our Greek dancing! There will be opportunities for kayaking, paddle boarding, e-biking, additional hiking, and shopping. In the middle of the week, we will take a day-trip by ferry to Cesme, Turkey to explore its culture and food—as well as its nearby healing hot springs.

To secure your spot, send:

1. trip application
2. \$750 deposit
3. copy of your passport

Mail to Kim Walden.
(See address above.)

All checks are made payable to Pensacola Ski and Travel Club.

We will ask for proof of travel insurance at a later date.

We will be visiting Chios during the height of its community festival season—so be prepared for Greek dancing, music, traditional delicacies, and celebrating with locals into the night!

A highlight of our trip will be our stay in Kate's seaside village and a visit to the house where her grandmother was born—which she is lovingly restoring. Think *Mama Mia*—whitewashed walls, an old wooden door, and a garden that once fed a family. We will meet some of her relatives and enjoy the seaside cafes, beaches, hiking trails, and gardens of the village.

As always on Kate and Dimitris' trips, food is at the heart of this journey! Chios has one of the most respected culinary traditions in Greece, shaped by its extraordinary local ingredients—*mastiha*, fresh seafood, wild greens, homemade pastas, traditional sweets, and fresh summer fruits. Get excited for relaxed summer dinners at seaside tavernas and delicious, home-cooked meals.

We all have roots; all of our ancestors lived closer to the earth. This trip will highlight the joy of reconnecting to where we come from—the earth, shared practices of caring for the land, enjoying life-giving food with neighbors and friends, gathering for spirited celebrations, and savoring the beauty of a slower, simpler way of life—immersed in nature and community.

The trip is guided by Kate Daughdrill and Dimitris Goltsis—both Greek residents who love sharing the authentic culture, food, music, and nature of Greece.

Cancellation/Refund Policy Deadlines:

Initial deposit less \$50pp is refundable until Jan 1, 2027.

\$100 pp penalty from Jan 1 - Feb 1, 2027.

\$500 pp penalty from Feb 2 - March 1, 2027

No refund after March 2, 2027.

Trip insurance is required.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 10 days of exploration, beaches, and adventure on Chios
- 5 nights at Endotera Apartments in the Castle of Chios
- 5 nights in village houses in a traditional, seaside village
- Round trip flights from Athens to/from Chios
- 10 breakfasts included with accommodations
- 5 lunches and 7 dinners at traditional tavernas and restaurants
- Ferry from Chios to/from Cesme, Turkey (20 minutes, day trip)
- Beach time at 10 of the best beaches on the island
- Guided tours of traditional villages, natural wonders, ancient temples, and cultural and agricultural sites
- An intimate walking tour of Kate's grandmother's village—including her grandmother's small Greek house
- A Greek cooking class with a local grandmother in her garden
- Guided forest hike with local Greek cultural storytelling
- An educational visit to the Mastiha Museum of Chios
- A Greek dance class
- 1-2 Greek community festivals with live music and dancing
- Visits to an underground cave church, black sand beach, byzantine monastery, and medieval castle villages
- Local food tastings of mastiha, cheese, fruits, and olive oil
- 4 yoga classes
- A cultural guidebook to Chios and informal educational talks
- Authentic, local guides who live in the Greek islands and enrich the trip with their local connections and warm hospitality
- Van transportation all over Chios
- All ground transfers
- Welcome gift and surprise local Greek snacks
- Welcome happy hour
- Pre-trip party
- 2 rounds of wine included with meals on Chios

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flight to and from Athens, Greece
- Beer and hard liquor

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Kayaking, paddleboarding, e-biking, additional guided hiking, sailing/boating, and a day trip to the nearby island of Oinousses are also available.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Basic travel insurance with health coverage is required. Additional coverage is recommended. We do not sell insurance. insuremytrip.com has options. Some insurances require it be bought within 1-14 days of first payment for a trip. Please check into this at the time of first payment.
- Passports with at least two blank pages are required with expiration at least six months beyond the conclusion of the trip. We require a copy of your passport.
- New for 2026: Americans will need an online “Visa” to visit Europe (details coming).

SEND PAYMENTS TO:

Kim Walden
260 N DeVilliers St
Pensacola, FL 32502

All checks are made payable to ***Pensacola Ski and Travel Club.***

Payment Schedule:

Amount due at sign up	\$750
Amount due August 1, 2026	\$1000
Amount due October 1, 2026	\$1000
Amount due February 1, 2027	Remaining balance

Reviews by PSTC Members of the 2025 Greece Trip

“The experience we had on the 2025 Greece trip really sets a benchmark. The experiences offered by the tour operator are in a class of their own. The attention to detail is amazing.”

“This was one of the best trips I have ever been on!”







