

**BOGNOR REGIS & CHICHESTER CTC CLUB TOUR**  
**LESVOS (LESBOS) TOUR**  
**THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER TO THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2010**

**IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE**

The CTC are concerned that regulations on package tours could be interpreted to apply even to locally organised tours. The CTC are likely to bring in their own rules in this area but any likely solution would involve so much bureaucracy and extra expense as to make it impractical for me to continue to organise Club Tours. The position is that if anything else is organised in addition to accommodation such as flights or leading rides it makes it a package tour subject to the regulations. Because of this the following will apply:-

1. **This tour is not open to the public or even CTC Members generally. It is open only to people known personally to the organiser Edwin Jones.**
2. **Only the accommodation will be organised. It is up to you to arrange your own flight. Details of available flights are below and you can book your choice on the internet or through a Travel Agent. The rules prevent even the recommendation of a flight but there will be a note of the flight the organiser is taking but it is of course up to you whether you take the same flight or a different one.**
3. **Each holiday will start from the accommodation booked. It is up to you to get there. There will be no organised or officially led cycle rides. However anyone who chooses to follow the organiser on the route he takes cannot be barred from doing so. This applies to fixed centre and moving on.**

Lesvos is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Island in Greece so it is more than big enough for 2 weeks. The Island has far fewer tourists than most other Greek Islands and less development. The Tour will be basically a circuit of the Island moving on some days and staying 2 nights at some of the more interesting locations. Mileages will be short varying from 12 miles to a maximum of 35. Average will be about 25. The Island is hilly with the route often climbing to about 1300ft.

On the Tour we fly out from Gatwick to the main town of Mytilini. We spend the first 2 nights at the small village of Pyrgi Thermis 8 miles to the north aiming to get immediately away from the urban bustle of the main town.

We then move on to the north of the Island staying first at the pretty fishing port of Skala Sykaninias. Then on the scenic castle topped town of Mithymna ( Molivos) where we spend 2 nights. Then on to Sigri viewing a Petrified Forest en route. Then we go across to Skala Kalloni at the head of the Kaloni Gulf and spend 2 nights. Then its round the eastern side of the Gulf to Vatera.

Next on to Plomari where we spend 2 nights. Next back to Mytilini and 2 nights here. Then a final night at Pyrgi Thermis and plenty of time to pack the bikes.



If you wish to obtain your own map the best by far is the Road Editions 1/70,000 with accurate roads and height shading. This is not available from Stanfords but can be obtained at Elstead Maps. See this link

[http://elstead.co.uk/cgi-bin/sh000005.pl?REFPAGE=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eelstead%2eco%2euk%2facatalog%2fOrder\\_Tracking%2ehtml&WD=lesbos&PN=Lesbos%2ehtml%23aRE050#aRE050](http://elstead.co.uk/cgi-bin/sh000005.pl?REFPAGE=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eelstead%2eco%2euk%2facatalog%2fOrder_Tracking%2ehtml&WD=lesbos&PN=Lesbos%2ehtml%23aRE050#aRE050)

Please note that there is only one flight a week to Lesbos from Gatwick (Lesbos is called Mytilene in airline details) The one flight is operated by Thomson and only departs on a Thursday. There might be a flight with Monarch on Saturdays but this is £100 dearer and shows up only on some agents websites not with Monarch so may not operate next year. The only other options are a flight to Samos, again with Thomson on a Thursday and then a ferry to Lesbos taking 7 hours. The other possibility is to take a flight from Manchester to Lesbos with Thomson available Thursdays. NOTE Bike hire is not an option. There are some bicycles available for hire at some car hire places. However none of these are set up to carry luggage.

#### **NOTE- DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS UNTIL I TELL YOU.**

If there are more than 10 bikes on a plane any more may be rejected. To be fair I would suggest that the first 9 to book with me go on the Gatwick Lesbos flight. Any more than that booking would have the choice of either not coming or going for alternative travel arrangements. Note that bikes cannot be booked with Thomson until 2 months before the flight. Note that 3 have said they will definitely come before these details were issued so 6 spaces are left. Including me the absolute maximum whatever transport is arranged will be 12 because accommodation could get difficult above that.

When you do book your flight the website is <http://flights.thomson.co.uk/en/index.html>

When you do book the flight the destination is Mytilene Code MJT. Current cost is £219 plus a £20 charge for hold baggage.

The bike requirements from their website is as follows

*“Please make every effort to protect your bicycle - we recommend the use of a bicycle bag with padding for added protection. Handlebars must be turned inwards, pedals removed, tyres deflated and the bicycle must be wrapped in plastic or cardboard”*

I interpret that to mean a padded bike bag is a recommendation not a requirement. The requirement is some protection such as cardboard or plastic so I will use the CTC bag. The fee for a bike is £15 each way so £30 return. The bike must be pre-booked, not left to check-in but it cannot be pre-booked earlier than 2 months before the flight or later than 3 days before.

See <http://www.thomson.co.uk/editorial/extras/travel-options.html#sportsequipment>

It is your responsibility to arrange your own Travel Insurance.

Note that the first and last nights will be pre-booked and other accommodation will either be arranged as we go along or pre-booked depending on the numbers coming. This will be a non-profit making Club Tour and accommodation will be booked to an estimated budget. If we spend less you get a refund and if we spend more there will be a surcharge.

Estimated Holiday price for accommodation is as follows:-

14 nights room only based on 2 people sharing  
a twin bedded room . Cost per person.

£310.00

£50 accommodation deposit is payable on booking. Latest booking date is **3 April 2010** but note it may be booked up well before then. Please fill in and send your cheque with the Booking Sheet at the end of these details. The balance of £260 will be due by the **12 August**. Cheques made payable to CTC Bognor & Chichester (Holidays) and forward to Edwin Jones, 10 Brooklands, Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 4QH.

**NOTE Website addresses and details for Hotels below are provisional. When I know how many are coming I will check if they have availability and check prices.**

### **ITINERY**

- Thurs 23 Sept Fly Gatwick to Lesvos (Mytilini in airport details). Depart Gatwick 07.00. Arrive 12.35. Suggest Taxi about 12 miles to Prygi Thermis, north of Mytilini. Stay at Hotel Votsala. Web is <http://www.votsalahotel.com>
- Fri 24 Sept **Prygi Thermis**. Optional short ride, possibly to a big Roman Aqueduct. Stay Hotel Votsala.
- Sat 25 Sept **Prygi Thermis - Skala Sykaminias** (25 miles)  
Along the coast and then up into the hills. Seems to follow contours. Maximum Height 1300ft. Our destination is a very scenic fishing village
- Sun 26 Sept **Skala Sykaminias - Mithymna (Molivos)** (12 miles or 8 miles)  
Up to the Hill Road to 1300ft. Follow contours with views to the coast and down to Molivos (12 miles)  
Alternative route is along coast (8 miles) but 6 miles is quite a rough unmade road.  
The town of Molivos is very scenic built on a hill with a castle on top. Probably stay at Hermes Hotel. Web is <http://www.hermeshotel-molivos.com>
- Mon 27 Sept **Mithymna (Molivos)**  
Explore the town. Optional 25 mile ride into the hills.

- Tues 28 Sept **Mithymna (Molivos) – Sigri** (35 miles)  
Along the coast and then ups and downs in the hills. Max height 1700ft. Vist Petrified Forest. Stay on the coast at Sigri. Scenic and quiet with a castle  
Possibly stay at EvangeliaStudios. Web is  
<http://www.sigri-lesvos.co.uk/evan2.html>
- Weds 29 Sept **Sigri - Skala Kalloni** (33 miles or 46 miles)  
Either a shorter route across middle of Island of 33 miles or a longer route taking a loop to the south and 46 miles. Both routes have to go up into the hills up to 1300ft.  
Skala Kalloni is in a flat area at the top end of a bay.  
Possibly stay at Hotel Aegeon. Web is  
<http://www.aegeon-lesvos.gr/english.htm>
- Thurs 30 Sept **Skala Kalloni**  
Rest day or optional short ride to Halinadhou Basillica. 20 miles return distance
- Fri 1 Oct **Skala Kalloni - Vatera** (27 miles)  
Mostly flat round the bay but some hills later in the ride up to about 800ft.  
Probably stay Vatera Beach Hotel. Web is  
<http://www.vaterabeach.gr/english.htm>  
Note if you follow this link you might want to turn off your computers sound first using control panel. The Website insists on playing music which has no off switch on the website!
- Sat 2 Oct **Vatera to Plomari** (23 or 33 mile routes)  
Choice of routes again. The short route spends less time in the hills but both routes get up to about 1700ft  
Possibly stay at Mirsini Hotel. Web is  
<http://www.mirsinihotel.com/en-about.htm>
- Sun 3 Oct **Plomari**  
Rest Day or option of a short circuit along the coast and into the hills. 15 miles.
- Mon 4 Oct **Plomari to Mytilini** (22 miles)  
Over the hills up to about 1000ft. Then down to the coast and a passenger ferry for a few miles across the Gera Gulf. Then across the peninsular to the Islands main town. Probably stay at The Orfeas Hotel. Web is at  
<http://www.orfeas-hotel.com>
- Tues 5 Oct **Mytilini**  
Explore town, fortress, Cathedral, Museums. Optional Ride circuit of southern peninsular on the coast (20 miles)
- Weds 6 Oct **Mytilini to Prygi Thermis** (8 miles)  
Ride in the morning and plenty of time in the afternoon to pack the bikes. Stay again at Hotel Votsala.
- Thurs 7 Oct Fly back 13.35 arriving 15.30

## NOTES

1. Mileage excluding any optional miles on rest days or at fixed centre is 186 Miles based on the longer route where there is a choice. Miles including the suggested optional rides on rest days is 246.
2. Likely temperatures in late September early October will be mid 70's.
3. Any queries to Edwin Jones, 10 Brooklands, Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 4QH. Telephone 01243 267746  
E-mail – [edwin@jones.name](mailto:edwin@jones.name)

**LESVOS (LESBOS) TOUR**

**THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER TO THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2005**

**BOOKING SHEET**

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF ANY)**

I enclose a cheque for the accommodation deposit of £50. I will forward the Balance of £260 by the **12 August 2010**. Make cheque payable to CTC Bognor & Chichester (Holidays) and forward this sheet to Edwin Jones, 10 Brooklands, Pagham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 4QH.

**LATEST BOOKING DATE – 3 April 2010**