

Lesvos by car

A practical guide to exploring the island: road trips, beaches, food and driving tips.

FREE TRAVEL GUIDE

Lesvos is the third-largest island in Greece. Its highlights, from Molyvos to Eressos and Plomari, are between 30 minutes and two hours from Mytilene. With a car you can see them all at your own pace. We put this guide together from our experience as a local business in Mytilene.

ARRIVAL

Arriving in Lesvos

The airport and the port are both in Mytilene, the island's capital. Every road trip starts from there.

Mytilene Airport (MJT)

"Odysseas Elytis" airport is about 8 km south of town, a 10-minute drive.

Year-round flights from Athens and Thessaloniki, plus international flights in summer.

Mytilene Port

The port is right in the town centre.

Ferries from Piraeus, northern Greece and nearby islands, as well as from Ayvalık and Dikili in Turkey.

Picking up your car with DriveUp

- We meet you at airport arrivals or at the port with your car. No desks, no queues.
- If your flight or ferry is late, just send us a WhatsApp message. We'll wait for you.
- Delivery and return at the airport and the port are free of charge.

Distances from Mytilene

DESTINATION	KM	TIME
Airport	8	10 min
Agiasos	27	35 min
Mantamados	37	45 min
Kalloni	40	45 min
Plomari	42	50 min
Petra	55	1 h
Vatera	55	1 h
Molyvos	62	1 h 10 min
Skala Eressos	90	1 h 45 min
Sigri	93	1 h 50 min

Distances and driving times are approximate and depend on the route and traffic.

MAP

Map of **Lesvos**

The main places in this guide. Tap any point to open it in Google Maps.



On your phone, tapping a point opens the Google Maps app straight away for navigation.

[Open Lesvos in Google Maps](#)

DAY TRIPS

5 road trips from Mytilene

Each trip fits into one day, starting and ending in Mytilene.

1

Molyvos & Petra

About 62 km · 1 h 10 min · North

Molyvos (Mithymna), with its castle, stone alleys and little harbour, is the most photographed village on the island. Nearby in Petra, climb the steps up to the church of Panagia Glykofilousa, built on top of a rock, for views over the whole bay.

Leave the car at the car park at the entrance to Molyvos. The old village is best explored on foot. Stay for sunset at the harbour.

[Directions from Mytilene in Google Maps ↗](#)

2

Eressos & Sigri

About 90 km · 1 h 45 min · West

Skala Eressos has one of the longest sandy beaches on the island and is the birthplace of the poet Sappho. In Sigri you can visit the Petrified Forest and the Natural History Museum, with tree trunks millions of years old.

This is the longest trip. Start early and fill up with fuel in Kalloni before heading west.

[Directions from Mytilene in Google Maps ↗](#)

3

Agiasos & Plomari

About 27 + 42 km · South

Agiasos, a mountain village on the slopes of Mount Olympus, is known for its church of the Virgin Mary, its pottery and woodcarving. In Plomari, the home of ouzo, visit a distillery and end the day at Agios Isidoros beach.

The Agiasos – Plomari road is a mountain road with many bends. Take your time and enjoy the views.

[Directions from Mytilene in Google Maps ↗](#)

4

Mantamados & the north coast**About 37 km · 45 min · Northeast**

The Monastery of the Archangel Michael (Taxiarchis) in Mantamados is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the Aegean. Continue to Tsonia beach with its reddish sand and to the fishing village of Skala Sykamias with the Chapel of the Mermaid Madonna.

Mantamados also has traditional pottery workshops. Worth a stop.

Directions from Mytilene in Google Maps ↗

5

Gulf of Kalloni**About 40 km · 45 min · Centre of the island**

Kalloni is the heart of the island and home of the famous Kalloni sardine. In spring its wetlands and salt pans fill with birds and flamingos, making it a favourite for birdwatchers. The historic Limonos Monastery is close by.

Try fresh Kalloni sardines with ouzo at one of the tavernas in Skala Kalloni.

Directions from Mytilene in Google Maps ↗**Don't skip Mytilene**

Mytilene Castle, the market street of Ermou, the church of Agios Therapon and the ancient theatre are all close to the centre. In Varia, 4 km south, you'll find the Theophilos Museum and the Teriade Museum.

3-day itinerary

Day 1: Mytilene in the morning, Agiasos and Plomari in the afternoon, a swim at Agios Isidoros.

Day 2: Mantamados, Molyvos and Petra, with sunset at Molyvos harbour.

Day 3: Kalloni, Skala Eressos and Sigri with the Petrified Forest.

BEACHES

The best beaches

Lesvos has beaches for every taste, from organised sandy beaches to quiet coves. Distances are from Mytilene.

Tsamakia · Mytilene, 1 km

The town beach, organised and ideal for a quick swim.

Charamida & Agios Ermogenis · about 13 km

Clear water and small coves south of town, with tavernas by the sea.

Tsonia · about 40 km

Reddish sand and a quiet fishing village on the northeast coast.

Agios Isidoros · Plomari, about 45 km

Pebble beach with crystal-clear water and places to eat.

Tarti · about 50 km

A quiet little harbour in the south with clean sea, away from the crowds.

Vatera · about 55 km

A sandy beach several kilometres long, one of the longest in the Aegean.

Anaxos · Petra, about 57 km

Sandy beach with shallow water, great for families.

Eftalou · Molyvos, about 65 km

Pebble beach with natural hot springs right by the sea.

Skala Eressos · about 90 km

A long sandy beach with crystal-clear water and a lively atmosphere.

What to try

Lesvos is one of the most interesting food destinations in the Aegean.

Ouzo

Lesvos produces a large share of Greece's ouzo, and Plomari is its capital. It's served with water, ice and meze.

Kalloni sardines

Fresh or salted, this is the island's most famous meze. Summer is the best season.

Ladotyri Mytilinis

A hard, tangy PDO cheese that was traditionally preserved in olive oil.

Souganias

Onions stuffed with rice and herbs, a traditional island dish.

Keskek

Wheat slow-cooked with meat, shared at village festivals.

Olive oil

With millions of olive trees, Lesvos makes excellent olive oil. A perfect gift to take home.

Tip

An ouzeri by the sea with a few plates to share is the most Lesbian way to end a day of exploring. Just remember: if you're driving, the ouzo is for your passengers.

Driving tips

Driving in Lesvos is easy and enjoyable, with a few simple precautions.

Bends and mountains

Many roads are mountainous with lots of bends. Allow more time than the map suggests.

Animals on the road

In the countryside you'll often meet goats and sheep. Take extra care on bends.

Fuel

Fill up in Mytilene or Kalloni before long trips, especially heading west.

Parking

In traditional villages such as Molyvos and Agiasos, park at the entrance and walk in.

Driving at night

Many country roads are unlit. If you can, head back before dark.

Rules

Drive on the right. Seat belts are compulsory and using a phone while driving is not allowed. Keep your licence and rental agreement with you.

Useful numbers

European emergency number	112
Police	100
Ambulance (EKAB)	166
Fire service	199
Coast guard	108
DriveUp	+30 2251 029168

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The information in this guide is indicative. Please check opening hours of museums and sights before your visit.