Simi & Hisaronu

THE GULF OF HISARONU
AND THE GREEK ISLAND OF SIMI
The coastlines of the Aegean Sea are home to some of the most pristine and beautiful bays and coves, truly idyllic vacation spots. The Blue Voyage was first made famous here where cross winds are excellent for sailing, the bays are secluded and merge with dramatic pine forested coast lines. The Dodecanese islands, including Simi, are a loose collection in the Aegean Sea, situated off the west coast of Turkey, and offer a tranquil, picturesque charm that has almost vanished from many of the better-known Greek island resorts.

The footprints of cultures from the Greeks and Romans to crusading medieval knights, and from Byzantine and Ottoman potentates to 20th-century Italian bureaucrats, are all found here along this rich coastline of Turkey and the shores of the Greek Dodecanese Islands.

Wake up on board to the warm Aegean sun and crystal clear waters each morning, relax into the rhythm of life on the sea, and enjoy some wonderful sailing between the islands. Disembark to explore the picturesque towns and harbors, boutique shopping, fabulous culinary experiences, and to soak up the unique atmosphere of Aegean Turkey and the ambience of the Greek Islands. While away your time on board relaxing, dining with your friends and group, reading, pulling anchor to explore some of the stunning bays for swimming whenever the mood takes you. Throughout your trip you will be wonderfully looked after by our excellent crew.

LIFE ON BOARD PRIVATE GULET CHARTER
Private Charter offers the unique opportunity to book a luxury gulet yacht exclusively and enjoy an itinerary designed just for you and your group. This is a truly customized vacation alternative emphasizing flexibility, privacy and luxury on a completely tailor-made vacation at sea. Charter your own ‘floating villa’ and set sail, free to cruise some of the world’s most beautiful destinations in the Greek Islands and Turkish Aegean waters.

Private gulet charter is fantastic for groups of friends and families and is ideal for all ages, comfortable and safe for babies and senior travellers as well as all ages in between. Our itineraries are carefully planned according to the interests of the group, while the all-important dining experience on board provided by a skilled chef caters to your exact culinary tastes, dietary requirements and preferences.

Our privately-owned, stylish and well equipped yachts vary in size from 4 to 8 cabins; the maximum capacity being 17 passengers on the M/S Flas VII. During your cruise a professional and personable crew provide an impeccable service and experienced seamanship. Exquisite cuisine is prepared to your liking by the yacht’s chef, and you can dine whenever and wherever you like. Your cruise route is tailor made so that you can visit the places you want and remain flexible as you go along. We also offer activities and imaginative shore excursions ranging from Yoga sessions on board, cooking workshops and hiking to guided tours and special restaurant recommendations.

DEPARTING & ENDING IN BODRUM
(BODRUM-KNIDOS-ESKI DATCA-SIMI-BOZBURUN-SELIMIYE-BENCIK-PALAMUTBUKU-MERSINCIK-BODRUM)
OUR GULET YACHTS FEATURE
› 5 star luxury standards
› Uniformed, English-speaking crew including chef
› Optimized for sailing as guests wish
› Adjustable a/c throughout
› 2 generators & inverters
› En suite bathrooms with flush w/c & enclosed shower
› Spacious cabins
› Flat screen TV, DVD hook up & movie library
› Free WiFi
› Satellite antenna
› Stereo system/ iPOD dock
› Orthopedic beds & pillows
› 100% fine cotton linen and fluffy towels
› Zodiac dinghy with H/P motor water ski, wakeboard and ringo
› Paddle board
› Snorkel & fishing equipment for adults & kids

DAY 1 - SATURDAY - BODRUM
Transfer to the charming Bodrum harbor and board your luxurious sailing yacht in the afternoon. Your captain and crew will be waiting for you on board. Spend the first night on board in the Bodrum harbor or in a bay close by.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY - KNIDOS
Leave Bodrum sailing across the Gulf of Gokova to the site of Knidos, the meeting point of the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. Knidos is famous in antiquity for the cult of Aphrodite started there. Situated at the end of the Datca peninsula, this Doric city was built on terraces rising to the acropolis. Straddling the peninsula, it had a harbour on either side, and flourished during the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods. The site was excavated in 1857 by C. T. Newton and from 1967 by Iris Love. Famous as a center of art and culture in the fourth century BC, Knidos was established at the same time that Halicarnassus was, as one of the six Doric colonies in Asia Minor. It seems to have kept a purer Greek character, no doubt because it set its sights seaward and had little contact with the interior. Around 360 BC, the city was rebuilt at the windblown tip of the peninsula, banking on the fact that a good harbor at the outer corner of Asia Minor would become a popular calling-port for ships on the Aegean - East Mediterranean transit routes. The rocky island facing the shore at the new site was joined to the mainland
with a causeway, creating two deep harbors on either side of the isthmus: one on the Aegean and the other on the Mediterranean. The island section held the residential quarters, a series of colonnaded walkways rose in tiers on the land. Two large theaters, an odeon and three temples completed what must have been a striking ensemble in the midst of a desolate crag. The remains of a circular temple dedicated to the goddess of love Aphrodite overlook remains of the two harbors: the arcaded way was built of white marble heart-shaped columns. The legendary Aphrodite of Praxiteles statue, reputedly one of the most beautiful sculptures of the antiquity, once graced this temple. The city was renowned as one of the most beautiful in ancient Greece. In the early evening moor near the idyllic Kargi Bay.

**DAY 3 - MONDAY - ESKI DATCA & SIMI ISLAND**

Early morning set sail to picturesque resort of Datça. Enjoy a stroll through town, offering some lovely shopping and cafés. Renowned for its natural beauty and climate, this town provides a window into the life of rural Turkey of 50 to 100 years ago. Village life is still based on agriculture, fishing, and the building of the gulet (the traditional 2-masted Turkish wooden sailing vessel). Pine, oak, and myrtle filled mountains plunge down to a serene beach and two natural harbors.

Set sail for the tiny Greek Island of Simi in the Straights of Marmaris, directly hugging the Turkish Coast. The scenic natural landscape consists of jagged coastline with sheer cliffs, narrow fjords, private coves and high mountains. Ever since the classical times, Simi flourished due to the success of its sponge-diving and boat-building industries, launching up to 500 ships a year. It became the third richest island of the Dodecanese. The islands well protected natural harbors led to the Italian occupation in the beginning of the 20th century along with the German occupation in World War II. After this Simi never recovered and the mansions built in better times slowly crumbled. Today elaborate churches, elegant boutiques, seafood restaurants and cafés line the fairy tale-like harbor, painted in numerous shades of pastel colors. It is different than the other Dodecanese islands, remaining refined with an aristocratic charm, seen both in the carefully restored neo-Classical homes and in the gracious hospitality of the island’s inhabitants. Early evening arrive in the fairytale harbor filled with pastel, neo-classical homes.
DAY 4 - TUESDAY - SELIMIYE & BOZBURUN
Depart Simi harbor and cruise to the island’s western side to the peaceful setting of the Panormitis Monastery of the Archangel Michael, with its Byzantine frescos. Enjoy a swim break at the Bay of St. George, before returning to the Turkish coastline.

Sail into the Gulf of Hisarönü for re-entering Turkey in the fishing village of Bozburun. It is used to be the center of sponge diving along the Turkish coast, but nowadays locals here earn their living in a much less dangerous way by building the typical broad-beamed wooden gulets.

Afterwards cruise into the wide Bay of Selimiye, one of the safest natural harbors in the Gulf of Hisarönü. Surrounded by magnificent scenery and largely unspoiled, Selimiye village seems as though it was frozen in time.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY - BENCIK BAY
Sail into the Gulf of Hisaronu with a mountainous coastline that offers numerous anchorages within. Stretching for 30 nautical miles into the Aegean Sea between the Greek Islands of Kos and Rhodes, this gulf provides a sailing paradise with late morning winds and deep blue seas with secluded coves, rugged mountains as a backdrop, and small tranquil villages.

Bencik Bay resembles a miniature fjord. The inlet extends inland about 1.5 nautical miles and has steep wooded slopes on either side. Bencik is located at the narrowest part of the peninsula that divides the Hisaronu Gulf from the Gokova Gulf. The crosswinds in this region are excellent for sailing. Cruise north to Ciftlik Bay, a hidden cove with a small sandy beach, half way up the Datca peninsula.
DAY 6 - THURSDAY - PALAMUTBUKU & MERSINCIK
Cruise to this, the most western anchorage in the Gulf of Hisaronu. Palamutbuku is well known for its sparkling clean sea, fresh fish, and delicious locally grown almonds which are produced locally. From here, sail to Mersincik in the Gulf of Gokova; a stunning bay ringed with high mountains and woods, its clear waters and seclusion make it a favorite spot for spending the night.

Take to the sea on this dream private cruise holiday with your nearest and dearest, relax into the laid back rhythm of life on the sea, revitalise in the crystal clear waters of the Aegean and enjoy a kind of luxury hard to match on a regular villa or resort vacation.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY - KISEBUKU BAY
This morning cross the Gulf of Gokova to the pine-clad Bay of Kesibükü. Take advantage of the calm morning hours, sailing smoothly along the Gokova shores. Opt for a stop at Orak Island. Late afternoon come into the Bodrum harbor, or continue to the attractive bay of Ada Bogazi for night.

• Greek Island harbor fees are extra
• Optional touring where entrance fees are required or the service of a guide and/or van are needed are extra.
• Optional restaurants off the yacht are not included in the price, but meals off board will be deducted from the daily catering fees. Restaurants on-shore requires reservations.
• Transport to the airport or other incurs additional charges.
• There are nominal charges for drinks from the bar on board your gulet
• On a 7 day cruise embarkation is on Saturdays, and disembarkation the following Saturday.

DAY 8 - SATURDAY
Departure after breakfast for Bodrum airport and flights back to Istanbul, or transfers to your next destination.

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