

WELCOME TO RHODES



Introduction

The island of the sun, soaked in history myths and legends, is the fourth biggest Greek island and one of the most popular holiday destinations in Greece. With over 300 days sunshine and the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea's, people have been visiting Rhodes and enjoying in its beauty for many years. Whether you come for holidays or for one of the many conventions or business trips Rhodes has plenty to offer every one. From historical sites to soft sandy beaches the blue sky and turquoise seas, unique flora and fauna, to eating drinking and dancing through the night.



The Old Town

Rhodes has the oldest working mediaeval city in the world; it is a world heritage site as decreed by unesco, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/493>

It was the last Christian stronghold in the Crusades, surrounded by dry moats it offers such ancient buildings as the palace of the Grand masters, the street of the knights, an archaeological museum, numerous chapels, mosques and minarets from the Turkish occupation, peoples houses and of course shops. There are also some ancient sites that were there long before the Knights built the city. Some 6000 people still live and work in this ancient fortification that was once the home of the Knights of St John.

Beautifully preserved buildings and tiny narrow cobbled streets make the old town one of the most amazing places to visit in Greece. At night it transforms from shops and souvenirs into a different world of dancing and parties.



The New town

The commercial centre of Rhodes consists of shops offices and businesses. There is a Marks & Spencer, McDonalds, body shop, BHS Pizza Hut, Zara and others from the famous chains we have in the UK and European cities. Other shops specialise in umbrella's (hard to believe when Rhodes has the highest number of hours sunshine in Europe) fur and leather coats.

Cypress square is pretty much the centre of the new town with all the banks of Greece and other international banks, department stores and genuine designer stores. The bus station is near by and can get you to most places on the island, there is the old Turkish market, and a street packed with Souvlakia shops. Restaurants, cafe bars and bakeries are in abundance along side music stores, optical shops and home wares. .

The island & places of interest



Rhodes is the biggest of the Dodecanese, and has a cosmopolitan air to it. Transport is cheap and frequent with lots of places of interest that will keep any visitor happy. West from the top of the island are the hotel resorts of Ixia Trianda, Ialysos, Kremasti, Paradisi Tholos and Kamiros. On the East coast from the top is Kalithea, Faliraki, Afandou, Kolymbia, Kalathos, Lindos, Pefkos Lardos Kiotari and Gennadi, after which there is not much in the way of hotels but the rugged beauty and serenity of the island is breathtaking.

Famous resorts and the reasons of their fame.

Lindos. Known as the jewel of the island and the only one of three ancient city still in existence, it has the temple of Athena atop the Acropolis, recently partly resorted, parts of this amazing archaeological site can be traced back almost 6000 years (open 08.30 – 14.40 daily except Mondays - with charge). No cars are allowed in the town of Lindos and indeed would not fit as the streets were built centuries before cars were invented. Donkeys were the mode of transport and still are for those who want to avoid the long walk to the acropolis and explore or even just gasp at the magnificent views. The little white cube shape houses are congregated between the acropolis and the mountain in a natural bowl shaped dip. St Paul's bay is very beautiful and popular with couples who want to marry. The Lindos church has a bell that features on one of Pink Floyd's songs. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary also has the fresco of St Michael of Symi amongst other 18th century frescos painted in the old style. (Open 9.00 – 15.00 and 16.30 to 18.00 except Sundays). The town offers 3 beaches and you can expect temperatures to be about 5°C higher than other parts of Rhodes. Temperatures can soar in high season sometimes closing the beaches.

Valley of the butterflies, located on the northern part of the island this natural valley contains a small river and tiny lakes with wooden bridges and a path winding through it is the home of Panaxia, or Jersey tiger moths. A striped brown moth that when sets flight has a vivid red underneath. Shaded and cool even in the height of summer there is a small museum/information centre and cafes.

Seven springs. Another natural valley where there are seven springs sprouting from the earth; you can actually bend down and drink straight from the source. The Italians channelled the water from here to take it for the tree lined avenue in nearby Kolymbia, and there is a tunnel taking the water under the hillside ankle deep in cool refreshing water, walking through here is a small adventure, bringing you out to the bright aquamarine colour of the manmade lake, peacocks roam along the paths through the wood land, where you are shaded from the hot summer sun, an open air restaurant provides food and drink.

Prasonissi, the very southern tip of the island has a meeting place of the 2 seas that surround Rhodes, the Aegean to the North and the Mediterranean to the south, it is a rare phenomenon that occurs in only 4 places in the world. Just off the coast there is a tiny island (Prasonissi – green island) that sometimes enough sand has been pushed up to enable you to walk across, one big storm can wash all the sand away making it and island again.

Popular with wind surfers and kite surfers because it is always windy, there are a few shops and restaurant along with some ruins of an ancient settlement.

Monolithos and the mountains, Meaning single rock in Greek, this strange but natural addition to the coast makes for great photos from the main road. To actually get to it you have to go all the way to the bottom of the cliff and then up the cliff face of the rock itself. The views are fantastic from the little chapel at the top. Just inland from here is the more rugged and wild part of the island giving the winding roads to the little villages that have for sale honey, olive oil, embroidery, and souma at the side of the road.

Check out the time on the clock in Sienna!!

Sound and light show. Free and available every day in the summer – Rhodes town.

Legends



Legend has it that the island was discovered by Helios the sun God rising out of the sea, who then bestowed fertility and perpetuity on the island, he named it for his beloved wife Rhoda, daughter of Poseidon.

Colossos of Rhodes The tallest statue of the time was of Helios the sun god, it was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and is said to have stood astride the harbour in Rhodes (where the old town main gate now stands) it was reputed to be 30 Mt high but was destroyed in an earthquake only 70 years after it's erecting.

St Paul's bay is apparently named after the Apostle St Paul after he was shipwrecked in the area and founded the Rhodian church. It is the setting for many weddings that take place in Lindos; best photos of the bay are from the main car park looking down.

Tsambica. Is shrouded in myths and every one seems to have a different story, but basically it involves a married couple who are childless and find the flaming icon of the Virgin Mary. Of course they put it in the church and it moves it's self to the top of the mountain, so they built the chapel up there. The couple miraculously conceived, and tradition has it that when couples want children the crawl to the top and pray, if their wish is granted the child can be called Tsamikos (boy) or Tsambika (girl) a name that is unique to Rhodes.

History

Rhodes has along and diverse history, and has been occupied by Germans Italian Turks and Byzantine. The location in the middle of the trade routes between Asia, Africa and Europe is the main reason for this, but the fertility and water on the island makes it a desirable target for pirate's marauders and conquerors.

Food & drink.



The Greeks people love to celebrate and their food is no exception, traditionally most islands were poor, with thin soil and little water, dairy produce and fish were the main diet. Rhodes has always been on trade routes for passing boats and has plenty of water making the island capable of being self sufficient (without tourist of course) they also have enough water to be able to export some to nearby islands such as Symi. They have a rich and varied diet and meals are usually made up of meze or small plates.

Dolmades, Vine leaves stuffed with rice and meat

Militinia, Aegean cheese cakes

Stifado, beef stew

Symi shrimps, small shrimps fried and eaten with the shells on

Keftedes, meat balls

Sousokakia, minced meat and herbs usually in an oval shape served in tomatoes & onion sauce

Cheese saganaki, fried cheese

Kleftiko, lamb baked in the oven in individual parcels

Brisola, pork chop

Yuvetsi, meat and pasta with tomato sauce

Horta, wild greens

Spanopitta, spinach pie

Fakes, lentils

Taramasalata, fish roe salad

Baklava, filo pastry & nuts soaked in honey

Psari, fish

Pitaroudes, chick pea fritters

Hummus, chick pea dip

Giros pitta, Greek kebab

Tzatziki, yoghurt with cucumber & garlic

Melansalisalata, aubergine salad

Briami, Mediterranean vegetable stew

Mousaka, layers of aubergine mince meat potato and béchamel sauce



Drinks

Frappe coffee whisked until frothy and served with ice.

Ouzo, made from grape skins, tastes like aniseed, turns white with water or ice,

Cair brand wine made in Rhodes with many varieties

Emmery brand wine made in Rhodes with many varieties

Souma, village fire water!

Metaxa, Greek Brandy, in different star rating depending on the quality.

Local beers served ice cold are divine on a hot summer day, Mythos, Amstel Zorba's and many others available.

Activities

Boat trips to or from Lindos are the most popular pastimes for tourist, in addition there is a water park, Jeep safari's, island tours, city tours, ancient archaeological sites, and day trips to nearby islands of Symi Chalki Kos and to Turkey.

The top 5 excursions are:

Lindos by boat, from Rhodes town to the jewel of the island with free time in the town of Lindos before returning, and refreshing swim stops along the way back.

Island tour; the perfect way to see a vast amount of the island by luxury coach and escorted by professional guide who takes you to the best photo stops, and a mountain village for lunch.

Symi; The nearby island of Symi across the Aegean sea and a visit to Panormitis, the church of the archangel Michael who is patron saint of mariner, then on to the main port with it's pastel coloured captains houses cascading down the hill side.

Water Park: wherever you stay on the island there is a means to transport you to the water park near Faliraki, a splashing day out for kids of all ages.

Pleasure cruise; most peoples idea of a relaxing holiday conjures up an image of a lazy day on a boat with lunch on the beach, on this trip that's exactly what happens, some of the best bays for swimming and an ideal way to see some of the island from the sea.



Nightlife

Restaurants are plentiful throughout Rhodes, and food is available for every taste, Bars and nightclubs can be found in every resort and depending what you want most things are on offer, from traditional tavernas, to rock clubs, gay bars, live bands, dancing and drinking till dawn.

Best Beaches

The best beaches on the island tend to be on the east coast where the Mediterranean gently laps on the sandy beaches, making the water shallow, crystal clear and perfect for lazing away the day.



Afandou, gives coarse sand and pebbles but stretches quite a way and offers an array of different areas. Water goes deep suddenly

Agathi, Near to Haraki and has reddish coloured sand, there are cantinas on the beach and the water quite shallow

Agios Giorgios /Agios Pavlos, a quiet secluded beach with fine sand and no amenities, difficult to find near Kattavia in the south

Anthony Quinn, one owned by the famous man who fell in love with the place while filming the guns of Navarone, quite rocky but excellent swimming

Faliraki, has 4 kilometres of sandy beaches offering water sports and banana rides, Tavernas and cantinas.

Fourni, is on the west coast below monolithos, the pebble beach has good waves and plenty of rocks, but no beds and umbrellas

Gennadi, sand and pebble beach continuing down from Kiotari, some parts empty some very commercial, beach parties galore in summer

Glystra is a pretty bay just past Lardos but before Kiotari, fine sandy beach great for families, small restaurant

Haraki, large pebbles in the curve of the village, plenty of café/bars and places to eat

lalyssos, rather rocky and can be rough from the wind, great for wind and kite surfers, lots of organised areas

Ixia, very similar to lalyssos, with the sea sometimes being quite rough, very close to some of the huge hotels and not far from Rhodes

Kalathos just before Lindos you will find 4 km of sand and pebbles some commercialised and some empty, plenty of room for all.

Kalitheia therma, an area that has been renovated and re-opened in 2007, the area was once an ancient spa, built up by the Italians, there is a small charge to get in but is well worth a visit if only to see the restoration. Scuba diving goes here

Katsouni, also known as Lardos or Katavia, the beach has gentle access to the sea from the sand & pebble beach.

Kiotari, mostly sand and pebble which slopes gently into the sea, a long beach serving some big AI hotels bars tavernas and emptiness.

Kolymbia has shallow crystal clear water some parts with rocks and other parts with sand.

Ladiko, is just outside Faliraki, along with Anthony Quinn bay, perfect for snorkelling

Lindos has 3 beaches to offer its visitors,

Pefkos has several small beaches with shallow water and sandy beaches beds and umbrellas are plentiful.

Prasonissi lies at the very tip of the island where the rare phenomenon of two seas (the Aegean and Mediterranean) meets.

Rhodes town (Elli) beach at the top of the island in the main town,

Stegna, ironically the word in Greek means dry, a nice sandy beach quite spacious with lots of shops and amenities on the road.

Tsambica, in the shadow of the island's famous monastery, golden sand and clear water

Vlichia, a beautiful sweeping bay with hotels cascading down the hillside, the view from the top looking toward the north is stunning.

Zepheros beach, sandy with plenty of fish tavernas just behind.

... And for the more adventurous a **Nudist beach** which is on the outskirts of Faliraki, here you can also have food if you like!

Shopping

Best buys from Rhodes are leather goods such as belts sandals jackets and coats, ceramics, embroidery, jewellery, olive oil and good wine.

Most things are produced on the island but some are imported from Athens and further afield. The Old town has a street (Socrates) full of shops that sell everything from delicate necklaces to suits of armour.

All the resorts have plenty of tourist shops and most places you can arrange an excursion to the Old town day or night.

Useful information

Money € Euros

Travellers cheques are accepted in banks and most hotels have exchange facilities,

Money transfers, from western union at main post offices

Banks & Atm's, are plentiful, even in remote villages, some banks close at 13.00 so go early.

Water in Rhodes is safe to drink, but bottled water can be found in most supermarkets

Electricity runs at 220 volts and 2 pin plugs (UK appliances need adaptors).

Average Temperatures

| | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. |
|-------|-------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|
| °c | 20 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 33 | 31 | 27 |
| hours | 9 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 9 |

In summer months the sea temperature is between 17-25'c



Phrases & language

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Hello/Goodbye | Yassou |
| Good morning | Kalimera |
| Good evening | Kalispera |
| Thank you | Efharisto |
| Please | Parakalo |
| Yes | Ne |
| No | Ochi |
| Okay | Entaxi |
| How are you? | Ti kamis |
| Well | Kala |
| Very well | Poli kala |
| Today | Simera |
| Tomorrow | Avrio |
| I don't understand | Then katalaveno |
| Sorry/Excuse me | Signomi |
| Doctor | latros |
| Cheers | Yammas |
| Coffe | Café |

Local H&S

Doctors are available by asking the hotel reception, Pharmacies are open 9.00 - 13.00 and 18.00 - 22.00 usually; they have a list on display of emergency chemist.

There are 2 hospitals and several clinics, Doctors can advise you where to go depending on the illness/injury. The main public hospital will treat you with European health card. Dangerous animals are very seldom seen but tend to be wild snakes but these are very rare, some scorpions in remote areas, hornets, and of course mosquitoes, for which you can by a 'plug in' to deter.

Health and Safety



Flight safety

- Please check with the airline with regard to security updates and advice as to what can and cannot be packed within your luggage.
- As a general rule, do not place flammable liquids, lighters, matches, gasses or aerosols in your luggage.
- Always carry medication in your hand luggage.
- Please pay attention to any safety briefings given by airline staff and crew.
- To help reduce the risk of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water and reducing alcohol consumption, occasionally walk around the cabin and/or do some simple exercises whilst in your seat to keep blood circulating. For further information refer to the Department of Health website (<http://www.doh.gov.uk>).



Safety and Hygiene

The health and safety of Youtravel.com customers is of paramount importance to us and we want to make sure you have the best holiday possible. Whilst we are working with our accommodation suppliers to ensure the highest possible safety standards are maintained, please bear in mind that safety and hygiene standards overseas may vary from those you have come to expect in the UK.

Whilst we will do our best to make sure your holiday is safe and trouble free, we do ask for your co-operation in taking extra care while you're away. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with your accommodation on arrival, and, if you are travelling with children highlight to them any areas where they need to take extra special care, such as balconies or within pool areas.

The following information has been put together with your best interests in mind and we would ask that you take some time to read through the advice provided. If you should have any particular requirements regarding the safety of your group, please contact us for further advice. In the event of any accident or incident during your holiday, please immediately contact our handling agent in resort on the contact telephone number provided on the voucher and we will do our best to assist you and take any corrective action necessary.



Fire Safety

- Familiarise yourself with the location of your nearest fire exit.
- Read any fire safety notices in your room.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- If a fire occurs, leave immediately, do not stop to collect your personal belongings.
- Proceed to an assembly point well away from the building.



Safety at your holiday destination

When you arrive, please take a little time to familiarise yourself with the layout of your accommodation.



Balcony & Glass Safety

- Please do not lean over, sit or climb on the balcony.
- Children should never be left on the balcony unsupervised.
- Keep all balcony furniture away from the wall/railings.
- Take care in bright sunlight, when exiting to a patio or balcony. It may not be obvious that doors/windows are closed.



Pool Safety

- Familiarise yourself with the layout of the pool, the deep and shallow ends and any unusual features (i.e. bridges, underwater features).
- It is unlikely that your pool will have a lifeguard, so please take care and ensure children and non swimmers are supervised.
- Observe all pool safety rules, in particular "No Diving".
- Please use the showers before entering the pool.
- Do not swim immediately after a meal or when drinking alcohol.
- Pool surrounds can be slippery, so please walk around the pool area rather than run.
- If you are suffering from an upset stomach, please avoid use of the pool.



Beach Safety

- Familiarise yourself with any flag warning system so that you understand when it may not be safe to swim.
- Be aware of any strong currents or tides.
- It is unlikely that the beach will have a lifeguard, so please take care and ensure children and non swimmers are supervised.
- Do not swim near or dive from rocks, piers, breakwaters etc.
- Please ensure that you are aware of any "zoned" areas that are marked out for water sports and do not swim in these areas.
- Never swim alone, at night or after drinking alcohol.
- If utilising any beach water sports ensure the organisers are insured and offer appropriate safety advice/equipment.



Sun care

- Remember to use a high factor sunscreen initially and to re-apply it frequently
- Avoid laying out in the sun during the hottest time of the day
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration
- Take a sunhat, sunglasses and lip salve
- Beware, you can still burn, dehydrate and get sunstroke in the shade or in the water.



Personal safety

- Be aware, as you would be at home - stay away from situations where you feel uncomfortable and avoid walking in badly lit and/or unfamiliar areas.
- Avoid carrying too much money and/or valuables on your person – please make use of safe facilities provided.
- Always lock your room when you go out and remember to close all windows and balconies.
- Please try not to leave accompanied young children in your room.



Road/Transport Safety

- Remember traffic could be traveling on the right hand side of the road - ensure you look both ways before crossing.
- Please do not assume drivers will stop at pedestrian crossings.
- As at home, do not drink and drive.
- Whilst overseas laws regarding mobile phones may not be prohibitive, we recommend not using them while the vehicle is in use.
- Four wheels are better than two – many moped or motorbike hire outlets are inadequately insured and do not automatically provide helmets.
- Always remember to fasten your seatbelt.
- Follow any safety briefing provided by your driver or guide.

Working in conjunction with Docleaf



Symi

The island of Symi is usually within sight of Rhodes and was once a very rich and prospering island. In the main town of Yialos this is still evident with the neo classical captains houses built into the hill side surrounding the island. Many of these now house the many visitors who flock to the Greek islands every summer. There are other small villages and settlements on the island but mostly the interior is a forested area and some high hills that offer magnificent views and good guided walks. Famous for boat building, fishing and sponge diving Symi has, like Rhodes, been a thriving community frequently invaded by others due to the geographical location between 3 continents. Mentioned by Homer in the Iliad Symi is in legend the birthplace of the Charities, goddesses of charm beauty and nature, other stories tell of it being named after the nymph Syme, or scimmia the monkey who was extradited there, amongst other stories. Day trips from Rhodes make the island an easy twin centre and best enjoyed for those who want peace and tranquility mixed with natural beauty.

Kos

The birthplace of Hippocrates the father of medicine in around 460bc, the man that gave us medicine as we know it and the Hippocratic oath still used today by doctors. It is said that Queen Cleopatra and also the demi God Hercules visited the island. Even in the 21st century it remains a popular destination for holiday makers. With its many beautiful beaches ancient ruins and picturesque views Kos has lots to offer. The main town has the fortifications built by the Knights of St John, and many restaurants shops bars and night clubs. Tigaki is very popular for tourists with families and has an excellent long sandy beach, it is the location of the water park, and nearby resorts are Marmari and Mastihari. The lively resort of Kardamena has good beaches and busy night life. Kefalos in the south is quieter with good restaurants and the famous Bubble beach. Just across the water is the only active volcano in Europe Nisyros (dormant for 10,000 years) in mythology the giant Polivotis is said to be buried under here after a fight with the Titan Poseidon. The Turkish city of Bodrum is only an hour's boat ride away.

Things to see in Kos are Nisyros the volcano, Thermes the hot sea springs with mud pools, The white stone cave in Kefalos, an excavation dated back to prehistoric times, the archeological museum and of course the many ancient sites, the plane tree in Kos town which is said to be 500 years old and is said to be the location that Hipocrates taught his students in its shade.