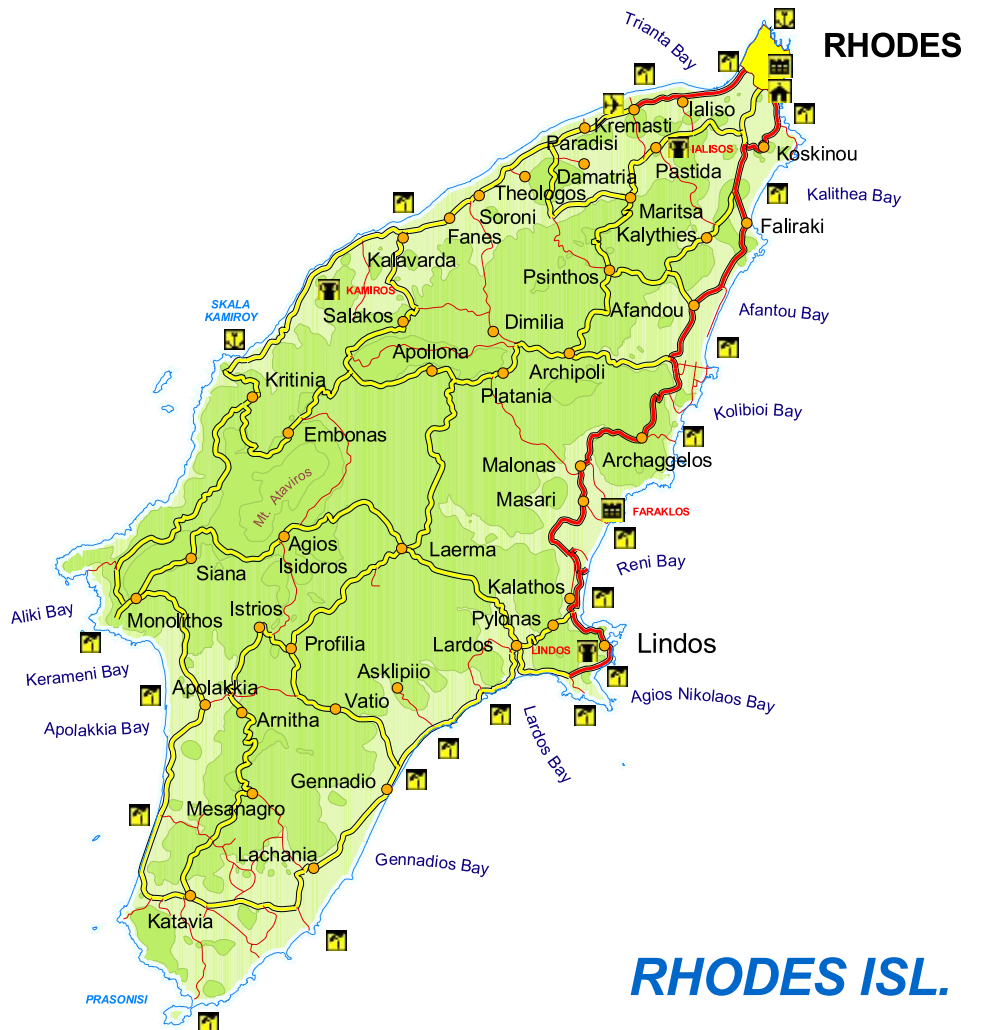


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# Rhodes

## Island of Rhodes, general

Rhodes is the biggest of the islands of the Dodecanese complex and one of the bigger islands of Greece. It is situated at the Southeastern Aegean, close enough to the Turkish coasts of Asia Minor, from which it is only some 11 nautical miles far away. Its extent is some 1400 square kilometers. The island has a length of 80 kilometers and maximum width of some 38 kilometers. The coast line is over 220 kilometers. Rhodes is a very fertile island with rich cultivations and natural forests, especially at the South. It is famous for several agricultural products as fruits, olive oil and wine. At the mountainous villages of the inland, there are also considerable stock-breeding and dairy products.

After a long and quite turbulent history, today the island is prosperous and famous again. It has been developed to a tourist island, offering high quality facilities and warm hospitality. As a result it is a pole of attraction for many visitors and it is perhaps the most popular destination among the tourist resorts of Greece. Having an intense night life, it has gained in fame and many tourists come to the island to enjoy high quality amusement and nightlife for any taste.

Rhodes has been attributed several names, most of them very explicit: It has been called «the island (or the daughter) of the sun», «the island of the Knights», «the lady of the Aegean» etc.

Access to the island is possible by boat (at the central port of the town of Rhodes) and by plane (at the International Airport of Rhodes, called «Diagoras», after the name of the famous ancient Olympic champion). There is also connection with most of the neighboring islands, as well as with the opposite Turkish coast by excursion boats.

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## History

The island of Rhodes is found at the crossroad of three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa. It is also found on the marine routes which connected West with Orient, since the early antiquity. Being such a meeting point, the island attracted various populations and was influenced by several cultures during its long history. Every people who arrived at Rhodes, peacefully or after winning a war, in mass or in small groups, have left their traces on the beautiful island. The result of this diversity has always ended up to this interesting blend that has proved very persistent and still exists today. Rhodes had always been – and still is – a place rich both in natural and in human resources.

Archaeological surveys have shown that the island was inhabited as early as the Neolithic period. The mythological and ancient sources, but also the scientific research, state that the first residents of the island were the Carians, the Phoenicians and the Minoans, who came from Crete. Those latter were settled at the area of Ialysos during the 15th century b.C. and led the island to an outstanding cultural and economic flourishing. Following the destiny of Crete, Rhodes surrendered to the Mycenaean power and under the Achaeans continued to be prosperous for more than 350 years. In 1100 b.C. the Dorians, who succeeded the Mycenaeans, founded the three great and famous cities of Lindos, Kameiros and Ialysos. The evolution of these three cities went along with that of the cities of the coast across (Southwestern Asia Minor), with which they became allies, a fact that pushed forward wealth and prosperity.

It is the period of the great personalities of the island, as the tyrant of Lindos Cleobulus, one of the Seven Sages of the ancient world and Diagoras, winner of the Olympic Games several times. In 408 b.C., the three cities decide to establish a new capital city of the island; thus the city of Rhodes is founded, a town that still exists and flourishes.

Rhodes has followed the destiny of the rest of Greece and was involved in the disputes and wars with the Persians.

During the period of Macedonians and in the Hellenistic period Rhodes was under the power of Macedonians and afterwards of Ptolemy of Egypt. This period is the peak -period of glory and prosperity for the island. It was so powerful, that it achieved to defeat the famous the Macedonian general Demetrius Poliorkitis («the besieger»), in 305 b.C. It is in memory of this glorious victory that it was erected the most famous statue of antiquity, the so-called Colossus of Rhodes, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

During the Roman expansion, Rhodes became an ally of the Romans. However, in this period the town and the whole island suffered damages, due to the civil wars of the Roman generals.

Rhodes is one of the first places in Greece where people adopted Christianity; it was Paul who preached Christianity on the island in 57 A.D.

During the Byzantine times, the island has periods of prosperity and flourishing. Due to its wealth and its geographical position, Rhodes attracts many invaders, who often attack and pillage it. Finally, in 1306, the island, along with the neighboring islands of Kos and Leros are sold to the Knights of the Order of St. John. Under the domination of the Knights Rhodes becomes commercial, economic, military and cultural center of the Eastern Mediterranean. The fruit of this period of glory, wealth and prosperity is the medieval town, this wonderful complex that still exists and gives to the town of Rhodes its unique character and atmosphere. It is in this period of flourishing that are formed the particular features of the collective consciousness and the character of the people of the island, that still survive, up to nowadays.

In 1522, after a siege that lasted six months, the town and the whole island, surrendered to the Ottomans of the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

The island continued to be under the Ottoman domination until 1912, when it passed to the Italians. At the beginning, the population of the island received them as liberators, but soon enough they realized that the Italian domination was only a new domination which did not bring the freedom expected. However, the Italians added a lot to the infrastructures of the island and constructed several interesting buildings, which helped the island to recover soon from the damages it suffered during the World War II, both by the Nazis and by the bombings of the allies. After the end of the war, Rhodes was occupied by the British army, who kept it until March 1948, when it was incorporated to Greece, along with the rest of the Dodecanese.

Ever since, the history of Rhodes goes along with the history of Greece. Today this beautiful island with the fascinating natural environment, the glorious history, the cultural treasures and the friendly people has been developed in a first choice tourist destination. Tourism has contributed a lot to the actual wealth and prosperity of the island.

## How to reach Rhodes – Moving around on the island

The island of Rhodes is found at a distance of 260 nautical miles southeastern to Piræus, with which it is connected every day by ferryboats, at least one in winter and more in summer.

The most comfortable way is of course to arrive by airplane. From El. Venizelos, the International Airport of Athens there are more than two flights to Rhodes everyday, all year round (in summer maybe more); there is also connection with Thessalonica, whereas in summer the island is connected with other cities and islands of Greece. In summer several charter flights from all around Europe are landed at the International Airport of the island.

There are also local connections, especially in summer, with several islands of the Dodecanese, of Cyclades and with Crete and the islands of the Northern Aegean, as well as with the Turkish coast across.

Within the island there is a good network of public buses that connect the capital town of Rhodes with the tourist resorts of the coast, as well as with the most important villages of the inland. Taxi is also a popular means of transportation, at least for the destinations found at short distance.

The town of Rhodes is connected daily with Lindos and Skala Kameirou by excursion boats. From Skala Kameirou excursion boats can get you to Chalki every day, or to Alimìa for a short – stay excursion.

Of course, the best way to know the island is the car (rented or private). And, if you wish to go to most remote places, where cars have not access, the best way is to use a motorbike.

## Mythology

### Rhode

According to Greek Mythology, Rhode was the elder of the Oceanids, one of the daughters of Oceanos (Ocean) and Tythis. Later on, it was thought that she was a daughter of Poseidon (Neptunus) and Alìa, or of Poseidon and Amphitritæ. She was married to the god Helios (Sun) and gave her name to the island of Rhodes, whose she and her husband were patron gods and where it was situated the center of her cult. It is thought that the name Rhode is owed to the pink hibiscus which was native to island and was similar to a rose, which is also etymologically related to her name («rodon» in Greek is the rose).

The Telchines, the first inhabitants of the island came to settle here, when Helios created the island of Rhodes and had seven sons and one daughter with Rhode. The girl, called Electryo, died a virgin, whereas the sons reigned in the island and became famous rulers and astronomers.

Rhode was worshipped on the island not only by her own name, but also as Halìa and Leucothea.

### The birth of the island of Rhodes

The island of Rhodes is related to several myths, some of them stated in the ancient writers and others surviving in the local tradition. Most of them present a version of the creation of the island.

One of the most popular myths in antiquity, has been preserved thanks to the poet Pindarus. According to this myth, when Zeus and the rest Olympian gods came best of their fight with the Titans and Giants, decided to divide the world. When everybody had already taken one's part, they realized that they had forgotten the god Helios (Sun), who was absent during the division. Thus, Zeus, the king of gods decided to offer him the first land that would emerge from the waters. At this very moment the island of Rhodes, green and beautiful, emerged from the blue sea of the Aegean. Helios, impressed by the breathtaking beauty of the island, sent to it light and heat and eversince became the protector god of the island. As the myth states, it is due to this protection and help that Rhodes achieved to become the famous island we know during the Classical and Hellenistic periods.

## The Town of *Rhodes*



The beautiful town of Rhodes, the capital town of the island and of the Dodecanese Prefecture, is situated at the northern end of the island. It is not only the wonderful monuments, the nice beaches and the excellent buildings that attract the visitor; everything here is very well organized, ready to make the life of all visitors, no matter their age or tastes, easier and more comfortable. With the medieval town in front of you, you will have the feeling that you live a medieval legend and you stay in a living museum. But, you will have good time also in the modern town with the recent monuments, the atmosphere of a past that is respected and has become part of the present, and with the lively everyday life. The town of Rhodes counts some 55.000 permanent residents and is the economic, administrative, tourist and communication center of the whole island.

The town has all the amenities and services of a modern town. Several health services (doctors, pharmacies) and a hospital are available in case of emergency.

It has a very good market, where you will find any kind of goods and stores with nice souvenirs which will remind you the «most beautiful town in the world», as it is advertised by its fans.

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## *Sightseeing in the Town of Rhodes*

### Medieval Town

The medieval town of Rhodes is surrounded –and defined – by big walls which used to protect it and which actually are preserved in very good condition. The walls have a length of some 5 kilometers in total and the fortress is completed with moats, towers and other constructions. The town has seven gates, the most important being the Sea Gate and the Gate d' Amboise. The fortress has been well restored and in the interior there are spaces purposely made to facilitate visitors to move around enjoying both an everyday life and receiving several cultural information.

Strolling around in the Medieval Town means to experience history. You will learn a lot, within an environment offering full facilities to the tourist, while at the same time it maintains the atmosphere of the past. The town took the form we know today during the period of the domination of



Rhodes by the Knights of the Order of St. John, which lasted from the beginning of the 14th century up to 1522 when Rhodes was conquered by the Ottomans.

The most important monument of the town is the Palace of the Grand Master, the governor of the town and of the island during the medieval times. The palace had been built as early as the 7th century, during the Byzantine period and served as the acropolis of the Byzantine castle. The building is found at the end of Odos Ippoton (Ippoton Street), opposite to the church of Aghios Ioannis (St. John). During the period of the Knights, the palace was restored and several new buildings were added, in order to cover the services necessary for an administrative building and the residence of the Grand Master. It survived the siege of the Ottomans in 1522 thanks to its perfect construction, but it was destroyed when the neighboring church of Aghios Ioannis suffered an explosion. The Italians restored it in 1940, trying to keep its initial form. A few decades ago, the Greek State carried out extended restoration works, in order to make the place suitable to host the Meeting of the Council of the European Union. Nowadays it houses artistic exhibitions and various cultural events.

The street leading to the Palace of the Grand Master, called «odos Ippoton» (the Knights' street) is the most important street of the medieval town. 200 meters long and 6 meters wide, the street has at either side the houses of the Knights, whose blazons still survive on the gates of the buildings. Close to the entrance of the street you will see the Knights' Hospital, the most important building of the period. Today the building houses the Archaeological Museum of the town of Rhodes. At the same street it is found the Church of Holy Trinity, dated in the 15th century.

We could not suggest only one route in the medieval town; the visitor has to visit every square centimetre of it! As you will enter the town from Eleftherias Gate («the Gate of Liberty»), at the northeastern part of the fortress, just beside the commercial port, you will see the ancient temple of Aphrodite (Venus), built in the 3rd century A.D., and, following the stone - paved streets, you will see the Lodging of the Knights of Auverne, dated in the 15th century, the Arms Depot, the Museum of Decorative Arts, the Byzantine Museum and other buildings, until arriving to the «Castello», the Palace of the Grand Master.

Don't miss to visit the building of «Castellania», which in the past used to be a commercial center, whereas today it houses the Central Public Library, a very important one. You should also see the imposing fountain at Evraion Maryron square (square of «the Martyrs Jews») and remember the prosperous Jewish community which was extinguished by the Nazis, as most of the Jews were moved to the concentration camps and died there. On your way don't miss to see the Byzantine churches of Aghios Fanourios and Aghios Panteleimon.

In every corner of the medieval town you will find a hidden cultural treasure. At Orpheos street it is found the Clock-Tower; if you walk up there, you will have a panoramic view of the town of Rhodes. Northern to Evraion Maryron square, you will find the Palace of the Admirals, where it was the seat and the residence of the Orthodox Archbishop of Rhodes, during the period of the Knights.

The Gate of the Port, or Gate of the Sea, southern to Ippokratous square, has two defensive towers, dominating the port.

At the commercial part of the town, in Socratous street, you will see the mosque of Suleiman, which was built on the place of the Byzantine church of Aghioi Apostoloi (St. Apostles), in honor of the conqueror of the Castle of Rhodes. The mosque is still in use today, as there are many Muslims in Rhodes.

The southern part of the medieval town, the Chora, or Burgo as it was then called, was sepa-

rated by a wall from the quarter of the Knights, from the Collachium and from the other important buildings of the governors. This part was the quarter of the Greek and the Jew residents of the town. Apart from the other buildings, here you will find several Byzantine and Post-Byzantine churches, as Aghios Panteleimon and Panaghia tis Nikis (the Virgin of the Victory), northern to the hospice of Aghia Aikaterini; at the southern part of the town you will see the churches of Aghia Aikaterini (St. Katherine) and Aghia Triada (Holy Trinity), while at the north of the gates of Aghios Athanasios and of Aghios Ioannis (also known as «Kokkini Porta» – the red gate) you will find the churches of Aghios Athanasios, Aghios Fanourios and Aghios Theodoros.

From the period of the Knights it is also worth seeing the Tower of the Angels («Pyrgos ton Angelon»), northern to the building of the Customs, and the foundations of the Tower of Naillac, close to the Gate of Liberty.

Apart from the temple of Aphrodite (Venus), you may also see traces of the wall of the Hellenistic period (at the center and at the East). Left to the port and close to the mosque of Suleiman and to the Ottoman Baths, you may see traces of the wall and the ruins of the defensive towers of the Byzantine period.

Ottomans too had left enough buildings to the town: several mosques, baths and other public buildings are preserved from this period.

Even if you are not interested in buildings, but just wish to loaf away, you will be surprised by the medieval atmosphere of the town, which rests intact, despite the crowds of tourists. And, when you stop for a while to relax, think that you are at the same place where some 600-700 years ago, the Knights returning from the Holy Land where doing the same thing at the same place!

## The historic center of the modern town of Rhodes

The northern part of the town, triangular in shape, is surrounded by the sea at the West, North and East, while at the South it borders the medieval town and the hill of Monte Smith (or Aghios Stefanos). This part is known as «the historic center» of the town and here you will find the quarter of Niohori and Mandraki, along with all the administrative and recreation buildings constructed by the Italians when they dominated the island.

The small port of Mandraki used to be the naval port of the ancient town of Rhodes. According to the ancient sources, it is here that stood the huge statue of the Colossus of Rhodes, whose foothold used to be at the same place where today the visitor sees the pair of the cute deers, the symbol of the island. Another characteristic feature of the place are three medieval towers which today house the Hydrographic Service of the Greek Army, a Museum and a tourist agency. Other remains of the period of the Knights are the lighthouse and the fortress of Aghios Nicolaos at the right part of Mandraki.

There are also constructions made during the period of the Ottoman domination, as the mosque with a nice minaret, situated northern to the building of the Prefecture, as well as the Muslim cemetery of Mourat Reys, where there have been buried several important Ottomans.

The majority of the buildings and monuments at this part of the town are dated either to the period of the Italian domination (1912-1943), or they are more recent (after 1948).

The most important among them are the Aquarium, situated at the most northern edge of the island, the New Market, the buildings of the National Bank of Greece, of the Court House, of the

Port's Authority, of the Post Office, the Town Hall, the Prefecture and the Hotel of the Roses (today the Casino). Most of them are nice samples of the fascist architecture with several features of eclectic style and details recalling all the cultures that have been developed on the island.

## Sightseeing in the modern town (out of the historic center)

The modern town of Rhodes has been expanded at the West and North of the medieval one at an extent of several square kilometers. It faces either coasts, the eastern and the western one.

The roads leading to the airport and to the tourist resorts and villages of the island are found at this part of the town.

The modern town has also several things worth seeing, apart from the so-called «historic center» at the North. The most interesting area is the hill of Monte Smith, where it is situated the acropolis of the ancient city of Rhodes, the temple of Apollo, the ancient theater (an Odeon of the Hellenistic period) and the ancient stadium. In fact what you will see at this site is the remains of the city of the Hellenistic period. The hill owes its name to the British nobleman Sir Sydney Smith, who in 1802 used to stay there in order to watch the movements of the French navy.

You may come here by public bus, but also on foot, if you feel like walking around. You will enjoy the wonderful view of the opposite coasts and below your feet you will see the line of the small houses of the Cretan Muslims who left their island and came to settle at Rhodes. The quarter is called the «Kritika» (the Cretan quartier).

Once in the area of the modern time you may also visit the Venetokleion high school, the mosque Ali Himli, the Orphan Asylum, the Holy Monastery of Aghia Irini (St. Irene), the International Writers' and Translators' Center of Rhodes. There are also several interesting churches, as the small church of Aghia Irini (St. Irene) and the Chapel of Aghia Irini close to the University, the church of Aghioi Anargyroi, close to the Venetokleion high school and the church of Aghios Ioannis Prodromos (St. John the Baptist), within the homonymous park.

Within the modern town there is also the campus of the University of the Aegean.

Southern to the town it is found Rodini, the famous park of the town of Rhodes.

## *Most important towns, villages and settlements*

### I. *Archangelos*



The small town of Archangelos is situated at a distance of 28 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes, at the South. It is an inland town, found some 2 kilometers far from the sea, on a small plateau among mountains and hills. It counts some 5.500 permanent residents. The old town is located at the foot of the old castle, with the modern part to surround the old one.

Several alternatives for accommodation and food are available in the settlement and in the area around.

You will enjoy swimming at the near by beach of Stegna (1-2 kilometers eastern to the town), as well as to the neighboring beaches of Tsambika (3 kilometers far away to the Northeast) and Haraki (some 7 kilometers to the South).

The most important sightseeing of the area, the medieval castle, dominates the place. It was built in 1320 by the Knights of the Order of St. John, on the ruins of the older Byzantine castle, parts of which had been incorporated to the construction. It is worth seeing the Holy Church of the Archangel Michael, to which is owed the name of the town. The church has a nice yard with a pebble-paved floor with characteristic decoration.

You may also visit the local Folk Museum, where it is represented the everyday life of the past; in the museum are displayed local costumes, tools and utensils, along with nice hand-made embroidery and hand woven textiles and clothes. The museum has also a small collection of archaeological finds.

In the area around Archangelos it is worth visiting the Monastery dedicated to Virgin Mary (Nea Moni tis Panaghias). The Monastery is situated at Tsambika, at a distance of 4 kilometers far from the town of Archangelos. The name «Tsambika» is owed to the homonymous family of the place, connected in some way with the Monastery. According to the local tradition, Virgin Mary of this Monastery protects the childless women who dedicate to her small human figurines made of wax and they believe that she is also wonder-working. The floor of the church and the yard of the Monastery are nicely paved with pebbles, whereas the ceiling of the church is decorated with arches and hagiographies.

The Monastery is found within a fascinating natural environment, full of pine trees and other perennial trees. A huge holm – oak, planted in the yard of the Monastery offers its rich shadow to the visitors, protecting them from the hot, burning sun.

In older times the Monastery was established in another place, high on the mountain, above the homonymous beach; the ruins of this old monastery are still visible.

At a distance of some 3 kilometers northwestern to Archangelos, on the top of Koumelos hill, it is situated the homonymous cave, very important, both in speleological and in archaeological aspects. Excavations in the cave, carried out recently, have brought to light several finds dated in the Late Neolithic and in the Mycenaean periods, an evidence of the antiquity of the settlement.

Finally, some 7 kilometers southern to the town, you may see the ruins of the medieval castle of Faraklou, dominating the scenic village of Haraki, situated by the sea in front of a nice beach within a small cove.

Numerous cultural events and activities take place in Archangelos all year round. The peak of the events in winter is the Carnival, taking place in late February or early March.

In summer, a series of cultural activities, comprising dance, photograph, music and others, take place during the second fortnight of August.

The residents of the area celebrate several religious feast with «panigyri» (local feasts), which attract many people from the villages and towns of the island, as well as tourists. The most important local feasts are that of Archangelos Michael, celebrated on the name day of the saint on the

8th of November, the name day of Aghia Marina on the 17th of July, on the 8th of September at the Monastery of Panaghia Tsambika (celebration of the Birthday of Virgin Mary) and on the 23rd of August in honor of Panaghia Alemonitra (Virgin the Beneficent).

There are several stores for souvenirs; apart from the usual post cards and other tourist souvenirs, you may also find nice handmade rugs and embroidery decorated with traditional local motifs.

Health services (a local Medical Center and pharmacies) are available in the town. You will also find Telecommunication and Post services and a Police station.

Access to Archangelos is possible by public buses, running regularly, by taxi and by rented or private car and motorbikes.

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## 2. *Afantou*



The small town with the somehow peculiar name «Afantou» is an inland town, at a distance of less than 2 kilometers far from the sea, situated some 18,5 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes. Built among low mountains and hills, it is invisible from the sea and it is to that characteristic that it owes its name («afantos» in Greek means «invisible»). The settlers of the town have chosen this place in order to be protected from the pirates' invasions, very frequent some centuries ago. However, it is exactly this place that makes the town one of the most scenic of the island, a feature that today attracts many visitors. The town counts some 5.500 permanent residents.

There are several alternatives for accommodation and food, both in the town and in the area around. The central square of the settlement with the big ficus is ideal for relaxing and enjoying a coffee, a local sweet or a cocktail, which you will find in the cute traditional cafes and pastry shops surrounding the square.

Swimming is possible at the well organized, long beach close to the settlement (less than 2 kilometers far away at the East), within the bay of Afantou.

Once in the town, you may visit the church of Panaghia Katholiki (Virgin Mary, the Catholic), built on the ruins of an Early Christian Basilica, whose foundations are still visible. The church is found beside the central square of the town. It is a three-aisled basilica with Ionian style columns, defining the three aisles. It is a triune church, celebrated in the name of Virgin Mary, Aghios Loukas (St. Luke) and the Three Prelates. According to tradition, the first basilica was established in the 5th century, but it collapsed by earthquake and was rebuilt again. In the 8th century it was destroyed, again by an earthquake and rebuilt anew, in its present form. It seems that the altar was constructed in the 11th century. Two layers of frescoes, dated in the 13th and 14th centuries, are still visible, badly preserved due to the long time and the humidity of the walls. A small collection of icons, holy books, ritual utensils, photographs and the archive of the church is kept in the church.

The tour of the town and of the area around by the Municipal wheel driven train is very interesting. Within the town you may see many nice, traditional stone houses, several of them restored.

Also you may loaf about in the souvenir shops, where you may find nice handmade rugs and traditional needlework and embroidery.

At a distance of 8 kilometers Southwestern to the village, you can visit Epta Piges («the seven springs»). The landscape is fascinating, full of trees, wild vegetation and current waters. You will also see a small lake and falls and you may enjoy a tasty meal or a coffee in one of the scenic taverns or cafés of the place.

It is also worth visiting the stone bridge at the river Loutanis, some 4 kilometers to the South, on the way to the beautiful tourist resort of Kolymbia. The way to the bridge is scenic and very nice, as the road is full of trees.

Finally, you may visit the Holy Monastery of Paramythia («solace»), at a distance of some 2 kilometers southern to the village.

Afantou has a rich cultural life and several events are organized in the town, the most important of which are those on Epiphany and the Carnival.

The locals celebrate the important religious feasts with «panigyri» (local feasts), taking place at the churches and monasteries of the town and the area around. Many tourists attend them, especially in summer. Some of the most well known are the one in honor of Aghios Georgios (St. George) on the 23 of April or on Monday following Easter, in honor of the Assumption of Virgin Mary on the 15th of August and in honor of Aghios Loukas (St. Luke) on the 18th of October.

Close to the town there is also the Golf Center of the island of Rhodes.

For health problems, a local Medical Center is available in the settlement. You will also find a Police Station and a Post Office.

Access from the town of Rhodes is possible by public bus, with frequent service, by taxi (a taxi station is also available in Afantou), as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes.

3.

## Emponas



The cute fertile mountainous village of Emponas is situated at a distance of 52 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes at an altitude of some 450 meters, at the foot of Attavyros, the highest mountain of the island. It has some 1.200 permanent residents who keep the traditional life style; they are famous all over the island for their songs, dances and feasts. Apart from all that, the village is famous for its wine, maybe the best wine of the island. The name of the village is a false pronunciation of the ancient word «ambon», which means «mountainside».

Accommodation and food and drink facilities are available in the village.

Close to the village you may visit the Natural Cypress-tree Wood, listed by the Greek State as Natural Monument with conservation status, since it is a very important biotope of considerable scientific value. The extent of the wood is more than 1,35 square kilometers; the public road from Emponas to Siannes passes through it.

A path departing from the village leads to the top of Mountain Attavyros, of an altitude of more than 1.200 meters. At a small artificial plateau on the top, you will see the ruins of the temple of Attavyrios Zeus, which, according to the myth had been built by the hero Athamenes, the founder of the ancient city of Kamiris. The place is mentioned in several ancient works, as well as in the works of more recent travelers, who came here to enjoy the excellent view of almost the whole complex of the Dodecanese, even of Crete, when the weather permits it.

Today, the village attracts many visitors who use to come here, especially in summer evenings, during the wine festivals with the traditional musicians and folk dances. Various cultural events take place during the wine festivals, as theatrical plays, artistic exhibitions and a bazaar of local traditional products. During these days the visitors, apart from other delicacies, have also the chance to taste the local must-jelly, «matsokofti» as it is called in the village.

The old part of the village, the «Pano Horio» («upper village») as the locals call it, is really worth a visit. You will stroll in the narrow paved streets, with the small whitewashed houses, similar to those of Cyclades. If there, you may also see the church dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary, with a very nice wood-carved icon screen.

Don't miss to visit the well known winery «Emery», situated just off the village. Not only you will have the chance of a tour in the winery, but you will also taste various products as dry and «spumante» wines, local ouzo and liquors.

At a distance of 7 kilometers far from the village at the Southeast, you may visit the Holy Monastery of Artamitis, where it is worth seeing the nice icon screen, recently restored.

Within the village you may visit the local Folk Museum, housed in a traditional house donated by the poet Ioannis Konstanakis, originated from the village. You will see the household of past times, along with tools for agriculture and souvenirs and personal objects of the donator.

The residents of Emponas organize several cultural activities, the most important of which are the Wine Festival during the second fortnight of August and the great local religious feast («panighyri») on the 15th of August, celebrating the Assumption of Virgin Mary.

In case of health problems, a local Medical Center is available in the village. There is also a Post Office.

Access to Emponas is easy, by public bus, running regularly, as well as by rented and private cars and motorbikes.

4.

## Theologos



Situated at the northwestern coast of the island, at a distance of 22 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes, Theologos is a modern tourist resort, developed along the public coastal road leading from the town of Rhodes to the beaches, resorts and villages of the western coast. The settlement, actually a small town, counts some 3.000 permanent residents. At a distance of some 1 kilometer at the Southeast, a bit higher than the actual resort, it is found the old village. Theologos is being rapidly developed the last few decades and is one of the poles of attraction for many tourists, mainly thanks to the nice beach it offers and the vicinity to the airport and to the town of Rhodes. Additionally, the place is famous worldwide for being the area of the butterflies.

Apart from the nice beach and the full facilities you will find in the resort, it is worth taking a tour in the area around. First of all, it is worth strolling in the old village. Of course, you should not miss to visit the Valley of the Butterflies, some 8 kilometers far from Theologos at the South. Once there, you may drive another 2 kilometers, always to the South, to visit the Holy Monastery of Kalopetra to see the beautiful icon screen of the church and enjoy the overgrown breathtaking landscape, ideal for taking photos. At a distance of 2 kilometers southern to Theologos you may see the cute tiny church of Aghios Soulas, situated within a nice landscape. Finally, if you feel like going more afar, you may drive up to the scenic village of Psinthos, at a distance of 13 kilometers southeastern to the resort. At Psinthos you will see the church dedicated to Virgin Mary and enjoy the fascinating environment full of perennial plane trees and current water all around.

Many alternatives for staying, good food, shopping, amusement and night life are available in Theologos.

You will enjoy swimming at the long sandy beach in front of the settlement, very well organized and with full facilities. The beach of the resort is the last part of the 10-kilometers long sandy beach that starts from Kremasti and ends up here.

For health problems you should address to the nearby settlements of Kremasti (at a distance of 10 kilometers northeastern to Theologos) or of Paradeissi (6 kilometers far away also at the North-east), where you will find local Medical Centers. At Kremasti there is also a Post office, whereas at Paradeissi there is a Police Station.

Access from the town of Rhodes is easy by public bus, with frequent service, by taxi, or by private means (cars and motorbikes).

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5.

## Ialyssos or Trianta



The small town of Ialyssos or Trianta is situated 10 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the Southwest, within a fertile plain at the foot of the hill of Filerimos and has been developed along the main public road, leading from the town of Rhodes to the airport and to Kameiros. It holds the name of the famous ancient city, whose ruins are found at a short distance from the modern settlement. In what concerns its alternative name, Trianta (meaning «thirty» in Greek) it is difficult to say how it occurred. According to the locals it is due either to a false pronunciation of the word «andrias» (meaning «statue» in Greek), or to the thirty parts in which the land had once been divided. Ialyssos is a popular destination, as it is a well organized tourist resort, with long history, interesting folk tradition and intense cultural life. It counts some 10.000 permanent residents, occupied in tourism, services and agriculture.

### Sightseeing in Ialyssos and the area around

Within the settlement it is worth seeing the church dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary, with a nice stone-paved courtyard and the wood carved icon screen, which is earlier than the church itself; this latter was constructed in the 18th century by a monk.

Close to Ialyssos it is situated the archaeological site of ancient Ialyssos, which was found around the hill of Filerimos. Once on the site, the visitor can perceive the continuity of human presence in the place from the Minoan and Mycenaean periods up to the 20th century and the present times. Just out of the archaeological site, a stone paved path leads to the top of the hill where it is found an impressive cross. The path is called «the Calvary route», as all along it, on both sides, there are 14 stone steles with etchings presenting Jesus Christ's Passions and his way to Calvary. From the top of the hill you will have the chance to take nice photos of the area around, or just to enjoy the excellent view of the area and the sea.

Several alternatives for accommodation are available, both within the town and in the area around. You will find nice food in the traditional taverns and fresh fish and sea food in the sea front fish taverns and you will enjoy fun and night life in the bars, clubs and cafés of the town.

You will enjoy the sea at the long, nice beach in front of the settlement.

Health services (a local Medical Center and a pharmacy) are available in the village. You will also find a Police Station and a Post Office.

In summer, during the first fortnight of August, the Municipality of the village organize a series of cultural activities, the «Ialyssia», which attract many people.

Two great local feasts («panighyri») take place in the village, in honor of Zoodochos Pigi (Virgin, Spring of Life) in April or early May and on the 15th of August, to celebrate the Assumption of Virgin Mary.

Access to the village from the town of Rhodes is possible by public buses, running frequently, by taxi and by rented or private car and motorbikes. A taxi station is available in the settlement.

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6.

## *Ixia*



Ixia is a modern tourist resort at the northern part of the western coast of the island of Rhodes. It is situated very close to the center of the town of Rhodes, some 4 kilometers to the Southwest.

Several alternatives for lodging, as well as for food, drink and amusement are available within the settlement and in the area around.

You will enjoy swimming, sunbathing and sea sports at the excellent, long beach in front of the resort.

If you feel like wishing to see the area around, apart from the town of Rhodes, you may drive up to the archaeological site of ancient Ialysos, where you may see the ruins of this glorious Doric city. Ialysos is found some 7-8 kilometers far from Ixia, at the Southwest.

Health Services are available at the nearby town of Rhodes (4 kilometers far away at the North-east).

Access to Ixia is easy by public buses, running frequently, by taxi, as well as by rented or private cars and motorbikes.

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7.

## *Kattavia*



Kattavia is a beautiful inland village of farmers, situated at the southern end of the island, some 83 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the Southwest. The village is located in the center of a very fertile plain and it is the main provider of the island in agricultural products. It counts some 500 permanent residents.

Accommodation is few in the village and usually there is no possibility to find lodging, as rooms are almost always booked by the windsurfers, who train themselves at the nearby beach of Prassonissi. The village offers good food and nice atmosphere in the traditional taverns, which are specialized in dishes of the local kitchen, accompanied with gorgeous local wines. If you just pass by, it is worth staying for a while to have a coffee in one of the traditional cafés, among the old men of the village, who will fill you with calmness, as they lead their life in so wise a way, far from the anxiety of the life in town.

Once in the village, it is worth strolling around to see the traditional buildings and the narrow streets and pay attention to the features of the local, traditional architecture, so well preserved in this village.

It is also worth seeing several churches, as the church of Aghia Paraskevi, dated in the 19th century, with characteristic features of the architecture of the Dodecanese and a nice wood carved icon screen. The church dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary (known as «Panaghia Katholiki»-«Virgin of the Catholics»), a building of the 10th century, has several architectural parts of an older church embodied in the masonry.

Within the village or in short distance far from it, you may also visit the Holy Monasteries of Aghios Georgios (St. George) of the 17th century, of Aghios Menas, dated in the 19th century, of Prophet Elijah, also of the 19th century and of St. Paul and of Aghios Panteleimonas, constructed in the 20th century. Most of the monasteries occupy the place of older ones, Early Christian, Byzantine and Post- Byzantine. Finally, you will see the catholic church of St. Marc, constructed during the period of Italian domination.

Not only the buildings, but also the landscape is worth to enjoy. A series of low hills hide the village and the plain around it from the sea. The fans of walking have many alternatives for walking tours, following narrow paths and rural roads among the fields, which change colors following the succession of seasons. A really idyllic environment, ideal for taking photos.

And, if you add up to the serene and fascinating landscape the mild weather and the friendly residents, you will really realize that there are much more reasons to visit the place, than the good service, the nice sea and the bright sun; it is worth a visit, mainly for the harmony it implies, for the wise combination of history and tradition with the everyday life.

For swimming and windsurfing, the best choice is Prassonissi, at a distance of 9 kilometers southern to Kattavia, where you will arrive via a rather good dirt track. You may also go to the beach of Plimyri at the eastern coast.

The locals celebrate the name day of Aghia Parasevi and Aghios Panteleimonas with religious local feasts ( «panighyri»), held of the 26th and 27th of July, respectively. Another panighyri takes place on the 15th of August, in honor of the Assumption of Virgin Mary.

In case of health problems a local Medical Center is available in the village.

Access to the village is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## 8. *Kiotari*



Kiotari is a tourist resort rapidly developing in the last few years, full of hotels and stores. It is situated at a distance of 60 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes, at the eastern coast of the island, only a few kilometers far from Lindos and some 70 kilometers southern to the International Airport of Rhodes.

The resort has considerable tourist facilities and offers several alternatives for accommodation, food and drink at the sea front tavern and restaurants, as well as many stores for any kind of shopping. Once in Kiotari you will enjoy swimming and sea sports at the beautiful beach with the

dump sand and shingles. Thus, it is one of the most modern tourist resorts of Rhodes, with all the characteristics that make a place comfortable and well organized.

So, if you need a total relax in a modern, cosmopolitan and comfortable environment, with hotels offering full facilities, at an almost "private" beach, Kiotari is the ideal destination for you.

Only a few visitors from other places of the island come here, just for a quick swim in the nice sea. Most of the swimmers at the beach are the guests of the hotels of the resort.

In case of emergence, you should address to the corresponding services of the nearby village of Lindos, some 10 kilometers far away at the North.

Access to the resort is very easy by rented or private car and motorbikes. From Lindos you may also come by taxi.

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## 9. Koskinou



Koskinou is a big traditional scenic village, pretty close to the sea (only some 5 kilometers far away) with some 2.500 permanent residents. It is situated some 7 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes. Amphitheatrically arranged on a hillside, the village maintains several traditional features of the medieval settlement. The buildings, many of them of neoclassic style, maintain several traditional architectural features, as the colored façades, the nice interior decoration, ceramic plates enwalled in the masonry and beautiful mosaic pavements, made of pebbles, with traditional motifs. The name of the village is perhaps owed to the fact that the territory around it is full of mining holes («koskino» in Greek is the sieve). Another suggestion for the name is that it comes from the ancient city Koskinia, at Lydia, in Asia Minor, since, according to tradition, the residents of the village come from there. Today the villagers are occupied in agriculture, stock breeding, tourism and the production of quicklime, a traditional activity that still keeps on. During the Italian domination of the island, the male population of the village was famous mule drivers. In this period of time the village was well-off and it was considered as one of the richest villages of the island of Rhodes.

There are many alternatives for accommodation, both in the settlement and in the area around. You will find good food in the traditional taverns as well as in modern restaurants and you have a wide range of choices for shopping and amusement.

It is worth strolling around the narrow streets of the village with the nice houses. You may also visit the small churches of Aghios Loukas (St. Luke), an Early Christian basilica of the 4th century, and of Aghia Irini (St. Irene) of the 19th century. During your walk, you will certainly find a lot of things worth photographing, details or entire buildings.

Once at Koskinou, don't miss to visit the Folk Museum of the village, where you will see nice collections of traditional tools, utensils and other objects of every day use. The museum is housed in

α beautiful mansion with an imposing gate-like entrance. The village is also the seat of the Music Gymnasium, where the students continue the long music tradition of the past.

Not far from the village, to the Southwest, you may see the ruins of the old small castle. The first reference to this castle goes back to the 13th century, but it is fairly possible that it is much older (Byzantine times). It is in this castle that the residents of the area took refuge when the pirates attacked the island.

At a distance of 4-5 kilometers southeastern to Koskinou, at the beach of Kallithea, there is the famous (since antiquity) spa, within a lovely environment. The water of these springs has healing qualities for hepatic and kidney diseases.

Swimming is possible at the nearby nice beaches of Reni, Kallithea and Kokkina.

The locals continue the old tradition of celebrating religious feasts with great local feasts («panighyri»), which attract many visitors and locals who live far from their village. Most of the feasts last for two, even three days with traditional music, songs and dances. The most well known «panighyri» of the village are celebrated in honor of Aghia Marina (St. Marina) on the 17th of July, of Prophet Elijah on the 20th of July and of Taxiarchis on the 6th of September.

For health problems a local Medical Center and a pharmacy are available at the village.

Access to the village from the town of Rhodes is easy by public buses with regular service, by taxi and by private means (car or motorbikes).

10.

## *Kremasti*



The settlement of Kremasti is situated at a distance of 12 kilometers southwestern to the capital town of Rhodes, at the northwestern coast of the island. It is a modern tourist resort, extended along the main public road, leading from the town of Rhodes to the villages and resorts of the western coast. Kremasti is in fact a small town, one of the biggest settlements of the island. It counts some 3.000 permanent residents, whose main occupation, apart from tourism, is cultivation of vegetables and fruit trees. The place is very popular and receives numerous visitors, partly thanks to its vicinity to the international airport of the island, situated at a distance of less than 3 kilometers far away, and to the vicinity to the Valley of Butterflies.

Kremasti is a beautiful town, nicely combining the modern tourist resort with the traditional Rhodian village. It is worth seeing the ruins of the Medieval Castle overlooking the area, dated in the Knights' period, with the church of Aghios Nicolaos inside it. Don't miss to visit the impressive church of Panaghia Kremasti, dedicated to Virgin Mary, with the large courtyard wall made of pebbles and the huge cypress trees, as well as the excellent wood carved icon screen. You may also visit the local Library, which is housed in a lovely building.

A wide range of alternatives for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement is available in the resort.

You will enjoy swimming, along with many other visitors who come here for the fine, well organized sandy beach, starting from here and extended along the western coast for more than 10 kilometers far away.

The locals celebrate the Assumption of Virgin Mary on the 15th of August and the Novena of Virgin Mary on the 23rd of August. A local feast («panighyri»), attracting many people, both locals and visitors, take place on the 15th of August, whereas the Novena is celebrated much more officially, with the procession of the icon of Virgin Mary, carried by Navy officers.

Apart from the religious feasts, the Municipality of Petaloudes («butterflies») in collaboration with other public or private associations, organize cultural activities, the most important of which is the Pan-Hellenic Exhibition of Handicrafts, which was firstly established in mid 1970s'. Nice samples of handicraft and traditional folk art from all over Greece are displayed during the exhibition, which lasts for two weeks, and coincides with both the religious feasts.

In case of health problems a local Medical Center is available in the settlement. You will also find a Post office, whereas at the nearby village of Paradeissi there is a Police Station.

Access to the resort from the town of Rhodes is very easy by public buses with frequent service, by taxi, as well as by private means (car and motorbikes).

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## II. *Kretenia and Skala Kameirou*



Kretenia is a mountainous rural village, situated at a distance of some 54 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the Southwest, pretty close to the sea (the coastal settlement of Skala Kameirou is only 4-5 kilometers far from Kretenia to the North). Built on a hillside, the village offers a wonderful view of the castle, of the sea and of the islands across. The 550 permanent residents are occupied in agriculture, mainly with olive crop, viniculture and cultivation of vegetables. They are also occupied in tourism.

Skala Kameirou is the port of the village. The excursion boats to the island of Chalki depart from this small port.

The name «Kretenia» is the new name of the village, which was called «Castelos» in the past. The new name was given following the local myth. According to this myth, Althaimenes, a prince of Crete left his country so that he would not kill his father Catreas, as an oracle had predicted. The young prince arrived to Rhodes, where he settled the towns of Kameiros and Kretenia. However, it has not been possible to avoid the oracle. Catreas, looking for his son, came to Rhodes; his son did not recognize him, he thought that he was invading the island and killed him. When he understood what he had done, Althaimenes left the town and went to the sacred mountain Atavyros, where he established the old temple of Zeus. Apart from the myth, the name Kretenia makes allusion to the Cretan origin of the actual residents, as its etymology refers to Crete («Krete» in Greek).

Close to the village, some 2 kilometers at the Northwest, there is the old medieval castle, established in the 16th century by the Knights of St. John, in order to protect the western coast of the island from the attacks of the Ottomans. The old name of the village, Castelos, is owed to this castle. Once here, you will have an excellent view of the area. The sunset here is breathtaking and the whole place is worth taking photos.

At the central square of the village with the huge, old plane tree to dominate it, you will enjoy your coffee or lunch in the scenic cafés and the small taverns, all of them with excellent view to the sea.

Within the village you may also visit the small church of Aghios Ioannis (St. John), where you will see interesting frescoes dated back to the 16th century.

It is worth visiting the small Folk Museum of the village, with interesting exhibits of traditional objects of every life.

At Skala Kameirou you will see the ruins of an Early Christian basilica.

Accommodation facilities are available in the area around. In Skala Kameirou you will enjoy fresh fish and seafood in the lovely scenic sea front taverns.

Swimming is possible at the nearby beaches of Skala Kameirou (4,5 kilometers far from Kretenia at the North), Mantriko (some 12 kilometers at the Northeast) and Kopria.

The residents of the village, devout Christians of Cretan origin, have brought in their new settlement their customs. Thus, local feasts take place in the village in honor of Panaghia Amartos (Virgin Mary) on Tuesday following Easter and on the 8th of September.

In case of health problems a local Medical Center is available at the village of Emponas, some 9 kilometers to the East.

Access to the village of Kretenia is possible by private means (rented or private car and motor-bikes. If you have a yacht or boat, the small port of Skala Kameirou is suitable for mooring.

12.

## Laerma



The small traditional village of Laerma is situated in the inland, almost at the center of the island, some 58 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes. It is built on a hill and preserves several of the old buildings, now restored. The village is almost hidden in the luxuriant green, as the whole area is full of forests. The place is continuously inhabited since the Pre-Hellenic period and the actual name of the village is thought to be a false pronunciation of the ancient name of the city of Ladarma. Today, the village counts some 500 permanent residents, occupied mainly in agriculture.

Accommodation facilities are available only at the neighboring tourist resorts, but you will enjoy gorgeous food in the traditional taverns of the village.

Not far away, at a distance of 4 kilometers at the Southwest, it is found the Holy Monastery of Taxiarchis Michael Tharris, a monastery established in the Byzantine times; the nice frescoes are older than the 17th century. The monastery is situated within a fascinating environment of luxuriant green. According to the local tradition, the monastery was constructed by a couple of noblemen whose daughter recovered from a bad disease, thanks to the healing water and the healthy climate of the area. Grateful to Taxiarchis Michael, the happy parents sponsored the construction of the monastery at the place where their daughter was saved.

In the area you will also find the rare plant «Paeonia the white», a protected species, growing only here and in the neighboring regions of Prophet Elijah, Archangelos and Arnitha. The plant is found always at high altitude.

The locals celebrate the feast of Aghios Georgios (St. George) and of Aghios Constantinos (St. Constantine) with local feasts («panighyri») attracting many people. The feasts take place on the 23rd of April (or on Monday following Easter) and on the 21st of May, respectively.

In case of health problems a local Medical Center and a pharmacy are available in Lardos.

Access to the village is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes. You will arrive at the village via Lindos and Lardos, following a road of extraordinary beauty.

13.

## *Lindos* *The modern village*



The modern settlement of Lindos is situated at a distance of some 48 kilometers far from the capital town of Rhodes at the South and occupies the same place as the ancient homonymous city. The whole settlement has been listed by the Ministry of Culture as a historic settlement with conservation status and thus the visitor can see how the village was in recent past. The actual form of the settlement was established after 1610, following the strong earthquake, which destroyed it totally. The village was reconstructed and decorated with new buildings, at the expenses of the wealthy local ship owners. As the soil around Lindos was pretty barren, the residents of the village were orientated to the sea and soon they became famous skippers and ship owners, sailing all over the Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea. Today, the majority of the 800 permanent residents of the village are occupied in tourism.

The visitor enters Lindos from the road of the North and arrives at the unique square of the village, with the impressive plane tree, watered by the fountain whose construction goes back to the period of the Knights. However, several ruins around remind to the modern visitor that in antiquity the place was full of aqueducts. Just before entering the village, the visitor comes across the cemetery of the old village, with the imposing church of Faneromeni, dedicated to Virgin Mary. Close enough there are also the remains of the Muslim cemetery, with few graves to survive up to now.



## Sightseeing in Lindos

Below the central square of the modern settlement there is the small church of Taxiarches Michael, Stratelates. Within a shallow niche it is preserved a post- Byzantine representation of Archangel Michael, carrying the souls to death («Psychopompos»). There are also traces of earlier frescoes, going back to the Byzantine times.

Western to the church, at the Muslim cemetery, it is preserved a shallow niche with the representation of a Saint on horseback, called Aghios Georgios o Kammenos (St. George the Burnt) and dated in the 15th century.

The parish church of Lindos is dedicated to Virgin Mary. It is an oblong building with an oblique aisle forming a cross. In 1489, the Grand Master Pierre d' Aubusson sponsored the restoration of the older church and constructed a groin-vaulted vestibule. The Grand Master's blazon is still visible at the southern part of the bell tower, beside the blazon of the commander of the castle, Pierre d' Aymer. Several inscriptions are found on the church, the older of which is the one giving the date 1637. Some of the old frescoes of the church survived, but the majority of the painting is due to the painter Gregorios of Symi, who depicted the whole church in 1779.

At the site of Vigli, eastern to the acropolis and below it, it is preserved the mosaic floor and the marble tiling of an Early Christian basilica, dated in the 5th century.

Another church, church of Aghios Georgios Chostos (St. George) is situated at the northwestern edge of the village. It is an inscribed cruciform church with a cupola, preserving traces of five layers of frescoes at the apse of the sanctuary. The older of them are dated in the post-Iconoclast period (9th and 10th centuries), whereas the most recent go back to the post-Byzantine times.

The church of Aghios Georgios Pachymachiotis, or Aghios Georgios Pano («upper»), is situated a bit higher. This church is also an inscribed cruciform church with a cupola. According to an inscription found at the southern part of the arch, the church was built in circa 1394. Frescoes are preserved on the southern wall, presenting full-figure saints dressed in the luxurious Byzantine style. The arches of the sanctuary are also depicted with frescoes, presenting hierarchs.

Similar to the church of Aghios Georgios Chostos is the church of Aghios Menas. Interesting frescoes, dated from the 12th century (Byzantine period) up to the period of the Knights in the 15th century, are preserved on the walls of the church.

Finally, it is worth seeing the church of Aghios Demetrios. Situated at the Northeast of the acropolis, it is a small barrel-vaulted church with a blind apse at the northern wall where there is a presentation of the saint on horseback, dated in the 15th century.

And, of course you should visit the small church of St. Paul, situated at the homonymous small port. According to tradition it was here that Apostle Paul set ashore, when he visited the island in 58 A.D. to preach Christianity.

In what concerns its plan, the village is similar to the old medieval settlements of the Aegean. The houses are built very close to one another, with the courtyards in the interior, a feature that assured protection. Porous stone and limestone is the main building material. The stones are plastered and whitewashed. Some of the houses are very simple and resemble to the country cottages, others have a courtyard and some are the old mansions. The most representative mansions are dated in the 17th and 18th centuries and are known by the names of their owners: the House of Papakonstantis, of Kyriakos Koliodos, of Makris, of Krikis, of Marietta Markoulitsa and of Ioan-

nidis, where it is housed a small folk collection. Later on, in late 19th and early 20th century, some wealthy families of Lindos have constructed big houses in neoclassic style. The building of the old school, beside the church of Panaghia, is a typical sample of neoclassicism in the village. The building is actually used as a cultural center and houses some cultural associations of the area.

Of course, you may choose to see the old settlement and the ancient city from the acropolis of Lindos, which you may reach in an absolutely traditional way: on a donkey's or mule's back.

A wide range of accommodation is available both in Lindos and in the area around. You will enjoy gorgeous dishes in the traditional taverns and fresh fish in the seafront taverns. You have also several alternatives for amusement and nightlife, both within Lindos and at the nearby beaches. For your shopping you will find many stores of souvenirs and gift shops, where you may buy nice souvenirs and handmade needlework.

Several small coastal and inland villages, close to Lindos, are worth visiting. Vlycha is found at a distance of 4 kilometers northern to Lindos. If you drive to the Southwest, it is worth seeing the villages of Pefki, 5 kilometers far from Lindos, Kiotari, at a distance of 16 kilometers and the village of Gennadi, 20 kilometers far away. On your way to these villages, you may also visit the village of Lardos, at a distance of 8 kilometers western to Lindos.

You will enjoy swimming at the beach of Lindos, as well as at the beaches of Vlycha Bay, northern to Lindos, or at the beaches southern to Lindos, up to the southern edge of the island.

In case of health problems, a local Medical Center and a pharmacy are available in the village. A pharmacy is also available at the nearby village of Lardos. Lindos has also a Post Office, a Tourist Information office, a Police Station and Port Authority office.

A series of cultural activities are organized in summer by the Municipality of Lindos. The events attract many people and usually end up with songs, dance and a lot of fun. The locals celebrate the name day of the Apostles Peter and Paul, on the 29th of June with a local feast («panighyri»). A local feast also takes place on the 15th of August in honor of the Assumption of Virgin Mary. And finally, the locals celebrate the memory of a local saint, St. Malachias of Lindos, who died a martyr in Jerusalem in 1580.

Access to Lindos from the town of Rhodes is easy, by public buses, running regularly, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes. A common means to visit Lindos is to catch one of the excursion boats, departing daily from Mandraki to the port of Lindos. If you have a yacht, supply facilities for boats and yachts are available at the port of Lindos.

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14.

## Monolithos



The scenic village of Monolithos is situated at a distance of 73 kilometers Southwestern to the town of Rhodes. It is a beautiful village, with some 350 permanent residents, with stone houses and

small uphill streets, quite impressive for the visitors. It owes its name to the huge monolithic rock, where it has been built, at the top of which there is a castle going back to the time of the Knights' domination.

Monolithos was not active only during the Knights' period. The residents participated to all national wars and resisted to all dominants. One of the most important events of the history of the island is the bloody Easter of 1919, when the locals revolted against the Italian dominants, while during the Italian/ German domination during the World War II, there were several actions of resistance.

Monolithos is an ideal place for the fans of natural environment. If you feel like staying here, there are several accommodation and food and drink facilities for the visitor. The whole area, full of trees, mainly olive trees, and wild vegetation is suitable for nice driving in scenic routes and visits to the nearby picturesque villages.

For swimming the visitor has to go to the pebbly beach of Fourni, close enough to the village, at a distance of some 4 kilometers at the Southwest.

Once in the village, don't miss to visit the medieval castle, some 4 kilometers western to the village. Access to the castle is easy, via the 100 steps, carved in the rock. In Classical times the site had a «fryktoxia» (a guardhouse, responsible to set a warning fire, in case of emergence). During the Knights' domination, the castle was the refuge of the residents of the area, in case of pirates' invasions.

Today you will see at the castle several blazons of the Knights' period, and the small church of Aghios Panteleinmonas. But, what you should miss no way is the excellent view of the whole area, the sea and the nearby islands, up to the island of Chalki. The view becomes breathtaking during the sunset, when the horizon gets red as the sun «sinks» slowly in the sea, an ideal scenery for photos and video.

Health services are available at the local Medical Center of Emponas, 17 kilometers northeastern to Monolithos. The village has a Police Station.

Access to the village is possible only by rented or private car and motorbikes.

15.

## Paradeissi



Paradeissi is a modern tourist resort at the southwestern coast of the island, extended along the public coastal road leading from the town of Rhodes to the villages and resorts of the western coast. It is situated at a distance of 15 kilometers far from the capital town of Rhodes and counts some 2.500 permanent residents. As it is very close to the International Airport of Rhodes, which is found only 1-2 kilometers at the East, the place receives numerous visitors and tourists.

Paradeissi is a very well developed tourist resort, offering any kind of facilities, along with an excellent sandy beach and crystal clear blue sea. At the same time, it is very close both to the airport and to the town of Rhodes. Apart from strolling around for shopping, it is worth seeing the traditional houses of the settlement, many of them restored. One of the best buildings is the one

that used to house the High School of the village. You will be impressed by the hospitality and the open-hearted character of the locals, who preserve many of the characteristics they had when the, now, tourist resort was a traditional village.

Several alternatives for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement are available in the settlement and in the area around.

You will enjoy swimming and sunbathing at the nice, well organized beach in front of the settlement, which is part of the 10-kilometers long sandy beach, starting from Kremasti at the Northeast, and continuing along the western coast up to Theologos, southwestern to Paradeissi.

A local feast («panighyri») takes place on the 17th of July, on the feast of Aghia Marina (St. Marina). The feast attracts many people, both locals and Greek and foreign visitors.

Health services are available in the resort, where you will also find a Police Station. A Post office is available at the nearby town of Kremasti, some 3 kilometers northeastern to Paradeissi.

Access to Paradeissi from the nearby town of Rhodes is easy by public buses, with frequent service, by taxi, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes.

16.

## Salakos



Salakos is a nice inland village at a distance of 39 kilometers southwestern to the capital town of Rhodes, at an altitude of 290 meters, just at the feet of Prophetes Ilias (Elijah) mountain, the second, in height, mountain of the island. Its name is owed to the farmer who possessed the area in the past. The village is situated within a fertile valley and surrounded by olive trees and vineyards. It counts some 600 permanent residents and it is famous for the walnuts it produces and the handmade wooden chairs that the locals make. Even today, when most of the residents are occupied in tourism and are affected by tourist development, the traditional customs are still alive and the visitor, when there, would enjoy a quite traditional image. You may see the old women grinding wheat to make «pligouri», or baking bread and pancakes for the feasts in traditional ovens.

Salakos is a village with abundant current water, thanks to which there are a lot of trees. It is still a traditional village, preserving several of the old buildings. Once there, don't miss to have a coffee in a traditional café of the central square of the village, under the shadow of tall trees. The square, arranged by the Italians, preserves also some ruins of the walls of the medieval castle.

One of the most interesting features of the nice environment of the village is the famous spring called «Nymph» that waters not only the village, but also the town of Rhodes. The spring, apart from the water, offers the suitable environment for the famous night – butterfly «Panaxia», the same species as this found in the Valley of the Butterflies at Theologos.

The abundant water also helps the growing of woods in the region, which results to the survival of two rare species of animals in the area. The first is the well known «platoni» of Rhodes, a species of deer, one of the few still surviving in Europe. The deer lives in the woods of the area around Salakos and has been adopted as the symbol of the island of Rhodes. According to scholars and

to the locals, only 50-60 animals survive today. Another 50 animals are discarded in zoos, both in Rhodes and in the rest of Greece. It is thought that this rare species endemic in Asia Minor in the remote past, settled in Rhodes thousands of years ago.

The other rare species living in Salakos is «gizani», a cute, small fish one of the rarest species of sweet water fish. A guide of the European Union considers this species as one of the species risking to extinct in the European territory. The fish lives in the water basin close to the site of Eleousa.

Just beside the spring of Nymph, a zig-zag path will lead you, after 20-minutes walking, at the top of the mountain Prophetes Ilias (Elijah), where you will come across another wonder of the nature of Rhodes. It is the wild flower «Paeonia Rhodia», a rare species growing exclusively at this place.

Not far from the village, on the side of the sea, you may visit the ruins of ancient Kameiros, one of the three most important cities of ancient Rhodes. It is really worth a long visit; you will stroll around the large archaeological site and you will come across and admire the ruins of ancient glory.

If you are interested in archaeological remains, you may see several traces of Hellenistic graves and Byzantine churches, everywhere in the village.

The near by villages of Apollona, Soroni and Dimylia have small folk museums housed in traditional houses and in an old oil mill (at Dimylia).

At the site of Fountoukli you may see the Byzantine small churches of Aghios Georgios (St. George) and Aghios Nicolaos (St. Nicolas) with frescoes dated in the 15th century.

At Aghia Eleousa you will see ruined buildings going back to the period of the Italian domination of the island.

There are several other beauties that wait for you to discover them: the breathtaking sunsets at Kameiros, the rich and rare flora and the local customs not only will give you a better idea of the place, but they will also enrich your holidays.

Close to the end of the village there is the cave of Makarouna, with easy access.

The village offers some alternatives for lodging, but in general it is difficult to find accommodation, as it is almost always occupied from the windsurfers who stay here when they come for wind-surfing at the nearby coast of Prassonissi, The traditional taverns of the village offer tasty food and gorgeous dishes of the local cooking, along with nice local wines and an atmosphere of authentic tradition. If you are just passing by, don't miss to have a coffee at the traditional café, side by side with the local old men, who will communicate to you their calmness and the taste of a wonderful everyday life.

Health services are available in the local Medical Center of the village.

On Christmas Eve a representation of the birth of Christ takes place in the cave Makarouna.

The locals celebrate the Assumption of Virgin Mary on the 15th of August and the name day of Aghios Georgios (on Monday following the Easter or on the 23rd of April) with local feasts (panighyri).

Access to the village is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes.

17.

## Faliraki Resort



The modern tourist resort of Faliraki is situated at the eastern coast of the island, at a distance of 16 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes. The settlement has been developed along the long and nice homonymous beach and counts some more than 2.000 permanent residents.

Any kind of facilities for accommodation, food and drink, and amusement are available in the settlement.

You will enjoy swimming at the more than 5-kilometers long sandy beach in front of the resort.

Faliraki is one of the favorite destinations of the fans of «hard» nightlife and of extreme daily activities and sea sports. It is the paradise of the young people who look for amusement and fun, from intense night life, to bungee jumping and other extreme activities. You will also find any kind of stores, from super markets and bakeries, to restaurants, taverns, cafés and pastry shops, as well as several kiosks, department stores and souvenir stores. Due to the vicinity to the town of Rhodes, the abundance of lodgings and the good organization in all aspects, the resort attracts crowds of peoples at the beach. In addition to all the above, you will find a Water Park, where children and adults will find several water games and have fun.

If you are tired of the noise and crowds and feel like wandering around, you may drive to the nearby inland village of Kalythies, situated at a distance of 2 kilometers at the West. Kalythies is a beautiful and scenic traditional village, where you may enjoy a really nice meal in one of the traditional taverns.

The area is good for sight seeing. You may visit the Erimokastro («the deserted castle») at a nearby hill, where you will see the ruins of the Mycenaean settlement, the acropolis of Sarantapihos, as well as several small churches with nice frescoes. One of these is the church dedicated to Prophet Amosh. According to the legend, the Prophet Amosh, had once fought with Prophet Elias. The latter, very angry, threw to Amosh a huge rock. Amosh pushed back the rock with his fist and opened a hole throughout the rock. Ever since, following the local tradition, every child who wished to be taller had to pass from this hole!

In case of health problems, there is an First Aid Station at Faliraki, a local Medical Center at Kalythies (2 kilometers western to Faliraki), or you may drive to the nearby town of Rhodes (12-16 kilometers far away at the North).

Access to Faliraki from the town of Rhodes is possible by buses, with frequent service, by taxi (a taxi station is available in the resort) and, of course, by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you have a yacht, or a boat, facilities of mooring are available at the small port of the Faliraki.

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## *Beaches of Rhodes island*

Beaches of the town of Rhodes

### *Beach of the town of Rhodes, or Elli Beach*



The long sandy beach of the town of Rhodes is found at the most northern end of the town of Rhodes and of the island. It is one of the most popular beaches of the sand, extended all along the Casino, the Aquarium and it is situated northern to Mandraki. Many visitors give different names to parts of the beach. Thus, the part at the right of the Aquarium is known as Elli Beach, whereas other parts are named after the name in the hotel or the bar in front of which they are found.

The beach of the town of Rhodes is one of the favorite themes of photographers, both amateurs and professionals, since the British author Lawrence Darell characterized the beach as the best one in the Mediterranean. This statement of Darell was not for nothing; most of the postcards choose to present exactly this beach.

It is a very well organized beach, attracting thousands of visitors every day, locals, Greeks from all over the country, as well as foreign tourists, mainly Scandinavians. Despite the crowds, it never gets packed and offers enough space for every activity. The sea is crystal clear and usually calm and the beach is wide enough with thick sand which, at the edge of the sea, is mixed with fine pebbles. According to the condition of the sea (more or less wavy), the crowds are gathered to different parts of the beach.

You will enjoy the brilliant sun on sun beds or under the numerous multi-color umbrellas. You may choose any sea sport or play beach volley at the playground available, near the Aquarium. Or, if you like diving, you may dive from the small diving board within the sea.

If you feel a little dizzy from the sun, or tired from the sea (is it possible??!!), or you just feel like drinking something cool and fresh, the numerous bars and cafés of the beach, will offer you many alternatives. Also, you may walk along the beach, loafing about and enjoying the colors, the noise, the sun and the sea.

As it is only a few hundred meters far from the center of the medieval town and the port, it is not worth to use your car, especially if you stay in town. You may access the beach on foot, by bus, and by taxi.

Beaches of the town of Rhodes

### *Psaropoula (Kamari Coast)*



The long sandy beach of the western coast of the island starts just after the Aquarium, within the town of Rhodes and is extended along the Leros Coast, Kalymnos Coast, Miaoulis Coast and

Kanaris Coast, is better known as Psaropoula, the old name of the central and better organized part of it. As it happens with the other long beaches of the town, various parts of Psaropoula are named in different names, as if it were a separate beach, usually taking the names of a hotel or a tavern found in this particular area.

Psaropoula is a well organized beach attracting many people. You will enjoy the sun and the sea lying on the sun beds or under the umbrellas. The beach offers several sea sports as well.

As the beach is found within the town of Rhodes, access to it is very easy by public bus or by taxi and of course by rented or private car and motorbikes. If your lodging is close enough, you may also access the beach on foot.

Beaches of the town of Rhodes

## Zefyros



The beach of Zefyros is a small sandy beach of the eastern coast of the island, situated a bit southern to the Marine and southern to the main port of the town of Rhodes.

Although well organized, it is small and calm, with nice sea, well protected from the northern and western winds.

As it is situated at the southern part of the town of Rhodes, it is easily accessible by bus or taxi, and, of course by rented or private car and motorbikes.

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Beaches at the Western Coast

## The beach of Ixia



The beach of Ixia is situated in front the homonymous tourist resort, at the western coast of the island, to the North. It is very close to the center of the town of Rhodes, some 4 kilometers at the Southwest.

The facilities offered in the resort (accommodation, food and drink, shopping) are available for the visitors of the beach.

The beach is pretty well organized, although not at all its length. In fact, there are not organized parts, while the organized ones are found usually in front of the hotels and in general are reserved for their guests. The beach is sandy, with pebbly parts and it is one of the favorite places for wind-surfers, but also for the fans of other sea sports. The road along the coast is full of various stores, from bakeries and super markets to restaurants, taverns, cafes and bars, as well as souvenir stores and department stores. Due to the hotels, the vicinity to Rhodes and the full facilities it offers, the beach is usually very crowded.



However, the southern end of the beach, on the way to Kremasti and Theologos presents a quite different image. Much less crowded, it offers more calmness and better conditions for those who prefer swimming and sunbathing without being «packed» on the beach or in the sea. Any way, either you choose the crowded parts, or the more «solitary» ones, you will enjoy a crystal clear sea.

In case of any problem, you should address to the Services (Health Services, Police etc.) of the nearby town of Rhodes, only some 4-6 kilometers far away.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is easy, by public buses with very frequent service, by taxi, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes. Of course, if you stay in one of the lodgings of the area, you may access the beach also on foot.

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Beaches at the Western Coast

## *Beach of Ialysos or Trianta*



The beach of Ialysos, in front of the homonymous tourist resort, is situated at a distance of 7-8 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes. Many people call it with its alternative name, Trianta (like the village). It is a long beach, divided in parts with free access, which alternate with the parts in front of the big hotel complexes, which are reserved only for the hotels' guests.

Of course, you have abundant facilities for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement in the tourist resort of Ialysos.

The beach is sandy and partly pebbly, very well organized in its major part. The sea is clean and crystal clear, as the rest of the beaches of the northwestern coast. Once relaxing on the sun beds, at the shadow of the multi-colored umbrellas, you will have a nice view of the opposite coast of Asia Minor. The beach also offers many alternatives for sea sports at all its length. But the sport dominating here is the windsurfing. The beach is so popular and so favorite to windsurfers that the locals advertise Ialysos as «the capital city of windsurfing». And they are pretty right, as every year several local, Panhellenic and European Champions of windsurfing are organized here. Moreover, in 2007 the World Champion of Windsurfing has been organized in Ialysos.

Health services are available in the resort (a local Medical Center and a pharmacy), where you will also find a Police Station and a Post Office.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is very easy by public buses with frequent service, by taxi (a taxi station is also available at the settlement), as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes.

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Beaches at the Western Coast

## *Kremasti*



The beach in front of the tourist resort of Kremasti is situated at the northwestern coast of the island, at a distance of 12 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the Southwest. The beach is part of the long sandy beach of the western coast, which starts from here to end up, after 10 kilometers, at Theologos.

Numerous visitors enjoy this excellent beach, either choosing it only for swimming or for staying too. The beach is fully organized, and, apart of swimming, sunbathing and food and drink facilities, it also offers a wide range of sea sports, which along with the bright sun, the crystal clear sea and the nice sand make it very popular to the tourists, who enjoy it very much.

Health services are available in the resort. You will also find a Post Office. A Police station is available at the nearby settlement of Paradeissi (3 kilometers at the Southwest).

Access to Kremasti from the town of Rhodes is very easy. There are public buses running frequently and you may also use a taxi as the distance is rather short (12 kilometers). Of course, you can reach the place by rented or private car and motorbikes.

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Beaches at the Western Coast

## *Paradeissi*



The nice sandy beach in front of the homonymous tourist resort is part of the 10- kilometers long sandy beach of the western coast of the island that starts from Kremasti, some 3 kilometers north-eastern to the settlement and ends up at Theologos, after 7-8 kilometers. Paradeissi is situated at a distance of 15 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes.

The beach is very popular and many tourists choose it either for swimming only or for staying there too. The beach is worth its name (Paradeissi means «paradise» in Greek), as it offers large sand, crystal clear sea and a wide range of sea sports. Well organized, it offers any kind of facilities, from accommodation and food and drink, to shopping and sea sports. According to the people who have visited the beach, it is really the paradise of summer and of enjoyment.

For health problems a local Medical Center is available at the settlement. You will also find a Police Station. For post services you should pop up to the nearby resort of Kremasti, where you will find a Post office.

Access to the beach from the nearby town of Rhodes (15 kilometers far away) is easy, by public buses, running frequently, by taxi, as well as by private means.

Beaches at the Western Coast

## Theologos



The beach in front of the tourist resort of Theologos is situated at a distance of 22 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes at the northwestern coast of the island. It is the last part of the 10- kilometers long continuous beach, which starts from Kremasti at the Northeast and ends up here.

Once at the beach, you will enjoy swimming, sunbathing and sports at a huge sandy beach, with nice crystal clear sea, very well organized and with any facilities you wish.

Health services are available at the nearby resort of Kremasti (some 10 kilometers at the Northeast, where you will find a local Medical Center and a Post Office. A Medical Center is also available at Paradeissi, some 6 kilometers to the Northeast. At Paradeissi, you will also find a Police Station.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is very easy by public bus, running frequently, by taxi, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes.

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Beaches at the Western Coast

## Soroni



The beach of Soroni is situated at the western coast of the island, at a distance of some 25 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes. It is a pebbly beach and the sea is usually wavy and deepens brusquely.

The beach is not much organized and only few visitors come here as, due to the vicinity to the airport, the aircrafts make enough noise. However, if you choose this beach you will have enough space for water games and games on the sand. In autumn the sea is somehow cold here.

Those preferring to stay in the area will find accommodation facilities, food and drink and stores for shopping, in the homonymous village, only one kilometer far from the beach. In fact, staying in Soroni is a good choice if you prefer to be far from the noisy, cosmopolitan resorts of the island.

Once at Soroni you have several things to do and see. At a distance of 3 kilometers southeastern to the beach, after a short drive within a pine wood, you will arrive at the tiny, cute church of Aghios Soulas. A local feast («panighyri») takes place here on the 29th and 30th of July in honor of the saint. The feast is one of the greatest of the island and many people attend it. During the panighyri horse and... donkey races are organized. As the event is very popular, extra public buses departing from the town of Rhodes, get the people to the church.

For health problems you should address to the local Medical Centers of Kremasti (some 12 kilometers to the Northeast) and of Paradeissi (some 8 kilometers also to the Northeast). At Paradeissi you will also find a Police Station.

Access to the beach of Soroni is easy by public buses from the town of Rhodes, by taxi and, of course by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Beaches at the Western Coast

### *Fanes*



The tiny beach beside the small scenic port of Fanes is situated some 28 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes, at the western coast of the island.

Accommodation facilities are available at the nearby tourist resorts of the northwestern coast. The beach and the small port beside it will offer you only good food, mainly fresh gorgeous fish, which you may enjoy in the sea front taverns.

The beach is remote enough to let you enjoy the crystal clear sea and the sun, without noise and big crowds around.

Health services are available at the nearby resort of Kremasti (some 15 kilometers at the Northeast), where you will find a local Medical Center and a Post Office. At Paradeissi, some 12 kilometers also to the Northeast, you will find both a local Medical Center and a Police Station.

Access to the beach of Fanes is easy. You may use taxis from the nearby resort of Paradeissi, or you will reach it by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you have a yacht, facilities of mooring are available at the small but safe port, which will protect your vessel from the strong northern summer winds blowing in the area.

## Beaches at the Western Coast

### *Mantriko*



The beach of Mantriko, in front of the homonymous coastal settlement, the port of Emponas, is situated at a distance of some 7 kilometers northeastern to Skala Kameirou and some 44 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes. The name «Mantriko» is owed to the stockyard found at the place. The settlement has only few permanent residents, occupied in agriculture, stock-breeding and tourism. The area is famous for the quality of the fruits and vegetables.

Accommodation is available in the area around and good food is offered in the sea front taverns of the settlements of the area.

The small village is built at a place with long history. As the archaeological finds show, in antiquity the area was occupied by a famous city named Leros, Liros as the residents of Emponas and Kretenia call the area, in false pronunciation.

Once in the settlement, it is worth seeing the church of Aghia Triada (Holy Trinity).

The beach is not much organized, but here you will find the calmness you will never enjoy in the crowded popular resorts with their full facilities.

In any case of emergency, you should address to the relative services of Emponas.

Access to the beach is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you reach the place by yacht or boat, the small port of Mantriko is suitable for mooring.

Beaches at the Western Coast

## *Kopria*



The remote beach of Kopria is a nice surprise for the visitor of the southwestern coast of the island. The beach is situated at a distance of some 45 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes, at a short distance after Mantriko and 6 kilometers before arriving to Skala Kameirou. Despite its ill-sounding name («kopria» in Greek means «muck»), it is a wonderful beach with big rocks at its ends and nice sand and pebbles at its length.

No facilities are available for the swimmers. Here you will not find sun beds and umbrellas, nor sea sports, not even water (you have to bring it along). But you will enjoy calmness and solitary swimming and sunbathing in a crystal clear sea and relax on the nice sand. In fact, you will have an almost private beach, which you will share with only few people who, like you, have not chosen one of the crowded, noisy and well organized beaches.

Access to the beach is very easy, by private means only or by taxi. One kilometer after Mantriko, on the way to Skala Kameirou, you will turn right and arrive to the beach.

Beaches at the Western Coast

## *Skala Kameirou*



At the beach of Skala Kameirou, serving as the port of the inland village of Kretenia, you will not find the thick, long sand, or the good organization of the rest of the resorts; but, you will find clean, crystal clear sea and calmness and you will enjoy swimming within an excellent environment of luxuriant green. The beach is situated at a distance of some 51 kilometers southwestern to the capital town of Rhodes and 4,5 kilometers northern to the scenic inland village of Kretenia.

The area does not offer many alternatives for accommodation. But food is nice at the small sea front taverns, where you will enjoy fresh fish and sea food, brought every day by the small fishing boats mooring at the small port of Skala Kameirou.

The beach is ideal for those wishing to avoid big crowds and noise, and prefer to enjoy swimming in a calmer atmosphere.

The settlement is tiny, but very scenic. The most characteristic feature of it is the old windmills. One of the pros of the village is also the nice view of the open sea.

In any case of emergency, the relative services of Emponas are available for you. (some 14 kilometers at the Northeast).

Access to the beach for the town of Rhodes is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you reach the beach from the sea, you may moor your boat or yacht at the small port of the settlement.

Excursion boats departing daily from Skala Kameirou, connect the island of Rhodes with the small island of Chalki. There are also excursion boats that will get you at the opposite islet of Alimia, for a daily excursion. Alimia has a large natural port, and the journey from Skala Kameirou lasts some 30 minutes.

#### Beaches at the Western Coast

### *Glyfada*



The rocky beach of Glyfada is situated at a distance of 72 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes, at the center of the western coast of the island. It is a beach ideal for those looking for a clean sea far from the big crowds. The beach has large pebbles, covered with seaweeds, which are brought here by the winds blowing almost constantly. Entering the sea you have to step on rocks, which makes it a bit difficult. After all this, you may ask: «why to choose this beach?» Well, if you wish an easier life, you may go to Faliraki or to the other crowded, popular and...trendy beaches of the island. But, if you like to be alone, if you write a book, or if you are bored of the sandy organized beaches, then here is your place! You will enjoy a nice sea, without unwanted noise. Any way, this place is suitable for solitary souls only!

The only facilities offered at this beach are those of food and drink that offer a couple of small taverns, almost hidden by the rocks of the beach.

It is possible that your mobile phone does not work here. If it is imperative to phone somewhere when at this beach, you are obliged to use the card- operated telephone available. So don't forget to buy phone-cards before arriving to the beach.

Access to this remote beach is possible only by rented or private car and motorbikes. Driving from Monolithos to the town of Rhodes, you have to turn left, towards the sea, just after the small village of Sianna (the crossroad is found some 6 kilometers far from Monolithos) and following a dirt track you will arrive at this quiet beach.

## Beaches at the Western Coast

### *Fournoi*



The pebbly beach of Fournoi is situated at a distance of some 78 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes, at the Southwest, almost at the center of the western coast of Rhodes. It is ideal for those who wish to avoid big crowds at the beach.

No facilities are offered at this beach. Totally not organized, it does not offer to you other than relax and a nice sea with fascinating waves and a few rocks and pine trees for shadow. If you wish to enjoy the beach under shadow you have either to bring along your umbrella, or come early enough to catch a rock or a tree. Swimmers are few, but if you prefer to be totally alone, you may follow the path at the left part of the beach which will bring you to small and more remote coves, almost private, sandy or pebbly, where you will have the privacy you wish.

Access to the beach is possible by rented or private car or motorbikes, via Monolithos, as it is found at a distance of 3 kilometers southwestern to the village.

## Beaches at the Western Coast

### *Ormos Apolakkias* (Apolakkia Bay)



The bay of Apolakkia is situated at a distance of some 80 kilometers southwestern to the town of Rhodes. It is a very long beach of outstanding beauty, which at the same time is an important protected biotope. The whole bay, full of dunes with an interesting coastal ecosystem, and the places where it grows up the wild cedar tree «Juniperoyx Oxycedrus» are protected by the European Network «Natura 2000». What is also interesting is that within the bay, it has been detected the presence of the sea turtle «caretta-caretta» and the seal «monachus-monachus».

The beach, more than 20 kilometers long, facing the West, attracts many visitors, who choose the area for a change to the crowded, noisy beaches of the northern part of the island. Any company arriving here may find a patch of the beach where they will be alone and enjoy the crystal clear sea, the thick sand and the brilliant sun, far away from big crowds.

Accommodation facilities are available in the area, mainly in the inland settlements. But don't worry! The sea is very close. In what concerns the food, it is gorgeous in the traditional taverns of the place, where you will enjoy not only the local dishes, but also a friendly reception by the locals. The area has a nice climate, a fascinating environment and many spots of cultural interest. Without exaggeration, it is an oasis of calmness and beauty within the cosmopolitan island of Rhodes.

Apart from swimming, sunbathing and enjoying sea sports, you have several other alternatives in the area. If you like walking, there are some rural roads, suitable for walking; most of them are found on the way to Messagros and Amitha. There are several remote Monasteries or small churches

around, which you may visit on foot. The Monastery of Skiadeni or Aghios Georgios (St. George) at Kalamos, are certainly worth the effort.

It is worth visiting the artificial lake of Apolakkia, a few kilometers northern to the homonymous village. The lake has become an important biotope for various species of migratory birds and of fish living in sweet water. Once at the lake, you will have the chance of rowing and sailing. Those who will wander in the forest may be lucky enough to see the «platonis», the unique deer living in Rhodes, the symbol of the island.

Within the village of Apolakkia, you will see the Italian building at the central square of the village. Today the building is the seat of the Cultural Center of the village. On the way to the dam of the artificial lake, you will see the small church of Aghios Georgios Vardas (St. George), built in 1290. Another church in honor of Aghios Georgios is the post-Byzantine church situated at Kalamos. The actual church was built on the ruins of an earlier one. Once in the area, you will certainly feel like photographing the view of the beach of Fournoi. The beach in front of Aghios Georgios is referred in the tourist guides as «Kalamos», but in fact it is only a part of the long beach of Apolakkia Bay.

Finally, at the site «Zonara», on the way to Kattavia, you may see the ruins of the Early Christian basilica, in honor of Aghia Anastasia.

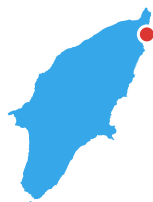
And, if you are around on Monday following Easter, you may attend the local feasts taking place at the Monastery of Asomatoi; another local feast takes place on Whit Sunday, at Aghios Georgios in Kalamos, whereas in summer you will have the chance to participate to the local feast in honor of Aghia Marina on the 17th of July.

In case of emergence, you should address to the services available at Monolithos, Kattavia, or Apolakkia.

Access to the area is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Beaches at the Eastern Coast

### *Reni (Koskinou)*



The excellent beach of Reni (Koskinou) is situated at a distance of some 8 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes and some 4,5 kilometers northeastern to the scenic inland village of Koskinou.

It is a beach very close to the town of Rhodes with nice sand, lovely sea and many facilities for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement, both in the area around and in the town of Rhodes.

Very well organized, it offers swimming and sunbathing facilities (sun beds, umbrellas) and sea sports.

In any case of emergence, you may address to the relative services of the town of Rhodes.



Access to the beach is very easy from the town of Rhodes by public buses, running frequently, by taxi and, of course by private means (car, motorbikes).

Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Faliraki*



The sandy beach of Faliraki is situated at the eastern coast of Rhodes, at a distance of some 12-16 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes and the South. It is a more than 5 kilometers long beach, in front of the homonymous tourist resort.

Any kind of facilities for accommodation, food and drink, and amusement are available in the settlement.

The beach is possibly the best organized of the beaches of Rhodes and it is the one attracting the major number of tourists. It is very popular both to the Greeks and foreign tourists, especially the British. An impressive multi-ethnic and multi-cultural blend joins at this beach and people move around any time of the day or night. The beach is long but not boring at all. You will find parts with fine golden sun, or with small rocks, you will find places with fine pebbles and others with dark sand. There are better and less organized parts; some of the former are found in front of the hotels and facilities are usually offered only to their clients.

If you choose the organized parts you will have the swimming and sunbathing facilities (umbrellas, sun beds) and facilities for sea sports. But whatever part you choose, you will enjoy a crystal clear blue sea with cool and clean water.

Health services are available in Faliraki (a First Aid Station), at the nearby Kalythies (some 2 kilometers western to the beach), where you will find a local Medical Center, as well as at the town of Rhodes, 12 kilometers far from Faliraki at the North.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is easy by public bus, running frequently, by taxi (a taxi station is available in the resort) as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes. Of course, if you stay in a nearby hotel, you will have access to the beach also on foot.

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Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Kathara*



The beach of Kathara («clean» in Greek) is situated at the homonymous cove and it is a sandy beach with rocky shaping here and there, which makes it very picturesque. It is situated only a few hundred meters far from the central square of Faliraki at the South and some 12,5 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes, also to the South.

You have a wide range of accommodation and food and drink services to choose from in the area around, as the whole region is touristy developed. And, if you wish to have a snack, or a full meal at the sea side, several sea front restaurants and taverns are available on the beach.

The very nice sand and the clean shallow sea make this beach ideal for families with small children. Fully organized, it offers all facilities to swimmers, as sun beds, umbrellas, showers, cloak-rooms and telephone.

While on the beach, you will enjoy a nice view of the beach across, with the small church of Aghioi Apostoloi (St. Apostles) and the small port with the fishing boats. Another important feature is that, although it is very close to Faliraki, it is not as crowded as it, so, if you wish to be very close to crowds, but in a less noisy beach, this is your place.

In case of health problems a local Medical Center is available at Kalythies (3 kilometers to the West) and a First Aid Station at Faliraki (500 meters far away).

Access from the town of Rhodes is very easy, by public buses running frequently, by taxi, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes. At the nearby resort of Faliraki you will find a taxi station.

Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Nudists' Beach (Faliraki)*



The nudists' beach at Faliraki is a small secluded cove at the end of Faliraki Bay. The beach is sandy, with fine sand and it is protected by rocks and low hills, surrounding the beach. It is the unique organized beach officially for nudists on the island of Rhodes.

As the whole area is touristy developed, you will have a wide range of accommodation and food and drink services to choose from. Sea front taverns and restaurants are available at the beach for those who would enjoy a snack or meal along with the sea view.

The beach has nice sand and crystal clear, clean sea. Being secluded enough, you will feel at ease, as no indiscrete interventions will occur. It is very well organized, with swimming and sunbathing facilities (sea beds, umbrellas) and a small cantina for refreshment and snacks.

Health services are available at Kalythies (a local Medical Center, 3 kilometers to the West) or at Faliraki (First Aid Station).

Access from the town of Rhodes is very easy, by public buses running frequently, by taxi and by rented or private car and motorbikes. A taxi station is available at Faliraki.

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Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Anthony Quinn Beach (Vaghies)*



The small beach of Anthony Quinn is situated at the eastern coast of the island, at a distance of 15 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes, between the famous beaches of Faliraki and Ladiko. The beach is found within a small cove, officially called Vaghies. However, after the film «The Guns of Navarone» was shot here, the locals gave to the beach the name of Anthony Quinn, the star of the film. It is considered as one of the loveliest and calmest beaches all over the island.

It is a small beach, some 250 meters long and 10 meters wide, with fine sand, pebbles and rocks, both out and inside the sea. Not much organized, the only facilities it offers to the visitors are some umbrellas and sun beds. No sea sports are available at the beach. Also, you will not find here accommodation or food and drink facilities, apart from a small bar on the rocks. However, many people come here for the crystal clear sea with the fascinating colors, for the rocky sea bed, ideal for the fans of underwater swimming, and for the calmness they enjoy, as is it is secluded enough from the nearby crowded and noisy resorts. The rocky low hills surrounding the beach is one of the features contributing to the seclusion of it. An additional pro are the pine trees, some of them just at the edge of the sea, which apart from the shadow, contribute to the nice colors of the environment. Several swimmers settle on a flat rock to enjoy sunbathing.

The beach is a favorite choice of young people, especially Italian, as the rocky sea bed and the rocks on the beach make it unsuitable for families with small children. Most of the people come here only in July and August, as before July and after August the water is quite cold.

In case of health problems you should address to Faliraki, some 3 kilometers to the North, where you may also find other services. Close to the unique bar of the beach, you may find a card phone.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is easy by taxi, or by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you reach the beach by boat or yacht, a small jetty is available for mooring.

Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Ladiko*



The beach of Ladiko is situated at the eastern coast of the island within a small cove, just after the Anthony Quinn beach, at a distance of some 15 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes. It is an excellent beach, 700 meters long and 30 meters wide.

This beach has everything: fine sand, small nice pebbles, scenic rocks, many trees, mainly pines, which, in some parts reach the sea. Due to its natural beauty is very popular and one of the favorite beaches of Greeks and of Italians; in August, it gets really crowded, but during the rest months of the summer things are better and then it is the choice of those wishing to avoid

the nearby cosmopolitan and noisy beaches of Faliraki (4 kilometer far away at the North) and Afantou (some 3 kilometers at the South). The fans of diving and snorkelling will find the rocky sea bed very interesting.

The beach is pretty well organized offering umbrellas, sun beds and showers along with a very nice tavern very close to the sea.

Health services are available at Faliraki (4 kilometer far away at the North) where you may also find other services.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is easy by taxi, or by rented or private car and motorbikes.

Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Tragano*



The beach of Tragano is situated at a distance of 15 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes and 3 kilometers far from Faliraki also at the South.

Many alternatives for accommodation are available in the area around. If you like to eat or drink, a small fish tavern is available at the beach, where you will enjoy fresh fish and sea food just at the sea front.

It is a beach with fine pebbles and clean turquoise water, not much organized. Only a small part of the beach offers sun beds and umbrellas; the rest of it is natural, with no facilities. At one of the ends of the beach you will find a fascinating cave that makes this beach very picturesque.

A local Medical Center is available at Kalythies, some 3 kilometers to the Northwest and a First Aid Station at Faliraki, some 4 kilometers to the North.

Access from the town of Rhodes is very easy by taxi (a taxi station is also available at Faliraki) or by rented or private car and motorbikes. On the way to Lindos, you have to turn left at the signed road, some 2- 3 kilometers after you have left Faliraki.

Beaches at the Eastern Coast

## *Afantou*



The beach of Afantou is situated at a distance of 18 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes and some 2 kilometers far from the homonymous town at the Southeast.

Accommodation and food and drink facilities are available, both in the town and in the area around.

It is a sandy beach, more than 3 kilometers long with crystal clear blue sea. It is well organized in parts, and, being that long, it suits to all tastes. The families usually choose the calmer parts, the young people and couples prefer the most remote and less crowded, the British and German tourists go everywhere, the locals choose the parts close to ...the fish taverns, so that they enjoy a good meal after a good swim, there are children playing with the sand and jet-skis in the sea. The left end of the beach, with the small coves, the caves and the rocks is chosen by those preferring to swim in a more scenic landscape. Being that long, the beach never seems to be packed, as there is enough space for all.

If you are fan of golf, the Golf Center is close to the beach, via the coastal road.

For health problems, a local Medical Center is available in the nearby town of Afantou (2 kilometers far from the beach to the Northwest), where you will also find a Police Station and a Post Office.

Access to the beach of Afantou is easy by public buses running regularly, by taxi (a taxi station is available at the town), and by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Beaches at the Eastern Coast

### *Tsambika*



The sandy beach of Tsambika is situated at the eastern coast of the island, at a distance of 26 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes, close to the famous monastery of Panaghia Tsambika, within a fascinating natural environment.

Accommodation is available in the area around, at the nearby tourist resorts, whereas a few cantinas by the sea are available in the beach for snacks and refreshments.

Tsambika is one of the most beautiful beaches of the island: the golden fine sand and the crystal clear blue sea make it quite popular both for families with small children and for young people who will have enough space for beach games. It is fairly well organized, with umbrellas, sun beds and sea sport facilities.

The nice environment is good scenery for photos.

Close enough to the beach, climbing on the rock, it is found the old Monastery of Panaghia Tsambika, dedicated to Virgin Mary, to whom the beach owes its name. According to the local tradition, Virgin Mary of this Monastery protects the childless women and helps them to have a baby.

Health services and a Police Station are available at the nearby village of Archangelos, some 3 kilometers far away, at the South.

Access to the beach from the town of Rhodes is easy by taxi and by rented and private car and motorbikes.

## Beaches of Lindos *Kalathos*



At a short distance from the village of Kalathos it is situated the 4- kilometers long sandy beach with the same name. The beach is found at a distance of some 4 kilometers southern to Lindos and some 44-45 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes.

According to archaeologists, the village of Kalathos is related to the ancient demos of Klassioi, which was located in the area. Among the ruins of the church of Aghios Ioannis, archaeologists have found architectural parts belonging to an ancient oil-press. There have also been discovered finds dated in the Roman period, among which an altar. Once in the area, it is worth seeing the tiny church dedicated to Virgin Mary, hewn in the rock and going back to the 12th century.

Accommodation, food and drink and amusement facilities are available both at the beach and in the village of Kalathos. A cantina, some taverns and a supermarket are available at the beach for a coffee, a meal or other supplies.

The beach has nice fine sand and fine pebbles in parts and it is partly organized. Some parts offer facilities for swimming, sunbathing (sun beds and umbrellas) and sea sport facilities, whereas there are more «natural» parts, with no such facilities. What to choose is up to you! Any way, as the fans of the beach state, there is always a free place for the newcomer. Due to the length of the beach, even during the peak period of August, when elsewhere on the island people are «packed», both at the beach and in the sea, at Kalathos the swimmer has always enough space and comfort.

Health services and other amenities are available at the nearby resort of Lindos.

Access from Lindos is easy by public buses, by taxi and, of course, by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Beaches of Lindos *Vlycha Bay*



The sandy beach in Vlycha Bay is situated at a distance of some 3 kilometers far from Lindos at the Northwest and some 47 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes.

As Vlycha is very close to Lindos, you have at your disposal all the facilities available in the settlement. The beach itself, although sufficiently organized in swimming, sunbathing (umbrellas, sun beds) and sea sport facilities, has only two small cantinas for a light meal and refreshments, use of lavatory and card phones.

The beach is sandy with crystal clear blue sea that deepens smoothly, which makes it suitable for families with small children and for elderly people. The beach is much less noisy than the central beach of Lindos; for this reasons it is the favorite beach of families and of people who like to have more space at the beach. As it is long enough, there is always sufficient space for everybody.

And, if you wish to have more privacy, you may choose the right end of the beach, where people are considerably less and you will be more isolated.

For health problems the health services of Lindos are very close.

Access from Lindos is easy by taxi or by car and motorbikes.

Beaches of Lindos

## *Lindos*



The beach of Lindos is found, just below the acropolis, at a distance of a few hundred meters far from the settlement and some 50 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes.

Being that close to Lindos, a wide range of accommodation, shopping and amusement facilities are offered to the tourist. There are numerous taverns, several of them at the sea front, where you will find good food and fresh fish.

Well organized, this nice sandy beach offers to the swimmers a wide range of swimming and sunbathing facilities, which makes it very popular. Crowds of people arrive to the beach every day, by all means of transportation: by public and excursion buses, by excursion boats departing from the town of Rhodes, by private means. If you have already visited the beach some 20 years ago, you will certainly remember this nice beach, with much less people and thus more beautiful and comfortable. The beach is the favorite place of long-staying British tourists. As the beach is almost always «packed», those who wish to have more calmness and less people, should choose the end of the beach, the part called «Palace Beach», where people are considerably less. As the sea is very shallow here, this part of the beach is ideal for families with small children. The sea is crystal clear with a bright blue color and very clean.

Health services, as well as a Police Station and a Post office are available in the village of Lindos.

Access from Lindos is easy on foot.

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Beaches of Lindos

## *Aghios Pavlos (St. Paul)*



The beach of Aghios Pavlos (St. Paul), with crystal clear blue sea and fine golden sand is situated at the homonymous small cove, a few hundred meters southern to the acropolis of Lindos and some 50 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the South. According to tradition, it is at this small port that Apostle Paul set ashore in the year 58 A.D., when he came to preach Christianity on the island of Rhodes.

Being very close to Lindos, the facilities of the settlement for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement are easily accessible.

Well organized, the beach is very nice, with golden sand and fine pebbles in spots. Facilities for swimming and sunbathing (sun beds, umbrellas etc.) are available to the swimmers, but the beach also offers natural «comforts», as nice rocks above the sea, suitable for diving.

At the end of the beach, just before arriving to the rocks, almost hidden behind the tall trees in front, it is found the whitewashed tiny church of St Paul, the Apostle who first preached Christianity on the island of Rhodes.

Health services, a Police Station and a Post Office are available in the village of Lindos.

From Lindos you can easily reach the beach on foot.

Beaches of Lindos

*Pefkoi*



The sandy beach in front of the tiny, calm tourist resort of Pefkoi is situated at a distance of some 5 kilometers southern to Lindos and some 55 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes. As its name implies, there are many tall pine trees («pefko» in Greek means «pine tree»), which make the environment scenic and interesting.

As Pefkoi are close enough to Lindos, you have several alternatives for accommodation, food and drink and amusement there. If you wish to have lunch or a coffee at Pefkoi, you will find several cafés and taverns, which are the choice of tourists staying in the area around, mainly Scandinavian, Germans, British and Austrians.

The beach has nice fine sand and crystal clear sea and is sufficiently organized, offering swimming and sunbathing facilities (sun beds, umbrellas), as well as some sea sports facilities. It is a very good choice for those preferring a calmer environment, far from the noisy, crowded, cosmopolitan resorts.

In case of health problems, health services are available in the settlement, where you will also find a pharmacy and a mini-market.

Access from Lindos is easy by taxi or by car and motorbikes.

Beaches of Lindos

*Lardos*



The nice sandy beach of Lardos is situated at a distance of some 3 kilometers southern to the homonymous village, 7 kilometers southwestern to Lindos and 57 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the South.



Being close enough to Lindos and the village of Lardos, there are several alternatives for accommodation, food and drink, shopping and amusement, both in the two settlements and in the area around. The beach itself has several taverns and cafés at the sea front, where you will enjoy a refreshment and good food, mainly fresh fish.

The beach is pretty well organized and offers facilities for swimming, sunbathing (sun beds, umbrellas) and for sea sports. You will enjoy the sea and the sun very much and kids will certainly have fun in the go-kart circuit, available at the beach.

If you are tired of the sea and the sun, or if you feel like taking a drive in the area around, you have many things to see. Apart from Lindos, it is worth visiting the village of Lardos. Once at the central square of the village, take your time and enjoy a Greek coffee with a glass of cool water (the Greek way of serving coffee!), or have a glass of ouzo and chat with the friendly locals, particularly the older ones, who will tell you old stories about their village, whereas at the neighboring table a couple of friends will probably play backgammon, in the characteristic noisy way of the Greeks. And if you feel like having lunch, just choose one of the taverns of the square; all of them offer local dishes and a variety of Greek or European cooking. Finally, if you are in Lardos in the evening, it is possible to listen to a local band playing traditional music, which may result in a nice feast, with dance and abundant wine.

If you have time, it is worth visiting the ruins of the Byzantine Castle of Lardos, at a distance of some 500 meters far from the village. Only the foundation of the walls and the towers survive today. Also, you may visit the women monastery of Panaghia Ypseni, dedicated to Virgin Mary. Finally, very close to the village you may see traces of an ancient quarry of black and red stone.

For any problem, health services are available in the village of Lardos, where you may find a doctor, a dentist and a pharmacy. Lardos also offers any kind of service you might need: a hairdresser, an exchange office, department stores, rent-a-car and rent-a-bike agencies.

Access from Lardos or Lindos is easy, by taxi or by private means (car or motorbike).

## Beaches of Lindos

### *Glystra*



The small sandy beach of Glystra is situated at a distance of 58 kilometers far from the town of Rhodes at the Southwest, some 11 kilometers after Lindos. It is a nice beach, within an environment of lush vegetation, calm enough and not very crowded. The combination of the blue sea and the golden sand with the green of the plants and trees around makes it very scenic and relaxing. The beach is in fact a small cove, some 200 meters long and 30 meters wide, with fine golden sand, interrupted by pebbly spots with tiny and fine pebbles. Seen from afar, it looks like a golden bow.

Accommodation facilities are available in the broader area and in the nearby tourist resorts.

The beach is well enough organized, offering facilities for swimming and sunbathing (sun beds and umbrellas) and some sea sports (pedalos and canoe). The sea is shallow, suitable for any age. It is a quiet beach, for mild activities. Children will enjoy playing with the sand and collecting shells

and small pebbles. The fans of snorkeling may try their favorite sport at the rocky sea bed of the ends of the beach. Some small rocks within the sea, at the center of the cove give the chance of a nice swimming excursion. Those who come here, tell that it is so beautiful that they would not advertise the beach too much, as it is better to remain unknown to big crowds.

In case of emergence, you may address to the services available in Lardos or in Lindos, where you will find anything you need.

Access to the beach from the settlements of Lardos or Lindos is possible by taxi, or by rented or private car and motorbikes. If you depart from the town of Rhodes, you have to use a private means. The road from Lindos to Kattavia passes just beside the beach, which makes access to the beach very easy. You will park your car very close to the sand and walk just for a few meters to reach the sea.

Beaches of Lindos

## *Kiotari*



The long sandy and pebbly beach of Kiotari, situated in front of the homonymous tourist resort, is found at a distance of 60 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes, at the eastern coast of the island, only a few kilometers far from Lindos and some 70 kilometers southern to the International Airport of Rhodes.

It is a fully organized beach, with all facilities for swimming and sunbathing. Sun beds and umbrellas are available, as well as facilities for sea sports. You have also at your disposal the facilities of the well developed tourist resort.

The majority of the users of the beach are guests of the hotels; only a few people come from elsewhere, just for a quick dive in the nice sea and for a short sunbathe at the nice beach with the dump sand and shingles.

In case of health or other problems, the corresponding services of the nearby village of Lindos (some 10 kilometers far away at the North) are available for you.

Access to the beach is easy, by rented or private car or motorbikes. From the nearby village of Lindos you can get to the beach also by taxi.

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Beach

## *Prasonissi*



Prasonissi is the last edge of Rhodes at the very South and is found at a distance of 95 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes and 12 kilometers far from the inland village of Kattavia, also

to the South. It is a strange place: in winter it is a small islet, but in summer you will see a small peninsula. How does it happen? Very simple! The islet is connected with the rest of the island with a narrow strip of sandy land, which in winter is totally covered by the sea waves!

Either an islet or a peninsula, Prassonissi is the meeting point of the fans of windsurfing. With the small coves in either side, it always has a beach with rough sea and another one with calm. The choice is up to you!

The area offers accommodation facilities and food and drink is possible at the sea front fish taverns and cafés.

The beach is long and sandy on both sides of the 500-meters-long strip of land connecting Rhodes with Prassonissi. As the wind is different in the two coves, you may do windsurfing with any weather. The fans of the sport have two characteristic terms to discern the beaches: there is the «wave» beach and the «flat» one.

At the «wave» side the waves are usually of a height of 1-2 meters and of stable direction; on the «good days» (for surfers) the waves are 2-3 meters high, whereas in the «very good days», the waves are more than 4 meters high.

At the «flat» side there are always small waves, making it ideal for slaloms and for «free style» windsurfing, as well as for the beginners and intermediate surfers. For all these reasons, whatever the weather is, the place is always crowded enough.

The characteristic of Prassonissi in what concerns the winds is that, there is wind here (up to 4-5 Baufforts), when the sea in the rest of the Aegean Sea is dead calm, whereas half of the beach is relatively calm, when there are gale force winds in the Aegean.

Access to the «islet» depends on your mood and on the mood of ...the sea: either you go on foot, or you swim.

From the town of Rhodes you will arrive here by rented or private car or motorbikes via the small village of Kattavia. You will park your vehicle at the end of the road at the huge «natural» parking and then you will forget about it, as you will feel like staying always in this place!

## Several known and ...unknown beaches of the island

It is quite possible that previous visitors of the island or tourist guides, or even a local will tell you that there are some more beaches with various names, which are usually advertised as «secluded» or «remote» or «quiet». In most cases these «new beaches» are usually smaller or bigger parts of the long, well known beaches, which have been named after a tavern, a hotel or even a cantina. Or they may have been named arbitrarily by someone, just because the name sounded somehow exotic! It is better not to trust very much the information given by visitors who have not come to Rhodes recently. Things change very rapidly in this cosmopolitan island and that comes true most of all for the beaches. Apart from the general information you will get, try to find out yourselves where to go, according to your special interests and desires. The locals or people, who keep returning to the island for holidays, will always give you interesting and up-to-date information.

## Neighboring Islets

### *Alimia*



The islet of Alimia is situated at the West of the island of Rhodes, some 4 nautical miles opposite to Skala Kameirou and today it has no permanent residents. It is the bigger from a complex of skerries located between Rhodes and Chalki. The island is mountainous and has two natural ports, Emporio and Aghios Georgios. At the latter it is found the unique settlement of the islet, which is abandoned since the World War II. The settlement has nice stone houses with traditional ovens and beautiful beehive-like farmhouses. Close enough to the settlement there are found the Italian barracks, today totally abandoned.

Today, the residents of the opposite coast use the island as pasture for their stock, sheep and goats.

Small excursion boats, departing from Skala Kameirou, get the visitors to the island, for a daily excursion and swimming in the excellent crystal clear sea.

Archaeological surveys on the islet have showed human activity on it is dated as early as the Neolithic period. The ancient settlers of the island were occupied in agriculture and stock-rearing and fed on fish and sea food, abundant here.

Pliny refers to the island as «Eulimnia», an allusion to its natural ports («eulimnia» in Greek means «with a good port»). The ports of the islet were used for the mooring of the Rhodian fleet, whereas the hill at the center served as watch-tower. This hill, known as the hill of the Castle, preserves the remains of a fortress of the Hellenistic period, as well as the ruins of a medieval castle. There is also evidence of dockyards carved in the rock, which date to the Hellenistic period. Finally, there have been found: a tomb of the Roman period, an Early Christian basilica and ruins of several other buildings of various periods.

The islet was used as naval base during the Byzantine times, a use that continued later on, during the domination of Rhodes by the Knights of St. John, by the Ottomans and more recently by the Italians.

Access to the islet is possible by excursion boats departing from Skala Kameirou.

## *Sightseeing*

### **Mandraki**

The marine at the port of the ancient city of Rhodes, actually known to every body as Mandraki, has a muddy seabed of a depth of 4 to 8 meters. It is used for mooring of yachts and boats and has a capacity of berthing up to 120 to 150 vessels. Well protected from all winds, it offers excellent service, for water and fuel supply, as well as food provisions and electric power. You will also find a repair station and lavatories. Additionally, the place is a center of purchase and selling of boats and yachts. Skippers should know that the geographic coordinates of the Marine are 36o 27' N και 28o 13' E. It is an ideal choice for people arriving to the island by yacht, or for those who plan to

do so. As it is the old port of the town, it is very close to the medieval town. Moreover, Mandraki is the most cosmopolitan place in the town of Rhodes. It is the meeting point of everybody and it is usually rather crowded: pedestrians walking along the dock, excursion boats and tourist boats for short excursions, fishing boats, big yachts and a real fleet of sailing boats.

As the facilities offered make it very popular, the Marine at Mandraki gets insufficient for the needs. Thus, it has already started the construction of a new, bigger Marine, of higher capacity. As it is planned, when completed, it will be the main marine of the town of Rhodes and the one of Mandraki will operate only as a supplementary one.

## Spas at Kallithea

The complex of buildings at the spa of Kallithea has been designed by the well known Italian architect Pietro Lombardi and was constructed in 1929, under the commands of the Italian administrator of the Dodecanese. The building was inaugurated on the 1st of July 1929 during a grandiose ceremony, after there had been accomplished the repair and the construction of the road leading from the town of Rhodes to Kallithea. During the next year, 1930, it was added the upper atrium, and the open area around the building reached its final form.

Today the complex of the buildings is comprised of three different parts:

- a. the round square with a nice fountain, in front of the main entrance.
- b. a semi-circular atrium for the distribution of water
- c. the complex of the sanitary establishment

All three parts of the construction are connected with and surrounded by gardens and small parks, with stone paved walking paths and resting places, forming an excellent environment in harmony with the natural landscape.

Everywhere it is evident that the architect intended to combine elements of all cultures that were developed on the island during its long history. Thus, we can find features coming from the Doric antiquity, from the Roman period, from

Byzantine times, from the period of the Knights of Western Europe, from the Arabs and the Ottomans, alongside with the local folk style.

Today the complex, out of use, has been abandoned, but it is planned the restoration and renovation of the place, in order to become suitable for various uses.

Access to the place from the nearby town of Rhodes is easy, as it is only 8 kilometers far away to the South. Access is possible by public buses, with frequent service, by taxi, as well as by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Rodini

Situated within the urban area of the town of Rhodes, Rodini is a small valley, with rich wild vegetation, thanks to the abundant current waters. The place is full of huge perennial plane trees, oleanders, willows, several species of bushes, smaller trees and other plants, which make an ideal environment for a variety of micro-fauna. A brook with clean cool water flows through the valley, passing beneath the ancient bridge of Korakonero.

The Municipality of the town of Rhodes is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the

place, which is actually a park. The Municipality has undertaken small scale works, establishing a café and paths among the plants and flowers. Rodini used to be a park also during the Ottoman domination, while in the period of the Knights of St John it was situated here the villa of the Grand Masters.

The whole area around Rodini is a huge archaeological site, with great importance for the history and archaeology of the town of Rhodes, but also for the whole of the island. Archaeologists and scholars suggest that both the natural and the human environment has been maintained pretty intact since ancient times, so, what we see today, presents a unique sample of the landscape architecture. The big funeral monuments and the caves hidden behind the wild vegetation bear in mind the «Nymphaea», the caves well known from the Acropolis of Athens, show us how the space was arranged to be a place of relax and cult during the Hellenistic times, the peak period of the flourishing of Rhodes (3rd and 2nd centuries b.C.)

### Some of the most important monuments of the site are the following:

Situated at Pefkakia, the funeral monument of the Ptolemys' dynasty is a mausoleum of big dimensions, hewed out of a rock at a hill. According to tradition, the monument was constructed for Ptolemy the First after whom it had been called «the Ptolemy's tomb». It is a square construction with each side 28,50 meters long, decorated with columns at the four external sides. Inside, the construction is divided in an antechamber followed by a room, both of rectangular shape. There are conches on the walls for the placement of the sarcophagi with the bodies of the deceased. The roof in the interior is gabled, while at the exterior it has the form of a barrow. The whole construction stands on a base with three steps, hewed out of the rock.

The so-called «Corinthian tomb» is a burial complex hewed out of the rock, with three underground chambers. Columns and «blind» openings alternate at the façade. It is thought that the capitals of the columns, of which none has been preserved, were of Corinthian style and this feature gave to the complex its actual name.

Several cave-like constructions are visible on the site. All of them have conches for the placement of small statues, domed roofs and small altars standing on bases. All these constructions are in perfect harmony with the natural environment. Several of these constructions have been constructed by Italian archaeologists in 1924, after an extensive study of the ancient data available.

No systematic excavations have been carried out on the site, although archaeologists think that there are a lot of monuments to be discovered in future.

## The Aquarium of the town of Rhodes

The Aquarium of the town of Rhodes or Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes is situated at the very northern edge of the town of Rhodes and of the island, very close to Mandraki. It was constructed during the Italian domination of the island, in the years 1934-1936. From 1937 it was called «Reale Istituto di Ricerche Biologiche di Rodi», that is to say «Royal Research Institute of (Marine) Biology of Rhodes». After the incorporation of the Dodecanese to the Greek State, it was renamed in «Hellenic Hydrobiological Institute» and operated under the supervision of the Academy of Athens. Today it is operating as Aquarium, Museum and Research Center and belongs to the National Center of Marine Research.

The principal aim of the Center is the maintenance and display of embalmed and alive sea life of the Mediterranean Sea. It receives more than 200.000 visitors annually, who come here to see

numerous nice and rare species of sea life. Apart from that, the Center operates as a model research unit for the marine space of the Dodecanese and carries out extensive research in all domains of Oceanography.

It has a rich scientific library, which contributes a lot to the research work of the scholars.

The Center is housed in a nice building, excellent sample of the architecture of the International Style. The building has been listed by the Greek State as historic building with conservation status.

## The Valley of the Butterflies

The Valley of the butterflies is found close to the village of Theologos, at a distance of 23 kilometers southeastern to the town of Rhodes, near the Monastery of Kalopetra. The river Pelekanos flows through the valley. According to tradition, the whole valley was called «Pelekanos» after the name of a servant of the prince Alexandros Ypsilantis. The daughter of the prince suffered of tuberculosis and his father brought her in the area, so that she would recover due to the nice climate. It was him that established the Monastery of Kalopetra. The prince left back his servant, called Pelekanos, to serve and guard the girl. The girl fell in love with the servant, but his father refused to allow her daughter to marry a servant. Thus, the latter, deeply embittered, took his own life and the place was named after him.

The locals say that the butterflies were brought in the area by the Italians in the 1930s', but in fact, the Italians had only discovered them. The elder people of the area state that their ancestors knew that the butterflies lived in the place. Whatever the truth, the phenomenon became widely known after 1957 and ever since great numbers of visitors come to the valley to see them. Unfortunately, these visits have resulted to a dramatic reduction of the number of the insects, since the visitors make noise, clap hands or whistle in order to make them fly. But, when they fly, the butterflies lose their energy and become more susceptible to die before propagate themselves.

During the period of rains, the butterflies, still in the form of caterpillar, live on the trees of the valley, arbutus and myrtles, and are fed on the tender leaves. By the end of May, the caterpillar has already been transformed in a beautiful insect and moves towards wetter areas, flying only during the night. The butterflies stay at the valley throughout the summer. By the end of summer the insects mate and in September, while the male has already died, the female flies away (some times for more than 25 kilometers) to leave some 150 eggs in groups of 20-30, in safe and dark places among the bushes and the plants and after that it dies. Thus, the caterpillars will find abundant food and grow up quickly and they will soon become the insect known as *Panaxia quadripunctaria* a species belonging to the family of Night-butterflies. The adult have a size of 18 to 23 millimeters and the span of its wings reaches the 55 to 60 millimeters. When resting, it lowers the head and has the shape of an equilateral triangle.

### The reduction of the population

This really beautiful butterfly has many enemies as frogs, lizards, crabs, several species of birds and above all, the bats and man. During the last years, due to the numbers of visitors who, in their desire to see the butterflies, make noise and scare them, the insects have moved to inaccessible places. As a result, they risk more and their number has been dramatically reduced.

This species of butterfly does not live only in Rhodes; it is common enough in the Mediterranean Sea, in Europe and in Western Asia. In Greece it is also found in Crete and other islands, in Attica and Boeotia. It is thought that the reason of the big number of insects found in Rhodes is due not only

to the excellent climate conditions, but also to the existence in the valley of a nice and rare species of tree, called «Ygramvari», whose aromatic raisin possibly attracts the butterflies.

## *Medieval and Modern Monuments*

### Amaranteios School of Rhodes

The Amaranteios School of Rhodes is a stone building of neoclassic style, tile-roofed. It is comprised of a ground floor and a basement. It has a big main entrance in the middle of the façade, in a large recess framed by four columns. The outer surfaces are decorated with several features, as the pillars framing the windows and bands, which give to the building an interesting and nice external view. The building was constructed in 1911 and was sponsored by Amarantos family, who donated it to the town.

Today the building houses one of the Elementary Schools of the town of Rhodes.

### The National Theatre of Rhodes

The National Theater of Rhodes is situated at the central, Town Hall square of the town of Rhodes and is an impressive sample of the so-called «fascist» architectural style, with influence of the so-called «international style.» It is perhaps the most important sample in Greece of the use «cannabic technology» (finta pietra), and of glass bricks. The performance hall is imposing, both in height and in size. There is also a huge balcony, luxurious theater boxes and a very nice foyer.

The theater was constructed in 1937, during the Italian domination of the island and initially it was called «Teatro Puccini», in honor of the great Italian composer. The name of the architect is unknown. When built, it was a nice modern theater, which knew times of glory, as it has housed even Italian operas. After the World War II, it kept working as a theater and later on it was transformed in cinema.

### The «Aktæon» pastry shop at Mandraki

The building, where «Aktæon», the well known pastry shop of the town of Rhodes, is lodged, has been built in 1925, in the early years of the Italian domination. It is a two-storey building with a small attic at the second floor. The ground floor has a nice arcade facing the road by the sea, with pointed groin-vaults. The whole building is constructed according to the isodomic masonry, a typical feature of the local architecture. It is a building very nicely designed, combining function with aesthetic value and in harmony to all kinds of use which it intended to realise.

At the beginning, the building was decorated with several features, combining both oriental and gothic elements. But, from 1936 onwards, following the commands of the Italian fascist government, all the decorative elements were removed, to be consistent with the official architectural style of the state, that is to say, the so-called «fascist style». In this period of time the building was called «Circolo Italia» («the Italian circle») and was used as a place of meeting and entertainment of the Italian military officers of the island.

Today it is a coffee and pastry shop, attracting many visitors, both Greeks and foreign tourists. Due to the exceptional architecture, the building has been listed by the Greek Ministry of Culture as a historic building with conservation status.



## Hotel Complex Elaphos and Elaphina at Profetes Elias

«Elaphos» (deer) and «Elaphina» (doe) are two beautiful statues, decorating the mouth of the port of the town of Rhodes. There are the characteristic element of the town and possibly are found at the same place where, in the Hellenistic period, had been erected the statue of the Colossus.

It is after the twin statues that has been named the complex of hotels situated at the mountain-side of Profetes Elias Mountain, close to the homonymous Byzantine monastery, near the village of Archangelos, some 25 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes. The complex is made up of two separate buildings. The first, «Elaphos», is a three-storey building with a basement while the second, «Elaphina», has two storeys and a basement.

The complex was built from 1929 to 1932, during the Italian domination, within an area of luxuriant green and follows a mixed system of masonry, with the walls built of stone, the frame made of reinforced concrete and high pitched wooden roofs. The window frames and the large balconies and verandas are also made of wood.

The first building, constructed in 1929, was that of «Elaphos»; in 1930 a ground floor restaurant with a large veranda, a tennis court and a dancing floor were added and in the next year it was constructed the second floor, replacing the veranda. In 1932 a second wing was constructed beside the first one and was given the name «Elaphina». Ever since, the complex is known with the somewhat peculiar name of «Elaphos and Elaphina». It is believed that the Italians gave this name to the complex, to remind the species of the native wild deer living in the nearby wood, one of the few species of deer still surviving in Europe.

Once established, the complex was in use as a hotel during the rest of the Italian domination. After the World War II, it had been abandoned for many years, but a few years ago it has been restored and renovated and is again in use as a hotel. It attracts many people wishing to spend a week-end or a couple of days within a historic building and a fascinating natural environment.

## The Hotel of the Roses («Hotel des Roses»)

The Hotel of the Roses («Hotel des Roses»), constructed during the period of the Italian domination within the town of Rhodes, is an impressive building with several interesting architectural features and of great architectural value. On first sight, it looks huge, but its volume is broken up into smaller units, somehow irregular, which makes the whole construction lighter and more interesting. Designed in a simple form, it has a nice façade with an arcade and a beautiful garden. All these features make it one of the most characteristic places of the town of Rhodes.

The building underwent two architectural phases. When constructed, in early 1920s', the Italian architect Michele Petracco who designed it, followed the style of Oriental Eclecticism, incorporating in the building several features of the oriental cultures that had influenced the culture of the island of Rhodes. Thus, the building was full of arcs, domes and other architectural elements, common in the oriental style buildings. Later on, during the period of fascism in Italy, at the mid 1930s', the ideas of fascism were also adopted in Architecture, introducing the so-called «fascist style». Thus, the building underwent several changes in order to be consistent with the new style. It was then that the oriental features were removed or diminished and the building took its actual form. After the end of the Italian domination, the building had been abandoned for many years, but today it has been renovated and houses the Casino of Rhodes, while it also operates again as a Hotel.

## The Hospice of Aghia Aikaterini (St. Catherine)

The Hospice of Aghia Aikaterini, situated within the medieval town of Rhodes, was built in 1391-1392 under grand master Heredia, by the Italian Domenico d'Allemagna, admiral of the Order of the Knights of St. John (Knights Hospitaller), an eminent and rich member of the local aristocracy of the period. The contract of the foundation of the hospice, dated in 1391, states that the building is located «within the burgus of Rhodes, near the walls at the gate leading to the mole». Later on, in 1465 another documents refers to it as the «Gate of Aghia Aikaterini».

The building is very impressive and holds a central place along the axis of the square that gathers all the commercial activities of the town. The building had been constructed to house the official and eminent guests of the Knights during their staying in Rhodes, as we are informed by the Italian traveler Niccole de Martoni, who visited the island in 1395; he also adds that it is «beautiful and splendid, with many nice rooms and good beds». During the siege of the town by the Ottomans in 1480 and the earthquake that followed in 1481, the building suffered extensive destruction. It was rebuilt, a process that lasted up to 1516, when Grand Master was Costanzo Operti, as it is evidenced by the walled-in blazons, preserved up to now.

During the World War II, in 1944, the eastern part of the Hospice collapsed by Allied bombing, along with many buildings in the center of the Jewish quarter. After the bombing, the building, semi-ruined, stood forlorn within an abandoned neighborhood. The preserved part was occupied by homeless immigrants from the nearby islands, who lived there in miserable conditions. This situation lasted until 1986, when the Hospice along with the 20 buildings, state-owned properties, entered in the restoration program of the Office of the Medieval Town, which had been founded in October 1985.

The restoration of the building had, first of all, to face the problem of resettle the 16 families living in the hospice, a process that lasted until 1993. At the same time it was carried out the archaeological survey on the site, which also lasted until 1993. There were also undertaken urgent rescue measures alongside the restoration of the Hospitaller masonry and structural examination and consolidation works and architectural restoration of the medieval features, while the bombed part was rebuilt. Thus, the restored Hospice of Aghia Aikaterini became the center of restoration of the whole area. After the end of the restoration works it became a pole of attraction for many visitors both Greeks and from abroad.

## Ioannis Konstantakis' House at Emponas

The house of Ioannis Konstantakis, situated in the scenic village of Emponas, is a small village house, with a very simple, but also plastic design of the volumes. Around the external walls, just below the roof of the attic it has been constructed a cornice made of schist slabs, a feature necessary to protect the buildings from rain water, but also a nice decoration element.

The house was constructed in 1840 and later on, in the 20th century it was in this house that was born and grown up the well known Rhodian professor and poet Ioannis Konstantakis, who donated the house to the Community of Emponas.

Today, the house has been transformed to a small but very interesting Folk and Popular Art Museum, which, apart from the scenic environment of the village, is another pole of attraction for several visitors who desire to have an idea of the everyday life of the villagers in past times.

## The Post Office of the town of Rhodes

The building of the Post Office of the town of Rhodes was built in mid 1920s', during the first years of the Italian domination, on the purpose to house the Italian Post Services of Rhodes (Palazzo delle Poste). The building was designed by the Italian architect Florestano di Fausto.

This excellent building, situated at Eleftherias («Liberty») Square, in front of Mandraki, is a representative sample of the Renaissance Eclecticism and the «Finta Pietra» technology. It is a two-storey building, with a basement. The decoration motifs of the façade have been made of local porous stone. The visitor of the building enters through an imposing main entrance found at the center of the building, which along with the openings left on each side, creates an absolutely symmetrical impression.

Very well preserved and restored, the building houses the Hellenic Post Office of the town of Rhodes, continuing the long tradition of such a use of the building.

## Archaeological Sites

### Ancient Ialysos

Ialysia, the region where it was situated the ancient city of Ialysos, is in fact all the northern part of the island. Remains of a Minoan settlement have been found close to the village of Trianda, while Mycenaean cemeteries, dated in 1700-1400 b.C., have been detected on the hills of Makria and Moschou Vounara, around the settlement. Thus, the archaeological finds, most of them displayed in the Archaeological Museum of the town of Rhodes, evidence that the area was inhabited as early as in the beginning of the 2nd millennium b.C.

The Doric period of ancient Ialysos is represented by the finds of the site around the hill called Filerimos, where it was located the acropolis of the ancient city.

One of the most important monuments of the archaeological site is the temple of Athena Polias. It is an amphiprostyle, tetrastyle or hexastyle temple (with a portico of four or six columns at either end) with a pronaos, nave and opisthodomos. The base of the cult statue is still preserved within the nave. In the interior of the nave, there are column fulcrums of small diameter and walls, which possibly belonged to an interior colonnade, dated to the 3rd or 2nd centuries b.C. Conch-like cuttings on the rock at the west side of the temple may have been used as depositories for ritual purposes or for votive offerings.

The brilliant temple that we see today is the Hellenistic one and dates to the 3rd or 2nd century b.C. Obviously, it had replaced an earlier classic temple; a terra-cotta floor and pottery of the 5th century b.C. have been found both around the temple and in the depository of the west side, where the pottery and votive offerings found are dated from the 9th to the 5th centuries b.C.

Apart from the cult of Athena Polias (protector of the city), references on inscriptions of the 3rd and 2nd centuries b.C. evidence for the cult of Zeus Polieus.

During the Early Christian times, in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D., a three-aisled basilica with an atrium was built on the ruins of the ancient temple, which soon after was completed with a cruciform Baptistery. Beside the Baptistery is found the stone gothic church of Panaghia Filerimos, today restored.

During the Byzantine times, in the 10th century A.D., a single-aisled church with a cupola was constructed at the northern aisle of the Early Christian church. After 1204, following the Franks' domination of the island, a Catholic monastery and church had been established on the site.

The Doric Fountain-House is another important monument of the site. In fact it is a water supply system. Two tunnels brought water from a spring at the top of the hill to a cistern cut into the rock and closed by a Π-shaped isodomic wall made of porous stone. Spouts in the shape of lion heads led the water to an open tank, closed by six pillars with stone panels between them. From the tank, the water passed to a portico of six Doric columns, which made up the façade of the Fountain-house. The construction is dated to the 4th century b.C. A sacred law with proscriptions was carved on one of the pillars, on purpose to protect the place and assure the normal operation of the fountain-house.

Ruins of Byzantine fortifications, constructed with the material of the ruined temple of Athena, are visible at the eastern side of the hills. One can also see the repairs made to the fortification by the Knights. At the same place we can also see the ruins of the Catholicon of a Byzantine Monastery. It is a cruciform inscribed church of the C type, and dates from the end of the 10th to the beginning of the 11th century A.D.

The period of the domination of the Franks and more particularly of the Knights of the Order of St. John is represented on the site by a 14th century church with a vaulted roof and two hexagonal chapels. There is also a medieval monastery, restored during the Italian domination. The monastery was a two storey-building with an interior courtyard (atrium) with arched arcades around it, which led to the monks' cells situated on the ground floor, and to the Abbot's quarters which was found on the first floor.

There is also the single cell chapel of Ayios Georgios Chostos, with frescos dated to the 15th century. The church is found at the left of the main entrance, at lower level than the monastery.

Extensive excavations on the site were carried out during the Italian domination of the island, firstly in 1914 and later on during 1923-1926. The excavations brought to light the earlier phases of the temple of Athena, whereas in the same period it had been excavated and restored the Doric Fountain-House.

The whole site is enclosed with a low stone wall. The entrance is found at the eastern side. After entering the site, the visitor is led, through a big staircase with stone steps and cypress trees at the sides, to the Monastery of Panaghia Filerimos, dedicated to Zoodohos Pighi (Virgin Mary, Source of Life).

Just opposite the entrance of the site and out of it there is a stone paved path with 14 etchings presenting Jesus Christ's Passions and his way to Calvary; hence its name «the Calvary route». Apart from the devoutness atmosphere of the site, once on the top of the low hill, where a huge cross overlooks the place, the visitor can have a breathtaking view of the Northeastern part of the island, with the overgrown landscape, full of olive trees, pine trees, cypress trees, oaks and wild bushes. Both the cross and the view are very popular to those liking to take photos, especially in the sunset.

Access to the site is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## Ancient Kameiros

The archaeological site of the ancient city of Kameiros, is situated at the Northwestern coast of the island, at a distance of 43 kilometers Southwestern to the town of Rhodes and one kilometer far from the coastal road and the coast of the cape of Aghios Minas, which in antiquity was called Mylantion cape. The site is found upon a hill, at the foot of mountain Akramytis.

In prehistoric times the place was a ritual place of the deities called Mylantioi, who according to tradition had taught people how to grind the wheat to make flour and how to make bread. Excavations at Kalavarda, a site some 3 kilometers eastern to Kameiros, have brought to light cemeteries of the Mycenaean period.

Several finds dated back to the Geometric times have been found at the acropolis of the site and evidence that a temple dedicated to Athena (Minerva) was built here by the Dorian dominants of the island. Unfortunately, several successive earthquakes had destroyed most the monuments. The strong earthquake of 226 b.C. resulted in the total collapse of the city of the Classical period and the temple of Athena Kameiras. After the earthquake the city was rebuilt on three levels, according to the Hippodamian system. At the top of the hill is situated the Acropolis with the Temple of Athena and the Stoa. The settlement had been built on the second terrace, whereas at the lower level there were found the Hellenistic temple, the Doric Fountain-house, the Agora and the Peribolos of the Altars. A great number of votive offerings, as stelai and plinths with statues of gods and heroes embellished the site, which was destroyed anew by an earthquake in 142 b.C.

The earlier excavations of the site go back to the mid 19th century and were carried out by the Italian archaeologists Biliotti and Salzmann (1852-1864). More systematic surveys were carried out in 1928 during the Italian domination of the island, by the Italian Archaeological School who also carried out extensive restoration work of the monuments of the site. The excavation works continued during the whole period of the Italian domination, until 1943.

### **The most important monuments of ancient Kameiros are the following:**

The acropolis at the top of the hill and the temple of Athena Kameiras. The temple, in Doric style was tetrastyle peripteral with porticos on all four sides and surrounded by a peribolos. It had been built on the ruins of the previous Classical temple which was destroyed by the earthquake of 226 BC. Only its foundation has been preserved.

The big cistern for drinking water. It is a rectangular construction lined with plaster, in order to be waterproof. Two openings at the bottom, connected with terra-cotta pipes, served to carry the water to the city. The openings were covered with big stone covers. The cistern had a capacity of more than 600 cubic meters of water, a quantity quite sufficient to cover the needs in water of 300 to 400 families. The construction was covered, and steps at the sides had been previewed for easy access to it, in order to clean it. According to archaeologists the construction was made in the 6th- 5th century b.C. After the earthquake of 226 b.C., during the Hellenistic period, the cistern had been put out of use and replaced by a «stoa» (arcade), where it was incorporated the water supply system of the city.

The arcade (Stoa) of the Hellenistic times consisted of two rows of Doric columns and shops or lodgings for the worshippers. The columns of the façade, dated in the 3rd -2nd century b.C., supported an architrave with metopes, triglyphs and a cornice. Under the floor of the arcade there was established an extended water supply system, well enough preserved up to now. The water supply system was comprised by wells, providing water to subterranean water proof tanks. The water was brought to the settlement in terra-cotta pipes connected with the tanks.

A four-sided Hellenistic altar, well preserved, is found at the front part of the Doric arcade.

The Hellenistic and Roman city is located at the second (middle) terrace, below the acropolis. The settlement was built according to the Hippodamian system with a grid of parallel streets and residential blocks of the same size, called *insulae*. The characteristic feature of the houses, whose foundations and a part of the walls has been preserved up to now, is the «atrium», the interior courtyard surrounded by columns, with one side usually higher than the others; it is the so-called Rhodian peristyle. The houses were decorated with mosaic floors and façades with architraves and painted decoration on plaster. There were also remains of public baths, with separate hot and cold rooms and «hypocausts», installations beneath the floor which served to heat the rooms.

At the third, lower, level of the site there is a distyle temple with two columns in antis at the front and three rooms: *pronaos*, nave and *opisthodomos*. The temple is made of porous stone and the base of the cult statue is still preserved within the nave. It is suggested that the temple was probably dedicated to Pythian Apollo. Behind the base of the statue a pit dug into the floor served as the treasury where there was kept the money of the temple.

There is also an Ionian style small temple, made of porous stone with plaster on the walls. The temple housed votive offerings.

Fountain house. It is a building with a façade made of porous stone Doric half-columns lined with plaster and supporting the entablature. The spaces between the columns are closed by panels. During the 4th century b.C. the water was drawn from an open tank in the interior of the construction. Later on, during the 3rd century the tank was replaced by a well. At this period of time, the names of the eponymous priests of Kameiros, the «*damiourgoi*» were carved on the columns. The remains of an arcade are still visible at the back part of the fountain, whereas a retaining wall on three sides had been constructed in order to retain the earth fill of the upper terrace.

The Agora of the city is a quadrangle open square in front of the fountain house. The place was used as a gathering place of the citizens in the ritual ceremonies and initially it had three steps on the southern and eastern sides. Later on, walls were constructed at the northern and western sides, with entrance doors for access of the people. The northern wall was decorated with half-columns, while the quadrangle structure found at the southeastern corner, was probably a votive offering. The inscribed pedestals seen at the steps of the eastern sides are later reconstructions made by the Italians. Several votive offerings decorate the western side. The most important among them is the offering of Panaitios, with the inscription ΘΕΟΙΣ ΠΑΣΙ («to all gods»). Behind the northern entrance of the Agora one can see two half-finished inscribed votive offerings; one of them probably presented a bull.

### The Peribolos of the Altars

The Peribolos of the Altars is found at the northeastern side of the third (lowest) level and is extended along the wall that retains the earth fill supporting the upper terrace. It is consisted of inscribed altars erected on two levels. The altars are dedicated to various deities as Agathos Dæmon («the good demon»), Artemis (Diana), Zeus and Poseidon (Neptunus). At the lower of these two levels there is a well preserved big oblong altar dedicated to the god Helios («sun»).

In front of the Peribolos of the Altars there is a semicircular dais, which had a votive offering, not preserved today. A monumental staircase had been constructed between the Agora and the Peribolos of the Altars to lead the people to the settlement at the second level.

Access to the site is possible by rented or private car and motorbikes.

## The acropolis of Lindos

According to the myths, the acropolis of ancient Lindos is the birth place of the cult of a pre-hellenic deity, which later on became Athena Lindia (Minerva). However, so far, the tradition has not been confirmed by archaeological evidence. Only sporadic finds have been brought to light from prehistoric times and from the Mycenaean period. In fact, the history of the sanctuary seems to begin in the Geometric period, during the 9th century b.C. Later on, in the Archaic period, the cult was revived, thanks to Cleobulus, the tyrant of Lindos, who had constructed a big temple, probably on the place of an earlier one. This new temple had the same Doric tetrastyle amphiprostyle plan as the subsequent one. The temple of the Archaic period was destroyed by fire in 342 b.C. and on its place a new one was constructed, the temple that we see today, with propylaea and a monumental staircase. Later on, in the Hellenistic period a portico was added to the building. During all this period of time, Athena is worshipped in the acropolis, but in the 3rd century it had also been introduced the cult of Zeus Polieus. In the Roman period a priest of the temple, named Aghlohartos, planted olive trees on the spot and, according to an inscription, later on, in the 2nd century A.D. it was built the Sanctuary of Psithyros, close to the Temple of Athena.

Today, the following monuments, belonging to the sanctuary of Athena Lindia, can be seen on the acropolis:

The temple of Athena Lindia, a Doric tetrastyle, amphiprostyle temple with a pronaos, a nave and an opisthodomos. It is dated in late 4th century b.C. The table of offerings and the base of the statue are preserved inside the temple. The columns of the opisthodomos are closed off by a balustrade, and the place would have served as a treasury chamber for safeguarding the money of the temple and the sacred vessels. The walls of the temple were of porous stone, which was plastered. The architrave and the cornice of the upper part were painted with fleurons and meanders.

The Hellenistic portico, dated in late 3rd century b.C., is some 87 meters long, it is made up of 42 columns and has lateral projecting wings with tetrastyle façades. The wall of the portico was not continuous; it was interrupted in the middle by a space of ten columns, so that the staircase of the Propylaea could be seen. Later on, in the 1st century b.C., a terrace was made in front of the portico, and two underground cisterns were constructed, in order to collect the rainwater that flowed from the roof of the portico and from the staircase of the Propylaea. The square so formed, was supported on arched constructions, still visible today.

At the foot of the staircase leading to the acropolis, a relief, presenting a Rhodian ship («tiemiolia»), is carved on the rock. According to the inscription, on the bow stood a statue of General Hagesander Mikkion, the work of the sculptor Pythokritos, who carved the Winged Victory of Samothrace (now in the Louvre Museum). Traces of painting are visible on the ship. The relief is dated in 180- 170 b.C. and it is protected by a barrier.

Beside the medieval staircase, leading to the Governor's Palace, the visitor may see the ruins of a staircase, also leading to the Acropolis, which is dated in the Hellenistic period.

The Propylaea of the temple were constructed in late 4th century b.C. The building is made of the usual porous stone and the upper part preserves traces of colors. A monumental staircase leads to a Π-shaped portico and to a wall with five doors. The lateral wings of the portico had hexastyle (i.e. with six columns) prostyle façades topped by a pedimental roof. A room opened behind each wing of the portico. The western room was followed by three other rooms, while the eastern one had only one extra room. These rooms were used for the deposition of the votive offerings. All the rooms led to a peristyle atrium, with porticos in three sides. The sanctuary of the goddess

was probably placed here. Later on, in circa 200 b.C. a fourth portico in Ionian style was added to the open side.

In front of the vaulted constructions the visitor may see the remains of a Roman temple in antis, without opisthodomos. The temple, constructed in circa 300 A.D., faced the acropolis and was intended to an imperial cult.

An inscribed semi-circular dais made of rosso antico served as the basis of the bronze statue of Pamphyliadas, a priest of the goddess. The statue was accompanied by three smaller ones. The dais was constructed in the end of the 3rd century b.C. Two centuries later, in the 1st century b.C., statues of members of the priest's family were placed on the dais.

In various spots of the area of the sanctuary there are bases and dais for statues, as it happens at the sanctuary beside the staircase. Such are the bases of the statues of Archocrates, Lysistates and Pythagoras, all of them brothers and priests of the goddess in the period of 168-156 b.C. There are also pedestals for the statues of the Roman imperial family dated in the period 14 to 19 A.D. Inscriptions indicate that there were statues of Tiberius, Drusus the Younger, Augustus and Germanicus.

The acropolis was surrounded by a strong wall, constructed during the Hellenistic times, at the same period as the Propylaea and the monumental staircase leading to the entrance of the acropolis. It is a carefully built ashlar construction with vertical and horizontal joints. Below this wall there are traces of the earlier one that probably existed before the Persian Wars. According to a Roman inscription, the wall and the square towers were repaired in the 2nd century A.D, at the expenses of P. Aelius Hagetor, the priest of Athena.

Of course, the castle continued to be in use during the Byzantine period. Few traces of the Byzantine fortifications survive up to now, most of them incorporated in the later constructions of the Knights' period, dated at the beginning of the 14th century. The Knights in fact remodelled the castle and made several changes and improvements, according to the technique of the period. The towers of the castle are few and follow the natural shape of the cliff. A pentagonal tower on the South was constructed, to guard the harbor, the settlement and the road leading to the town of Rhodes. Another tower, round this time, was placed at the East, to overlook the sea. Two additional towers, one round and the other on a corner, were found at the northeastern end of the fortress. Today only two of the towers survive: one at the southwestern corner and the other western to the Governor's Palace. In 1522 the castle surrendered to the Ottomans, who, during the 16th and the 17th century modified the castle again, so that it complied with the innovations introduced in warfare, especially the use of cannons during the sieges. Thus, the Ottomans added some bastions at the three corners of the castle. The castle was in use until 1844, when it has been abandoned.

A large medieval staircase leads to the Governor's Palace at the West. What we see today of the Palace, are two separate buildings, but originally it consisted of three. The Palace was restored by Danish archaeologists and, later on by the Italians, on the purpose to become a Museum.

On the terrace of the big portico, upon the cisterns it is situated the church of Aghios Ioannis. The church is of the inscribed cruciform type and probably was constructed in the period between the 11th and the 14th century, on the ruins of an earlier one, as it is evidenced by the architectural fragments embodied in the masonry of the actual church. Judging from these fragments, archaeologists suggest that the construction of this church goes back to the 6th century A.D.

Excavations at Lindos were carried out at the beginning of the 20th century and in 1952 by the Danish Archaeological Institute. During the first period, the whole site was excavated and all the



monuments we see today were brought to light, whereas after the World War II, in 1952, the Danish archaeologists made an extensive and careful study of the monuments already revealed.

During the period of Italian domination, 1912-1943, there were carried out surveys on the site and extensive restore works. However, today it is thought that much of the restoration work was done arbitrarily; so, in recent times, a more careful study of the conservation and restoration is being carried out by the archaeological Ephorate in charge.

## The Archaeological Site of Lindos (outside and around the Acropolis)

The ancient city of Lindos was situated outside and around the Acropolis, which was found at the top of a hill, overlooking the area. The ruins of the ancient city are quite extended and reach the modern town of Lindos. The site is found at a distance of 46 kilometers southern to the town of Rhodes.

### The most important monuments of the site are the following:

The theater: Situated at the southwestern side of the hill, the ancient theater is found below the Acropolis and the temple of Athena (Minerva). The cavea («koilon») of the theater and the circular orchestra are carved in the hillside rock. The theater had a capacity of more than 1.800 spectators; it had 26 rows of seats, divided by a large diazoma in two parts, the lower one of 19 rows and the upper one of 7 rows. The three first rows contained the honorary seats, reserved for officials, and they were separated from the staircases of the «koilon» by low walls. Imposing honorary seats for the most illustrious guests, (the so-called «proedriae») were also situated around the orchestra. The theater had nine cunei, only five of them well preserved today.

In the virtual extension of the scene of the theater the visitor can see the ruins of a quadrangular building with arcades at each side. Four rows of columns, one at each side supported a pitched roof made of wood and surrounded an atrium. The entrance of the building was found at the northwestern side; it was completed by a series of columns, forming a porch and carrying an architrave. It is suggested that the building, whose capacity was of 1.500 to 1.700 people, was intended to hold ritual and religious ceremonies. In later periods the building housed three Christian churches (successively).

At the site of Vigli, northeastern to the Acropolis it is found the so-called «Boucopion», a place intended for sacrifices, as its name implies («boukopion» in greek means «cutting of oxen»). 38 inscriptions on the rocks around have helped to identify the use of the place. A small temple of the 10th or 9th century b.C., made of raw stones, comprised by a pronaos, a nave and a kind of antechamber, intended to keep the votive offerings related to the sacrifices, clay and bronze figurines, the majority of them representing oxen. So far, it has not been identified which deity was worshipped here.

The cemeteries of the ancient city are situated around the settlement. Two are the most important funerary monuments of the cemeteries: Firstly the tomb of Cleobulus. It is not the tomb of the well known tyrant of Lindos, but of a wealthy family of the place. It is a circular structure with nice masonry and a vaulted roof. The cornice of the entrance is decorated with fleuron. On the inside wall a kind of sarcophagus, originally with a cover which has not been preserved, hewn out of the rock, is dated in the 2nd-1st c. BC. Some faint traces of Christian frescos and the name «St. Aimilianos», easily read, indicate that in a later period the place had been converted to a Christian church.

Upon the hill, western to the acropolis, on the site of Kampana, at Krana, it is situated an ancient funerary monument, carved in the rock. The monument is called «Archokrateion», but it is better

known as «Frangoklessia» («church of the Francs»), which indicates that it was used as a Christian church during the period of the Knights' domination. The exterior, two – storey façade of the building is decorated with half-columns supporting an architrave with metopes and triglyphs, whereas on the upper floor, pillars alternate with blind openings. Funerary altars, bearing the names of the dead on their bases, were placed at the façade of the first floor. In the interior, a corridor led to a place intended to burial ceremonies. 19 tombs are cut in the walls of this chamber, whereas on the sides of the hall, pillars alternate with plaster panels.

Access to the archaeological site is possible from the modern town of Lindos.

## The acropolis of the ancient town of Rhodes

The acropolis of the ancient town of Rhodes was not established at a fortified site; on the contrary, it was rather a zone of monuments: nice temples, great sanctuaries, important public buildings and underground ritual places. It dominated the whole town as it was built at the west, on the hill of Aghios Stephanos, or Monte Smith, as the locals call it. The majority of the buildings were constructed in tiers and were supported by strong retaining walls. Most of the monuments surviving today are dated in the Hellenistic period and the natural environment goes very well along with human constructions.

Large scale excavations at the site were carried out by Italian archaeologists, during the Italian domination of the island (1912-1943). After the island was incorporated to the Greek territory, at the end of World War II, excavations continued and brought to light plenty of finds that enriched our knowledge about the place and its use. Up to now the site has not been totally excavated. The Archaeological Service of Greece has previewed to carry out excavations in future to an extent more than one square kilometre.

During the Italian domination there were also carried out extensive reconstructions, as it was common in this period of time. The Greek archaeologists restored the temple of Apollo Pythios, which had been damaged by bombs during the World War II and by the heavy guns established there by the Italians and the Germans. The restoration and conservation of the monuments are still in progress.

Access to the site is very easy, since the acropolis is situated within the modern town of Rhodes, western to the old town.

## *Museums, Collections and Gallery's*

### The Archaeological Museum of Rhodes

The Archaeological Museum of the town of Rhodes is situated within the medieval town and it is housed in the medieval building that used to be the Hospital of the Knights. The construction of this old building started in 1440, under the Grand Master De Lastic and was accomplished only some 50 years later, in 1489, by the Grand Master D' Aubusson.

The Museum houses important archaeological finds coming from almost all the island; the most worth seeing exhibits are the following:

An amphora dated in the 6th century b.C. of Fikellura style, made in a Rhodian workshop. Both

sides are depicted with a representation of an animal and fleurons decorate the space below the handles.

A kylix of Vroullian style, dated in the 6th century b.C., also coming from a Rhodian workshop.

A black-figured attic amphora of the 6th century b.C., presenting the departure of a warrior.

The grave stele of Krito and Timarista, dated in about 420-410 b.C. It presents two standing female figures. Timarista, full face, wearing a chiton and peplos embraces Krito, who wears a chiton and himation and has short hair.

The grave stele of Kalliarista, dated in about 350 b.C., where the dead woman is presented seated, dressed in a chiton, with the himation covering her head. Her servant, standing beside her, holds a pyxis (jewel box) with her jewels. The capping of the stele is in form of a pediment resting on pilasters.

The head of an athlete, made of marble and dated in the 4th century b.C.

The marble head of the god Helios (Sun) is a very nice sample of the sculpture of the Hellenistic period. It is dated between 250 and 160 b.C.

A marble statue of a nude squatting Aphrodite, dated in circa 100 A.D., a remodeling of the Doidalsas type.

A very interesting copy of an older original bust, probably presenting the famous comic poet Menander.

Apart from the above, the visitor will see important collections of tomb groups found in various sites of the island, dated in different periods. There are also displayed nice statues and excellent mosaics of the Hellenistic period, which have been found in the ancient city of Rhodes, but also on the neighboring island of Karpathos.

Finally, the visitor may see the two headless archaic kouroi, dated in circa 550-530 b.C., as well as several grave stones from the period of the Knights with relief representations of the dead persons or of their blazons.

The students who visit the Museum every year can attend educational programs, which initiate and familiarize the children and young people both with the archaeological material and with the history of the island.

## Municipal Gallery of Rhodes or Museum of Modern Greek Art of the Municipality of Rhodes

The Municipal Gallery of Rhodes is housed in a nice building situated at Symi square, just at the entrance of the medieval town. It has been established in 1962 by Andreas Ioannou, an eminent scholar of Modern Greek Painting, who was then prefect of the Prefecture of Dodecanese.

Today the Gallery has one of the most representative and authoritative collections of Greek Painting and Engraving of the 20th century. All the important Greek painters of the past century, who worked creatively during the last century and developed the features of modern Greek painting,

are represented in the Gallery with at least one characteristic work. The majority of the painters presented were born after 1863.

Just as an example, one could mention some of them, known not only in Greece, but also in Europe: Maleas, Kontoglou, Parthenis, Theophilos, Hadjikyriakos-Ghikas, Vassiliou, Spyropoulos, Gaitis, Fassianos, Kessanlis, Chr. Botsoglou, Moralis, Tsarouchis, Diamantopoulos, Lytras, Gounaropoulos, Engonopoulos and many others, whose works have also been presented in exhibitions both in Greece and abroad. In fact, there are more than 150 painters and hundreds of works.

Apart from the important collection of paintings, the Gallery has also a very nice and rich collection of etchings, of all engraving techniques (wood engravings, lithography, chalcography, aquatint) dated from 16th to 20th century. You will also see designs, sketches, sculptures and various documents.

Very important and interesting are also collections of Etchings and Maps of Rhodes, the Dodecanese and the Aegean, which comprises numerous maps and etchings of various places of Greece, of Asia Minor and above all of the island and the town of Rhodes. This collection is a donation of the philhellene family of Noel Woolrych and especially of their daughter Zoe Woolrych York.

Apart from the central building at Symi square, several other buildings in the town host the activities of the Museum. In 2002 it was established the New Gallery, which has been housed in a modern building at the scenic «Square with the 100 palm trees». Several artistic activities, education programs and other cultural and artistic events take place here.

Finally, the Center of Modern Art is housed in the building of «Palio Syssitio», in Socratous Street, one of the central streets of the medieval town. The principal work of the Center is to organize exhibitions, mainly of younger artists.

Education, especially of young people, is one of the main aims of the Museum.

The impression of the visitors of the Museum coincides with the aims of the organisers of it. For them it is essential that the visitor has understood and felt Greece through the glance and the sensibility of the Greek painters of the recent past. Also it is essential that the visitor becomes the vector of the idea that Greece has an original character, which, always and even today, is a result of giving and receiving cultural features and ideas.

## Museum of Natural History of Rhodes

Within the area of the Valley of the Butterflies, there is also the Museum of Natural History, established by the local Municipality. The Museum is housed in a nicely restored and renovated Italian house of the 1930s' and completes the tour of the valley with the part of information and education about the fauna and the flora of this excellent biotope. The most important and interesting part of the museum is the hatchery, where a number of butterflies reproduce in a protected area, with stable climate conditions and ideal environment. Thus, the Museum not only does it give a museological view of the biotope, but it also contributes to informing the visitors on ecological topics, while at the same time is a good sample of eco-tourism, an alternative tourist development.

## Museum of Apiculture and of Natural History of the Bee

The Museum of Apiculture and of Natural History of the Bee is a new museum, founded in Rhodes by the Apiculture Association of the Dodecanese. It aims at informing its visitors and the public in general, about the nature, the products and the life of this precious insect that is the bee.

The Museum is unique and its establishment is owed to the concern of a group of people for the bee and the benefits it offers to the human being. At the museum, the visitor will get information about the history of bee-keeping, knowledge about the biology of the insect, about how the bee uses the pollen and how it makes the «royal jelly», the honey and the wax.

An emphasis is given to the presentation of different kinds of honey and the special features of the Greek and Rhodian honey. In the museum there are also displayed the tools used in apiculture and in the production of honey. There is also information about the architecture of the hives and the visitor can see how the bee-keepers take the honey. Also, the visitor can watch the bees living and working within the hive, as the museum has hives of glass which permit to watch the whole process.

During the tour of the museum, the visitor has the chance to watch videos about all the above. As a result, when leaving this unique museum you will know everything about the bee, its products and its role in the ecosystem.

Finally, in the Museum shop you may buy the products of the bee. You will find honey, honeycombs, wax, royal-jelly, as well as cosmetics and other products based on honey and on wax.

Access to the Museum is very easy, as it is found at Pastida, on the 5th kilometer of the National road leading from Faliraki to the Airport. A spacious parking and other facilities are available to the visitors of the Museum.

## *Special Events and Cultural Activities*

### Sound and Light

The spectacle «Sound and Light» that takes place at the Municipal Park of the town of Rhodes, every year since 1961, is in fact a performance, like theatrical play, but without actors. Within natural scenery, the performers combine the theatrical action with architecture and speech, all of them accompanied by music and lights.

This kind of performing art uses the technology of radio which is well linked with light and the architectural framework. Whoever attends the spectacle for the first time thinks that the sounds come from the monuments in which the event takes place. It is told that the stones and the monuments have once heard a story, assimilated it and now, in their turn, they narrate it to the audience. During the event the spectator has the feeling that the environment around does not exist. Through fantasy and emotional alterations triggered by the spectacle, the spectator «feels» the history of the place and «reads» it anew, as within a living book. The theme, usually taken in history or mythology of the place, is not the most important part, not even the kind of narration, which may be prose or poetry. What matters is the magic result the audience experience and the esthetic enjoyment.

The spectacle is suitable both for children and adults. For the first time it had been presented in 1959 in Athens, at Pnyx. Later on it was extended in Corfu and Rhodes. Today, only the event of

Rhodes keeps on operating every year and it has always great success, which is reasonable if one takes into account the rich history, natural environment and tourist development of the island.

The usual «scenario» of the performance is the battle of the defenders of Rhodes against the Ottoman army of Suleiman the Great, who in this period of time was still invincible. Following the story, the light focuses to different places, to Ippoton Street, to the Palace of the Great Master, or to the camp of the sultan. Well known actors recite the texts, which are taken in original historic sources, while today computers with purposely built software are also used for the performance. The duration of the spectacle varies according to the language, from 45 minutes up to one hour.

## The Carnival Feast in the medieval town

The last few years the Municipality of the town of Rhodes organises the annual Carnival Feast, aiming at attracting people to the island not only in summer, but also during the other seasons of the year. The feast has been proved quite successful and more visitors attending it are being added up every year.

The Feast takes place on the last Sunday of Carnival, the previous day of Shrove Monday and gives to the young people of the island, but also to the rest of the locals and the visitors, the chance to enjoy a crazy fun and amusement, just before the long Easter's Lent.

An organizing committee accepts participations to the feast from cultural associations, dance schools, schools and any other club or group. After the participations have been received, the organizing committee invites cultural groups, orchestras and other people involved in music and dance from Athens and other areas of Greece. It goes without saying that the local orchestras of modern or folk music and the folk dance groups, along with well – known musicians and singers, take part to the feast.

The people attending the feast are disguised and dressed in fancy dresses and the fun is at the peak. In all the squares of the town, but mainly in Jewish Martyrs' square and Aristotelous square, people sing and dance, with live music played by musicians who present their programs in temporary platforms, purposely made. It is at the same platforms that the dance groups present their program, comprising folk dances from the Dodecanese, but also from the rest of Greece. The organising committee offers drinks and refreshment to the public and the feast last until late in the night; sometimes nobody goes to bed before the next morning. Being very well organized, the feast attracts many people every year.

## Anthesteria

One of the most important and well known feasts in Ancient Greece was the Anthesteria, the feast of the Flowers, celebrated in the beginning of spring. The last few years, the Municipality of the town of Rhodes has tried to revive the feast and organizes the modern Anthesteria, a feast of flowers taking place in spring, during the last week of May. The Municipality aims at sensitizing the people, both the locals and the visitors, on the problem of the effects of human action on the natural environment. Every year the feast gives the ecological message of respect and protection of nature. The feast comprises flowers' exhibition, artistic activities as painting and photography exhibitions about flowers and nature, as well as music concerts. All events focalize on environment and protection of nature.

The main event is the floats' parade, which in fact are cars decorated with flowers which, accompanied by people on foot, march along the parade space of the town, from Mandraki up to

the Prefecture's building. The decoration of the cars is thematic, that is to say there is always a hint to the environment, to a local or national event, and the same stands for the walkers who are dressed in uniforms also relative to a theme. Numerous local cultural associations, but also associations of the communities of Rhodians living abroad, along with schools and groups, take part to the event. The participants pay the cost of their performance, but the organization of the event is the duty of the Municipality, who contributes the orchestras and the folk bands who operate under the Municipality's supervision. The whole event ends up to a great feast, where everybody can participate.

## *Ancient Monuments and Famous historical persons of Rhodes*

### Cleoboulos of Lindos

According to Plutarch, Cleobulus was a tyrant of Lindos on the island of Rhodes and was considered as one of the Seven Sages of the ancient world. The famous statement «moderation is the best thing» is attributed to him, along with several others equally wise. He was a son of Evagoras and lived during the 7th and 6th century b.C. He died in circa 560 b.C. at the age of 70 years. His fellow-citizens wrote the following inscription on his tomb: «His country, Lindus, this fair sea-girt city/Bewails wise Cleobulus here entombed». Cleobulus is said to have written more than 3.000 enigmas and a lot of epigrams. He was very proud of his Doric origin and pretended that he was a descendant of Hercules.

According to the ancient sources, Cleobulus studied in Egypt and travelled much. One of the most important works he undertook when a tyrant, was the restoration of the temple of Athena, which, according to tradition had been built by Danaus. Cleobulus had held advanced views, as to female education. His daughter, Cleobulina used to compose enigmas in hexameter verse; several of them are still in use. The majority of the information we have about Cleobulus come from Diogenes Laertius, who has written a biography of him.

### Diagoras of Rhodes

Diagoras of Rhodes was a famous Olympic champion and the first ancestor of a family of several Olympic champions. He was descendent from a famous aristocratic family of the city of Ialysos in Rhodes and from Aristomenes, the hero of Messenian war. According to historic sources, Diagoras won in the 79th Olympiad of 464 b.C., in box; he also won all the rest Pan-Hellenic games of this period and was declared «periodionikes», that is to say winner of all four Pan-Hellenic games. In 448 b.C., after he had already retired, he was watching the Olympic games, in which his sons Damagetos and Akousilaos won in box and pancratium. According to tradition, his two sons crowned their father with their victory wreaths, held him on their shoulders and altogether walked the victory lap. Then a man of the public shouted to Diagoras: «Now it's time for you to die, Diagoras! Do not ask to go to the top of Olympus, too!! ». And, in fact, it was at this very moment, accompanied by the acclamations of the crowd, that Diagoras died, proud and happy. He was considered as the best boxer in antiquity.

Later on, his younger son Dorieus became also an Olympic champion, as they did his two grand children, Eucles and Peisidoros, sons of his daughters Kallipateira and Ferenike. Kallipateira is said to be the only woman who violated the immunity of the Olympic stadium for women; however, she was not condemned for this action, as, when the judges asked her how she dared to enter

the stadium, she replied proudly that his father, brother and son were Olympic champions, so she deserved that.

Diagoras was celebrated in one of the odes of the great poet Pindarus.

## Colossus of Rhodes

The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was a construction of unique technical and artistic value.

After they had successfully resisted and repulsed the attack of the Macedonian general Demetrius Poliorkitis («the besieger»), in 305 b.C., the Rhodian people thought that their old god Helios (sun), had crucially contributed to their victory.

So, they decided to construct a unique statue, similar to which no one would have existed so far, and entrusted the construction to Chares, a sculptor from Lindos, student of the famous sculptor Lysippos. It took more than twelve years to accomplish the work, which finished in circa 292 to 280 b.C. The sculpture was financed from the spoils obtained after the retreat of Demetrius. As ancient writers cite, the value of the spoils was more than 300 talents, a really colossal amount.

According to ancient sources the sculpture was higher than 32 meters and was erected somewhere in the port of the city of Rhodes (Mandraki), possibly at the entrance. The statue had its legs in either side of the mouth of the port and ships were passing under it. Based upon depictions of the statue on coins, modern scholars try to reconstruct a reliable image of it. The statue possibly held a torch or a sword in his hand.

The proud statue would not stand for a long time; in circa 224 b.C., due to a destructive earthquake, the statue snapped at the knees and fell over onto the land. The Rhodians considered the destruction as a divine sign and refuse to erect it anew. The parts of the glorious statue remained on earth for some 800 years. In 1635 Arab invaders, who pillaged the island, sold the pieces to Arab merchants as scrap. According to the legend, the merchant who bought it, an Arab from Edessa of Syria, had needed 900 camels to transport the statue. It is also said that for many years after, pieces of the statue continued to turn up for sale for years, after being found along the caravan route.

The famous statue kept on stimulating fantasy and influencing Art and writings, up to our times. Several authors and poets, Shakespear among them have written about Colossus, and numerous painters have depicted the statue in various works. The most widely known reference is certainly the poem of the American poet, Emma Lazarus, written in 1883 and inscribed on a plaque at the Statue of Liberty in New York City's harbor, which starts by these words:

«...Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;...»

## The Icon of Panaghia Filerimos

The icon of Panaghia Filerimos is considered as one of the most important Christian relics. It is thought that it is a work of Evangelist Luce, but the real history of the icon starts in the 11th century. According to tradition, the icon was brought to Rhodes by the Knights of the Order of St. John in 1000 A.D. and established it at the hill which thereafter took its name. Gradually, the people started to believe that the icon was wonder-working and thus, Panaghia (Virgin Mary) became



the protector saint of the island. According to another tradition, the Knights found the icon on the island when they conquered Rhodes in 1309. The icon remained in Rhodes until 1523, when the Ottomans took possession of the island. It is said that the Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, admiring the courage of the Knights, allowed them to leave the island taking along their precious religious relics. Thus, the Knights took the icon with them, as they thought that it had protected them many times.

It is then that started the adventures and wanderings of the icon. Passing from Italy and France, it arrived to Malta, accompanying the Knights of the Order of St. John when they settled there. The icon kept on protecting them, especially during the Ottoman attack of 1565. After Malta was occupied by Napoleon in 1798, several bandit groups pillaged the treasures of the island and, among other precious things, they took the icon too. After some time, the icon, without the protective cover it originally had, was found in the hands of the tsar of Russia. The tsar decorated it with a new golden cover and precious stones. The icon remained in Russia until the Revolution of 1917, when it was got away from the country along with two precious religious relics and traveled in various cities of Europe. It remained in Beograd until the bombing of the city by the Nazis in 1941. In this period it was moved to a Monastery in Montenegro, where it was protected until the end of the War. After the war it was anew moved in various places in Montenegro and today it is kept in the Blue Chapel, at the National Museum of Montenegro.

## *Shopping – Local products*

Rhodes has a big market where you can find anything you wish. One of the best things you can buy are certainly the famous local wines. Vine – growing has a long history on the island and due to the mild climate, the wines produced are of high quality. The most famous local wine is that produced at Emponas.

In the scenic village of Sianna, you will find «suma» the Rhodian version of ouzo. In Rhodes it is also produced a liquor, the «Coriadolino, a traditional sweet drink available in various flavours.

Apart from the good memories of your staying on the island, don't miss to take with you a more ...tangible souvenir. We recommend you a ceramic vessel, a hand-woven textile or a piece of embroidery. Rhodes is famous for its ceramics and you will find small workshops making nice ceramic objects with traditional local motifs, for decoration or for use, anywhere on the island. The most well known ceramics of Rhodes are those produced at Lindos.

Hand woven textiles and clothes are also famous and will seize your eye. The best are made in Archangelos and Afantou, where the women keep on preserving a long tradition which passes from one generation to the next one, offering excellent samples of useful things, which at the same time are nice and beautiful.

If you like silver, you will find very nice handmade silver work, a sample of an art, so common in the past in the Mediterranean, but gradually disappearing today.

And, of course, in such a blessed place, with its tradition so lively, it would not be a surprise that you find gorgeous sweets and tasty cheeses.

## Why Rhodes

To wander and feel like a knight of the Middle Ages, in the almost intact medieval town, which has been declared as a World Heritage Monument and is protected by UNESCO.

To taste gorgeous sweets, influenced by oriental and Asia Minor cooking, in every place.

To stroll around and loaf about the streets and the shops in the medieval town, where you may buy excellent souvenirs and folk art handicrafts.

To visit the ruins of the famous ancient cities of Lindos, Ialysos, Kamiros, as well as the antiquities found within the town of Rhodes.

To visit the same villages that you have seen in the films of 1960s' and 1970', and find out that they haven't changed that much since these times!

To visit the unique place called Rodini, where you will think that you have been back in time, within a park of the Hellenistic period.

To visit the Castle of Monolithos and enjoy the breathtaking view of the boundless sea, of Rhodes and the nearby islands.

To go nice excursions to the neighboring islands of Chalki and Symi and visit the Monastery of Panormitis.