

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this part of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main post office is located at Mandraki Harbor.

The OTE (International telephones) office is located near the Post Office on Amerikis Street. Many payphones operate by telephone cards that can be purchased at the OTE office and some kiosks.

AT&T: 00.800.1311

MCI: 00.800.1211

TOURIST INFORMATION The Greek National Tourist Office (GNTO) is located at Eth. Makariou Street or at Rimini Square, Mandraki.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are plentiful on the main pier, but the old town of Rhodes is within walking distance of the ship. Taxis and other forms of transportation are restricted from entering the town walls. All streets within Rhodes Town are pedestrian only.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes • Nai

No • Ochi

Hello • Yeiá sas

Good Bye • Antío

Thank You • Efcharistó

You're Welcome • Parakaló

NOTES



GENERAL INFORMATION The undisputed tourist capital of the Dodecanese, the island of Rhodes offers sandy beaches, jagged cliffs, and lush mountaintops. This, along with the medieval flavor of its capital, Rhodes Town, is what attracts visitors to its shores. At 540 square miles (1400 square kilometers), Rhodes is the fourth largest Greek island.

The island's history is what adds to its appeal. Comparatively closer to mainland Turkey than Greece, Rhodes has a flavor all its own. It is thought that the Greeks erected the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, in the town's old harbor. Two thousand years later the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem fortified the city, protecting its inhabitants from Turkish invaders.

The town of Rhodes is divided into two distinct districts; the New Town to the north and west, and the Old Town, surrounded by medieval fortress walls. Almost everything of interest in Rhodes Town lies within these walls and its network of pedestrian streets and ancient alleyways is home to a host of souvenir shops, gold smiths, and small cafes.

Beyond Rhodes Town are some of the resorts and beaches that attract the thousands of European sun seekers who visit the island each year. Also of interest is the ancient city of Lindos, its hilltop setting and whitewashed buildings among the most attractive, and historic, on the island.



PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Rhodes
GREECE

HISTORY The island of Rhodes is rich in history and legend. During the 7th-century BC, the island began to flourish as a major trading center. In 408 BC, the three city-states of Ialysos, Lindos and Kamiros united to form the city of Rhodes to serve as the island's capital. Hippodamos from Miletus, the leading architect of the day, was hired by the civic leaders to create the city. Upon completion, Rhodes was considered one of the ancient world's most beautiful cities.

Alliances with Rome during the Carthaginian Wars helped secure Rhode's independence until, in 42 BC, Cassius plundered Rhodes for backing his rivals. Rhodes fell to the Goths in 269 AD, but 28 years later, the Byzantine Empire began its political and cultural control over the island. Crusaders, Ottoman Turks and Italians ruled over the centuries. Rhodes fell briefly under Venetian influence, followed by Byzantine and Genovese. In 1309, when the Knights of the Order of St. John took the city from its Genovese masters, its most glorious modern era began. In 1312 the Knights inherited the immense wealth of the Templars (another religious military order, that was outlawed by the Pope), and used it to fortify Rhodes.

The Greek mainland was liberated by the war of 1821, but the Dodecanese Islands remained part of the Ottoman Empire until 1912, when the Italians took over. Greece took control of the island from the Germans after World War II. The city still reflects its past in its many Turkish mosques and Italian restaurants.



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PLACES OF INTEREST

The modern city is laid along the waterfront of Mandraki, the northern harbor. Two bronze deer guard the harbor entrance. It is believed that the Colossus of Rhodes once stood here. The Colossus was built to commemorate the victory of the island after the unsuccessful one-year siege imposed by Demetrios.

The monument, in honor of the sun god Helios, was one of the original Seven Wonders of the World. The bronze statue was 30 meters high and it took 12 years to complete. The monument was toppled by an earthquake in 227 BC after standing for 56 years at the harbor entrance. The remains were

moved by the Saracens 800 years later to Asia Minor where they were eventually lost. Here you will also find **St. Nicholas Fort**.

1 The **Hospital of the Knights** now houses the Archaeological Museum. Located on Museum Square, the hospital, completed in 1489, is the largest of the Knight's public buildings. The imposing façade opens into a courtyard, where one will find cannonballs from the siege of 1522. The Museum contains a collection of ancient pottery and sculpture, including two well-known representations of Aphrodite.

2 The **Palace of the Knights of St. John** is located at Kleovaulou Square. Also known as the Palace of the Grand Masters; it has 300 rooms, a moat, drawbridges, watch towers and colossal battlements. Items on exhibit include coins, illuminated manuscripts, icons, sculptures, and mosaics.

3 The **Mosque of Suleyman** is an early 19th-century structure that stands on the site of the original mosque built in 1522. The original mosque was built immediately after Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent captured Rhodes. The current landmark has red-plastered walls, a garden and a stone minaret. (Closed to the public.)

4 The **Byzantine Church of Panagia**, and further south...

5 the **Byzantine Church of St. Panteleimon** can be found along the Commercial harbor.

6 The **Temple of Aphrodite** is one of two pre-Roman sites in the area. This temple was completed in the 3rd-century BC and stands inside the old town near Symi Square.

7 **Platia Martyron Evreon** (Square of the Jewish Martyrs) is in the heart of the old Jewish Quarter. In 1943, 2000 Jews were taken from this square to Nazi concentration camps; only 50 survived. Further down Dossiadou Street at Simiou Street, stands the synagogue restored by survivors of the war. Services are held on Fridays at 5:00 pm Appropriate dress is required.

8 **Rhodes Aquarium** is located at the northern tip of the island.

9 Outside of the old town on the hill near Monte Smith, is where you will find the **Temple of Apollo**. Irreparable ruins are all that stands today, but the views are superb.

Beyond Rhodes

Lindos is located 37 miles (60 km) from Rhodes Town. This area is the most photogenic member of the island's ancient towns and creeps from the sea to its ancient Acropolis located on the hilltop. Vines and flowers overhang the town's narrow streets, with pebble mosaic courtyards and doorways. The **Acropolis of Lindos** is well worth visiting, as it offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding area from the summit of a steep hill. The Sanctuary of Athena Lindia occupies the

largest portion of the Acropolis. The main portico had 42 Doric columns, at the center of which an opening led to the staircase up to the propylaia. The temple atop the 250 steps is surprisingly modest. Numerous inscribed statue bases were found all over the summit, attesting to the work of Lindian sculptors.

Ancient **Kamiro** is located 35 kilometers from Rhodes Town and was a prosperous settlement surrounded by farmland in the 5th and 6th centuries BC. Old stone walls of houses, temple pillars, cobblestone streets, and reservoir cisterns have left a lasting impression of this ancient city.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the best of your visit to Rhodes and its surroundings we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brouchure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices in large stores are fixed. Bargaining may take place in smaller owner-managed shops, and is expected with local street vendors.

Tipping: When a service charge is not included in a restaurant bill, a 10% gratuity is suggested.

Local Cuisine: Greek dishes found in and around Rhodes include, papoutsaki (stuffed eggplant), stuffed tomatoes, grilled octopus and saganaki shrimp. Of course, you will also find; taramasalata (a dip or spread made from fish roe), melitsanasalata (made from smoked eggplant), and tzatziki (a yogurt cucumber and garlic dip usually used with bread.) The old towns' alleyways are lined with tavernas and cafes offering a range of food and prices.

Drink Specialties: As in all Greek cities, Ouzo, a clear licorice-flavor drink, can easily be found in one of the many ouzeries or tavernas in the old and new town sections. Wine is consumed at almost all meals and social gatherings and is relatively inexpensive. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shops throughout the island cater to tourists and usually remain open throughout the day, possibly closing for an hour or two during lunch. Many tourist shops will remain open late into the evening. The main shopping areas are around Makariou Street, G. Lambraki Street and Cyprus Square.

Good buys include leather, furs, shoes, jewelry, ceramics, and umbrellas.

A Value Added Tax (VAT), is almost always added to most purchases. Visitors from outside the European Union who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change, and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.