



GREECE Dodecanese

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GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

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GREECE

The Dodecanese



*2. Dodecanese's enchanting beaches
are one of the main attractions for millions of tourists every year.*



The Dodecanese island group is in the southeastern part of the Aegean Sea, the sunniest corner of Greece; it comprises twelve large islands and numerous smaller ones, each one with a different character. You will find fantastic beaches, archeological sites of great historical importance, imposing Byzantine and Medieval monuments, traditional villages and architectural gems that date to the Italian Occupation. The Dodecanese have long been one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Mediterranean.

Rhodes and Kos, are among the largest islands of the group and the two most popular ones. Karpathos, Patmos, Leros, Symi, Kalymnos, and Astypalaia have managed to keep their traditional flavour despite the fact that large numbers of tourists visit them. The smaller islands, with lower rates of growth, like Tilos, Nisyros, Leipsoi, Chalki, Kasos, Kastellorizo, Agathonisi, Telendos and Pserimos are a fine choice for relaxed and peaceful holidays.

These islands have a rich and very long history. They have known pirate raids and have been occupied by the Knights Hospitaller, the Turks, and the Italians, to be eventually integrated in Greece in 1948.

PATMOS



3. Skala, Patmos' port. Chora lies in the background.

Patmos is known as the "island of the Apocalypse" or "Jerusalem of the Aegean": John the Theologian, one of Christ's disciples, exiled to this island by the Roman emperor Domitian in 95 AD, wrote the "Book of Revelation", the last book of the New Testament in one of the island's caves. The "Cave of the Apocalypse", as it is known today, is one of the most historic and impressive sites in Greece. Patmos was first inhabited in prehistoric times. During the Roman times it was a place of exile. In 1088, the Blessed Christodoulos founded the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Over time the island flourished and the first mansions were built in the late 16th century. The Patmos Seminary (or Patmian School) was built in 1713. The island officially became Greek territory in 1948. Area: 34 sq.km; coastline: 63 km; population: 3,000.



4. Agios Ioannis Theologos Monastery – an interior view.

Chora

1

This small traditional town has been built around the monastery of Saint John the Theologian. It is one of the most beautiful and well preserved medieval towns found in the Aegean. The houses, built next to each other, have their windows placed high and leave room for narrow, maze-like paved alleys where you will find dozens of 15th-17th century churches, built with stone from Petrokopio (meaning stone quarry) and Manolakas. The roofs are made with timber from cypress trees and *alternating layers of astivi* (a kind of shrub endemic to Patmos), seaweed, and mud. *Distance from Skala (the island's port):* 4.5 km S.

Town promenade

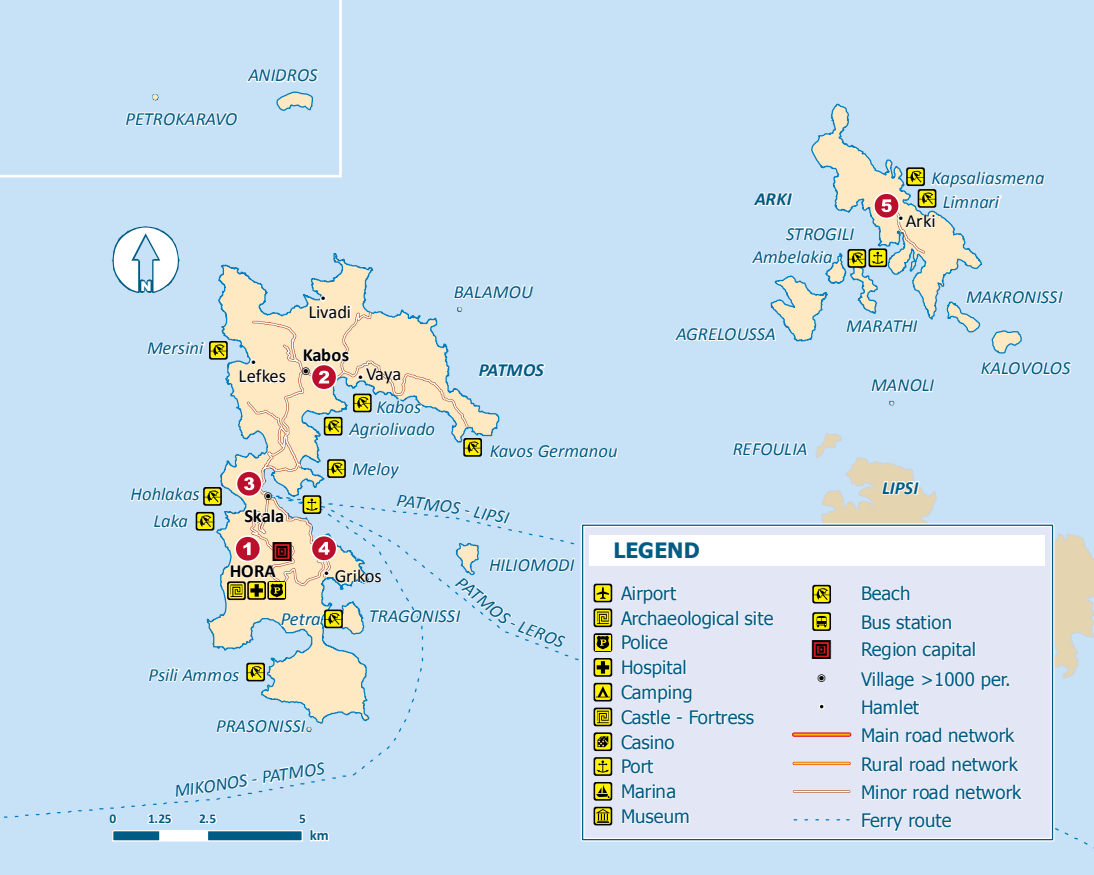
- To the imposing **fortified monastery of Saint John (Agios Ioannis) the Theologian**. It was founded in 1088 by the monk Christodoulos after a grant offered by the Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos. The museum - sacristy is

a sight of major importance and the largest museum in the Aegean. Exhibits include the **parchment of the purple code** (late 5th-early 6th c.) and the 1088 **chrysobull** [a type of byzantine official document] of **Alexios Komnenos**. The monastery's **library** is outstanding: there are approximately 1,200 handwritten codices, more than 13,000 documents, and over 4,500 archetypes and incunabula. The monastic complex houses a workshop for the conservation and restoration of the monastery's icons and works of art.

- To the **Cave of the Apocalypse**. It is located halfway down the road from Chora to Skala. **Agia Anna's** church is at the cave's entrance; restoration works took place in the 17th century.
- To the **Patmos Seminary**, in the same location as the cave, founded in 1713. It was the spiritual centre of the Greeks in bondage, especially during the 1821 War of Independence. Today, it is a state-accredited seminary.
- To the 1599 **Panagia Diasozousa** church, lying amid flowerbeds, tall palm trees, oleanders,

5. "Ioannis' Vision" (painted by Thomas Vathas, 1596), located in the cave of the Apocalypse.





white domes and a stone belfry.

- To the house of **Emmanuel Xanthos**, one of the founding members of the Society of Friends (Filiki Eteria).
- To the 17th-18th century **Nikolaidis Mansion**. It houses archeological finds together with photographic material on the island's history.
- To the **Folk Art Museum**, housed in the 17th-century Simantiri mansion. Exhibits include functional or decorative objects, family heirlooms, and other houseware.

Trips around Patmos

North

Kamos

2

Pano (Upper) Kamos is an inland village, while Kato (Lower) Kamos is a small village by the sea set in a green area, next to orchards, citrus and olive groves, pine and eucalyptus trees, and a popular sandy beach with tamarisks. Three other



seaside villages, namely **Vagia, Livadi** (E); and **Lefkes** (W) are near Kampos. **Distance from Chora:** 9 km N

Must see



- **Evangelismos** church, in a small square bordering the road.
- The multi-coloured pebble **beach of Lampi**.
- **Livadi Kalogiron** (the Monks' Field) with old monastic buildings. The 11th-12th c. **Agios Nikolaos** church is one of the island's oldest churches located 3 km NW.

Skala

3

The island's harbour is in a narrow, natural, neck-shaped bay that almost divides the island in half. During the 17th century there were no buildings by the harbour, just a few warehouses. The frequent pirate raids had forced the island's inhabitants to stay in Chora. At the end of the 19th century, the port flourished. During the Italian rule, Skala became the Italians' administrative centre;

the Italian guards' quarters, the post office, and the customs house were built during that period. After the union of Patmos with Greece, beautiful neoclassical buildings were erected in the harbour area. Today, these buildings are either residences or they house shops. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km N.

Must see



- **Petrokaravo** (the Stone Ship). It is a small island shrouded in legend and lore. It resembles a ship listing heavily, followed by two small boats. Tradition has it that this was a pirate ship that turned to stone after the fervent praying of the Blessed Christodoulos.
- **Kasteli**, the low hilltop just over Skala, accessible on foot. The view from Kasteli is spectacular. Make a point of visiting the ruins of the island's ancient capital.
- The churches dedicated to **Agia Paraskevi**, **Agia Aikaterini**, and **Panagia tis Koumanas** (1780).

6. Skala, a panoramic view.



South

Groikos

4

Spend your summer holidays in this seaside village located in a small green valley. This place existed in ancient times and was known as Agroi-kia. Tamarisks grow on the sandy beach of this narrow sheltered bay that looks more like a lake, what with Tragonisi lying just opposite and two small peninsulas on each side. **Distance from Chora:** 4.5 km SE

Must see



- The **Kallikatsou Rock**. In late afternoon, when that seaside boulder is bathed in orange light, the carved steps on the rock are visible. In antiquity, it used to be a place of worship.

Nearby islands

Arkoi (or Arkioi)

5

It is a small group of islands east of Patmos and north of Leipsoi with sparse, bushy vegetation. Arkoi village is on the largest island. Old stone houses, some whitewashed, some newly built



7. The Ritual of the Washbasin taking place on Holy Thursday at Xanthou square, Chora.





8. Kampos beach.

and traditional tavernas make up the picture. Go for swimming in beaches where lentisks and tamarisks grow, such as Limnari, Kapsaliasmenos, Tiganakia, Patelia, and Ampelaki. You will also enjoy this type of beach at a small isle called Marathi.

Events

- Religious Music Festival in Skala, every September.
- The Ritual of the Washbasin: a unique reenactment of the Last Supper. On Easter Sunday, you will hear the Gospel excerpt on the Resurrection in seven languages.

Activities

- Swimming at the fine sandy beach in Groikos; also in Petra, Vagia, Lampi, Kampos, Agriolivado, Meloi and Lefkes. A lacy stretch of beach with lilliputian coves lie between Livadi Delapothitou and

the barren Kavos Geranos area. The picturesque bay of Chochlakas is also a great spot for swimming. The best sandy beach though is Psili Ammos (access by foot or by boat).

- Spear fishing.
- Scuba diving.
- Sailing.
- Boat rides to the nearby small islands (Sklava, Chiliomodis, Anydro, etc).
- Camping at Skala (Melois).

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22473-60.300
- **Tourist information office:** 22470-31.666
- **Health Centre:** 22473-60.000
- **Port Authority:** 22470-34.131, 22470-31.231

Museums - Archeological Sites

- **Nikolaidis Mansion:** 22470-32.709
- **Folk Art Museum:** 22470-31.360
- **The Cave of the Apocalypse:** 22470-31.234
- **Agios Ioannis Monastery:** 22470-20.800

Website: www.patmos.gov.gr

9. Arkoi port.



10. An aerial photo of Agios Ioannis Theologos' fortified monastery, surrounded by Chora's houses. Skala is in the background.





AGATHONISI



11. Agios Georgios, Agathonisi's sheltered port.

Agathonisi is the northernmost island of the Dodecanese. There are three villages (Agios Georgios, Megalo Chorio and Mikro Chorio) with traditional buildings and lovely gardens. Agathonisi is endowed with a significant and sensitive ecosystem. Along with the nearby islands it is listed in the Natura Programme as a protected area since it is the habitat of rare bird species. There are ferries to Patmos, Leros, Leipsoi, Samos, and Chios. Area: 14 sq. km; coastline: 32 km; population: 200.



Megalo Chorio 1

This is the largest and oldest village on the island; the houses are built in a special architectural style with stone walls and large doors. Towards the east you will see “Tholoi” (meaning Domes). They are 11th century buildings that possibly served as food storage premises. The other two villages, **Mikro Chorio** and **Agios Georgios** have but a few inhabitants.

Events

- Agios Panteleimon feast (July 27th) and Panagia (Virgin Mary) feast on August 15th. During the celebrations visitors are offered bread baked in a traditional wood-burning oven, cooked meat (from locally raised livestock), and traditional sweets.

- Celebrations involving the custom of **Klidonas**.

Activities

- Go for a swim in Spilia, Gaidouravlakos, Tsagari and in Poros Cove.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Agathonisi Municipal Office:** 22470-29.009
- **Police Station:** 22470-29.029
- **Leros, Leipsoi, and Agathonisi Rented Rooms Owners Association:** 22470-22.765
- **Patmos Port Authority:** 22470-34.131, 22470-31.231
- **Rural Clinic:** 22470-29.049

Website: www.agathonisi.gr

12. A tranquil daily scene in Agathonisi.



LEIPSOI (Lipsi)



13. Leipsoi village. Agios Ioannis Theologos church stands out in the background.

Leipsoi is the ideal island for a relaxed vacation: the nature and the locals have a unique way of helping visitors acquire a much needed inner peace. This is why locals say that it was probably this land, and not Calypso herself, that lured Odysseus into staying there when his ship strayed from the course set for his return to Ithaca.

Leipsoi is part of the northern Dodecanese. It is the largest island in a group of twenty islands and islets of enormous environmental value, as they are included in the Natura Networking Programme. They lie between Patmos and Leros and have been inhabited since prehistoric times. Leipsoi village was founded in 1669 by a man from Crete by the name of Elias. Leipsoi Island was integrated in Greece in 1948. Area: 16 sq. km, coastline: 35 km and population: 700. There are ferries to Leros and Patmos.

Leipsoi (the village) 1

The only village on Leipsoi island is built on the hill where Lios (Elias) the Cretan built the first house and gently descends towards the harbour.

Must see



- The imposing church of **Agios Ioannis Theologos**. It is next to the square where the Town Hall and the Museum are located. It houses the icon of Panagia Mavri, dating to 1500.
- The **Ecclesiastical-Folk Art Museum**. Exhibits include ecclesiastical heritage items and a small archeological collection.
- **Panagia tou Charou** (The Virgin Mary of Death) is an icon housed in a monastery situated 1.5 km from Leipsoi village. It is the only one in Greece, on which the Virgin Mary is depicted not holding the Baby Jesus in her arms but instead the crucified body of Christ. The monastery as well as the icon date back to 1600.

Events

- August 23rd (leavetaking of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God): Great celebrations take place in Leipsoi in honour of Panagia tou Charou.
- A three-day wine festival in August.

Activities

- Hiking on the Trail of the Dormition (*Monopatis Koimisis*) and others.
- Scuba diving.
- Fishing.
- Spear fishing.
- Boat rides to Makronisi, Chochlakoura, and Aspronisi where you will discover their incredible cave and cliff formations.
- Swimming at the beaches in Lientou, Kampos, Elena, Katsadia, Papantria, Chochlakoura, Platys Gialos, Monodentri and Tourkomnima.

Nearby islands

There is a large number of small islands and rocky islets around Leipsoi: Makronisi and Frango (SW); Refoulia (NW); Aspronisia (E); and Kalapodia (SE), to name a few.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22470-41.010, 22470-41.209
- **Tourist office:** 22470-41.185
- **Police station:** 22470-41.222
- **Port authority:** 22470-41.133
- **Rural Clinic:** 22470-41.204

Website: www.lipsi-island.gr



LEROS



14. The castle of Panagia, dominating the barren hill above Platanos.

According to Greek mythology, Leros was considered as the island of Artemis, the goddess of forests and hunting. It is an ideal place for quiet holidays. The houses, built in the Italian architectural style, catch the eye. Take your pick among the beaches of crystal-clear waters and visit the towering castle of Panagia on Apityki hill. Coves protected from the elements, hills, large expanses of pine trees and olive groves, and low plains with freshwater streams complete the picture. The history of Leros begins in Neolithic times. In antiquity, the island was an Ionian settlement. In early Christian times (5th-7th c.) settlements began to spread along the coastline. The island was occupied by the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John from 1309 to 1522, when it was conquered by the Turks. In 1912, the island came under the Italian rule. The Italians took full advantage of the island's strategic position and natural harbour. Leros was typically integrated in Greece in 1948. During the Civil War and in the years of dictatorship (1967-1974), Leros used to be a place of exile. There are ferries to Piraeus, to the islands of the North and East Aegean, and to a number of other Dodecanese Islands. There are also flights to Leros from the Athens "Eleftherios Venizelos" International Airport. Area: 54 sq. km; coastline: 71 km; population: 8,500.

Agia Marina 1

Agia Marina, the capital town of Leros, is built on Agia Marina bay. This used to be the island's port area prior to the present harbour location (Lakki). It comprises the areas of Agia Marina, Platanos (Leros' oldest quarter) and Panteli (with a small beach). The above areas feature graceful old mansions with stone or wooden balconies, whitewashed yard walls and narrow, picturesque alleys. **Brouzi**, the old Roman fort, lies at the side of the town where there are remarkable pieces of mosaic art, arch-shaped constructions, and the ruins of an aqueduct which ran as a shipyard until 1988. On the other side of the town there is a historic **windmill** which appears to be rising weightless out of the waters. Agia Marina attracts most of the island's visitors since there are many bars, cafeterias, tavernas and traditional coffeshops there.

Town promenade

- To Platanos, where it is worth visiting **Kondoglou mansion** (where precious 19th c. items are on display) and **Antonellos mansion**.
- To the **Archeological Museum**. It is housed in an 1882 neoclassical building. Some of the exhibits are finds from prehistoric times, ceramics from the Geometric to the Roman Period, and finds from the early Christian times.

- To **Kastro tis Panagias (Panteli)** [Castle of the Virgin Mary]. It is situated behind five windmills on the top of Apityki hill. It was built in the middle Byzantine Period. The 17th-century Panagia church with a gilded iconostasis and ancient iconography is built on the west side of the fort. There is an **Ecclesiastical Museum** on the premises, where sacred vessels and icons are on display.

Trips around Leros

North

Krithoni 2

Krithoni is between Agia Marina and Alinta. The small country chapels, the cute houses, hotels, rooms to let and shops dot the green hill, as if "suspended" over it. Go for a swim in the shallow waters of Krithoni's beach. **Distance from Platanos:** 1.5 km NW.

Alinta 3

Alinta attracts most of the island's tourism traffic. It is built in a verdant area, near Platanos. Towards the west you will find Kokkali beach and the small Agios Konstantinos church. Farther south, past Gourna bay, visit the small

15. A view of Krithoni.





Panagia Gourlomata church, near “Drimonas” location; this is the island’s most significant medieval church. **Distance from Platanos:** 3 km NW.

Must see



- The **Folk Art - History Museum**, housed in Belenis Tower (by the village’s beachfront). The tower was built during the years 1925 - 1927 and exhibits include various folk and historic items relating to life on the island.
- Monasteries: **Agioi Saranta** and **Agios Sofronios**.

Partheni

4

Built in a fertile valley, Partheni has been populated since ancient times. On an elevation west of the airport, excavations have revealed the courtyard of an 8th or 7th c. BC **temple** dedicated to the **goddess Artemis**. According to the myth, this is where Artemis exiled Meleagrides (the sisters of Meleagros) after turning them into fowl for lamenting over the loss of their brother. **Distance from Platanos:** 8 km NW.

Must see



- **Agia Kioura** church, to the north, closeto Partheni bay. The murals and icons, found within, were painted by political exiles in the years 1967-1974.
- **Agios Isidoros** church (4 km S), at a very short distance from Kokkali beach, halfway





17. Agios Isidoros church, Leros.

down Leros' west coast. It is built on a rocky islet, 50 metres off the coast. Next to the rock, there are ruins of an ancient temple.

South

Lakki

5

Lakki is a pretty village with a planning that resembles that of a European town; eucalyptus trees border the streets in front of the imposing buildings in the Italian architectural style. The design and creation of a town on this scenic bay took place during the Italian rule (1930-1936). Lakki is the largest natural harbour of the eastern Mediterranean and its bay was formerly a swamp. In order to drain the swamp waters, so

as to be able to build their naval station and hydroplane base, the Italians planted eucalyptus trees. **Distance from Platanos:** 4 km S.

Town promenade

- To the marketplace where the **Clock Tower** is.
- To the **Customs House**.
- To **Agios Nikolaos** Catholic Church where orthodox services are now held.
- To the building of the **Naval Command**.
- To the **cinema theatre**: the first movie projector in Greece was used in that cinema theatre!
- To the **Memorial** (on the beach) dedicated to the Greek destroyer "Vasilissa Olga" which was sunk during the German air raid on September

16. Lakki is Leros' main port ranking high among the safest harbours in the Mediterranean.



26th, 1943.

- To the **tunnel-museum** (War Museum) located in Merikia. During WWII it served as a bomb shelter as well as an operating theatre. Today, on the municipality's initiative, it is a museum exhibiting WWII-related items. On screen, you will also be able to watch a documentary on the 1943 battle of Leros.

- To the 12th century church of **Agios Ioannis O Theologos** [St John the Theologian] (north-west of the town). The murals date back to the 12th-13th century.

Xirokampos 6

It is a seaside village overlooking Kalymnos and Glaronisia Islands. The vegetation on the sur-



18. *Panagia Kavouradaina:*
Panagia's icon inside a crab shell.

rounding slopes is bushy and the valley sloping down to the sea is covered with olive groves and cypress trees. **Distance from Platanos:** 8.5 km S.

Must see



- The 2,500-year-old **Castle of Lepidon**, on the hill.

- **Panagia Kavouradaina** church.

It stands at the edge of Xirokampos' natural fjord, wedged between two large boulders which form the roof of the church. It is said that, in 1796, a fisherman from Kalymnos

commissioned builders from Leros to build it. The church's old icon of Panagia is on display at the Ecclesiastical Museum in the castle of Leros.

Events

- "Kamouzeles", a Carnival custom involving masquerades and off-the-cuff teasing poems.
- "Boulafenteia": celebrations taking place in the first fortnight of August, in honour of a Leros-born, heart surgeon named Boulafentis.
- Events commemorating the sinking of "Vasilissa Olga" destroyer on September 26th.
- Celebrations in honour of Panagia Kavouradaina on August 8th.
- Wine festival, in the first ten days of August.
- Agia Marina feast on July 17th; and Panagia feast on August 15th, at Panagia tou Kastrou [the Virgin Mary on the Castle] church, the patron saint of Leros.

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches in Agia Marina, Krithoni, Alinta, Agios Stefanos, Rina, Agia Kioura, Blefoutis, Koulouki, Merikia, Vromolithos and Vourlidi. From Alinta, you can reach Kryfos bay on foot or by boat. A boat ride will take you to the small Archangelos islet (N).



19. Panteli, a fishing village with well-developed tourist facilities.

- Scuba diving in an underwater world where you will come across WWII wrecked ships, helicopters, and aeroplanes. There are diving centres in Krithoni and Xirokampos.
- Fishing and spear fishing.
- Hiking; from Platanos towards Kastro Panagias (Panteli) and from Lakki to Xirokampos and to Patella.
- Water sports: water skiing, windsurfing, jet skiing.

20. Leros is an ideal destination for scuba diving.



- Bicycling.
- Boating to: Trypiti –there are two small sandy beaches; Strongyli; Patelidi; Faradonisia; and Panteli.
- Camping facilities at Xirokampos.

Nearby islands

Kinaros – Levitha – Farmakonisi

The first two islands are located SW of Leros while the third one lies NE. All three can boast a lacy coastline of tranquil coves and crystal-clear waters.

21. The Wine Festival, a very popular event in Leros.



Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22473-60.200
- **Tourist Information Office:** 22470-23.058
- **Police Station:** 22470-22.222
- **Port Authority:** 22470-23.256, 22470-22.224
- **Hospital (Lakki):** 22470-23.251
- **Taxi Service:** 22470-23.070
- **Airport:** 22470-22.777
- **Agia Marina Archeological Museum:** 22470-24.775

Website: www.leros.gr





22. Agia Marina, Leros;
Krithoni and Alinta lie in the background.

KALYMNOS



23. A view of Pothia. The old Italian Governor's palace stands out.

Kalymnos is the fourth largest island of the Dodecanese Group. Its area is 111 sq. km; its coastline 96 km, and its population 17,000. It has often been called the “island of the sea sponge harvesters” due to the growth of the Greek sponge-harvesting trade in the 19th century. After WWII, Kalymnos remained the only Greek island engaged in the sea sponge-harvesting activity, supplying domestic as well as foreign markets and consequently making Kalymnos known as “the island of sponge harvesters” to the present day. In antiquity, Kalymnos and Leros were known as the Calydnae Islands. The first inhabitants of Kalymnos are said to have been the Kares from Asia Minor. In 1306 it was conquered by the Knights Hospitaller of Rhodes, who remained on Kalymnos until 1522 when the Turks occupied the island. The Italians took over in 1912 and in 1948 it was integrated in Greece. Today it is a tourist destination known worldwide for offering alternative-style vacations and activities such as climbing, scuba diving, mountain hiking and spelunking. There is a flight service to Athens and a frequent ferry service to Piraeus, Rhodes and to other Dodecanese islands. There are also ferry routes running to Cyclades islands, Samos and, during the summer season, to Chios, Mytilini, and Thessaloniki as well.



24. One of the statues welcoming the visitor at Pothia's wharf.

Kalymnos or Pothia 1

It is the port town of Kalymnos Island with a population of approximately 10,000; it spreads amphitheatrically over the foot and slopes of two hills and the valley between them. The town can display some remarkable architectural features in its mansions, two-storey and three-storey houses with white or ochre-coloured walls and colourful doors and windows.

Town promenade

- To **Vouvalis mansion** (19th c.), the house of a prominent sea sponge merchant and benefactor of the island.
- To the **Archeological Museum**, next to Vouvalis mansion. The historical and cultural course of the island is depicted on exhibits that include finds from prehistoric times, such as ceramics, inscriptions, copper and marble statues, earthenware, figurines, tools, cult objects and miniature art; also exhibits from the early Christian, Byzantine, and post-Byzantine Kalymnos. Among the must-sees are the statue of the clothed Kouros (530 BC), the 2nd c. BC gigantic (3 m. tall) statue of Asklepios with only the upper part remaining (from the waist upwards), and the copper statue

known as the "Lady of Kalymnos".

- To the **Maritime-Folk Art Museum** dedicated to the life and customs of the sponge harvesters.
- To the **Prefecture**; the **Town Hall**; and the **Cultural Centre** housing the Kalymnos library.
- To the 1861 **Sotiras Christos** (Christ Saviour) church, with a silver dome and a marble iconostasis crafted by the eminent Greek sculptor Giannoulis Chalepas; **Agios Nikolaos** church (1860-1890) whose marble iconostasis originated in Smyrna, Asia Minor.
- To the **castle of Chrysocheria**. It was built in the 15th century by the Knights Hospitaller. Inside the castle there are ruins of Agios Georgios and Panagia Chrysochera churches; three coats of arms of the Knights (on the castle walls), and other interesting buildings.
- To **Agios Savvas** Monastery, overlooking the town (Chora). The icons and murals are considered to be of high value. The view to the harbour and Chora is panoramic.
- To "**Kalymniko Spiti**" [the House of Kalymnos], a small folk art museum on the way to **Vothynoi** (1.5 km SW).
- To the private **Valsamidis Museum of Marine Findings**. It is located in the seaside **Vlychadia** village (6 km SW).
- To the **Cave of Epta Parthenoi** (7 Maidens), also known as the Cave of the Nymphs.

25. Chrysocheria Castle.





- To **Kefala Cave**, where you will find enormous stalactite formations.

Trips around Kalymnos

South

Chorio

2

Chorio is the island's former capital, built at a safe distance from the sea, for fear of pirate raids. The island's traditions are highly respected and kept by the 3,000 inhabitants of this picturesque village. **Distance from Pothia:** 3 km NW.

Must see



- The 1794 **Panagia Charitomeni** church, with an impressive gilded, wood-carved iconostasis.
- The 11th c. Byzantine **Megalo Kastro** [Great Castle]. In the 15th century, the castle



was expanded and redesigned to become the island's main residential area. The interior includes nine churches with 15th – 16th c. murals. From the Castle, the view of Chorio and Pothia is breathtaking.

- **Profitis Ilias** church, perched on the island's highest peak over the castle.

- **Christ of Jerusalem** church (5th c.).

It is situated 500 m. west of the village and has been built with stones taken from the temple of Apollo that once stood in the same spot. Statues dating to the Hellenistic period (2nd-c. BC) were found in the churchyard.

- The ruins of the **ancient town** (4th c. BC – 2nd c. AD), in "Damos" location, north of Chorio.

Excavations have revealed a cobblestone street, houses, workshops and stone-carved wells.

Panormos 3

Panormos is a seaside village (population: 1,400) with inviting beaches. It lies in the verdant Damos area, the ancient Mesos Dimos (Middle Town). The nearby "Tsoukalario" location bears evidence that in antiquity there were pottery

26. Vathys village.



workshops in the area. **Distance from Pothia:** 5 km NE.

Vathys 4

A brushstroke of lush vegetation within an infertile rocky terrain – Vathys - lies in a fertile valley of citrus fruit groves. The houses are sparsely built in the valley only to follow a tighter building pattern as they approach the nook of the protected bay which forms a small fjord. Rina village used to stretch on the slopes of the hills near the harbour but it was destroyed in the early 15th century by pirates. **Distance from Pothia:** 13 km NE.

27. Panagia Charitomeni's iconostasis.



Must see

- An early-Christian settlement at **Ellinika**.

It is perhaps the best preserved one in Greece as the buildings have been spared the ravages of time to a large extent.

There are six, early-Christian churches and at its western part, you will find the Byzantine church of Panagia Kyra-Hosti, decorated with exquisite 11th-14th c. murals.

- The 4th – 3rd c. BC **Hellenistic fort**

(Empolas location, 3 km NW), where a stately Early-Christian basilica was built in the 6th c., dedicated to Taxiarchis [the Archangel], with building material taken from the fort.

- The ancient citadel at **Stimienia** (5 km NW),

populated until the Byzantine times.

- The fortified monastery of **Panagia i Kyra Psili**, 6 km N, built in a craggy location. Part of the church has been built in the rock recess. A feast takes place on August 15th and the monastery's cells serve as guest quarters.
- The **Daskaleio Cave**, where prehistoric finds have been located. The access however is not easy.

North

Myrties

5

Myrties (population: 200) is a truly picturesque village, a sight worth seeing, set against a backdrop of impressive rocks. It took this name because of the myrtles [myrties] that grow luxuriantly in the area. It is situated opposite Telendos Island and is the port of departure for it. Make a point of visiting **Melitsacha** village that offers a breathtaking sunset view, as well as the interesting Agios Ioannis church. **Distance from Pothia:** 8 km NW.

Masouri

6

A small seaside village with well-developed tourist facilities and a long stretch of sandy beach lies

28. A dive in Kalymnos' refreshing waters.



against a backdrop of towering rocks. The ruins of the Byzantine castle in Kastelli location are worth a visit. **Distance from Pothia:** 9 km NW.

Emporeios

7

Emporeios is the farthest village from the island's capital town. In antiquity, it was a trade centre





29. Myrties, one of Kalymnos' most popular villages.

since the village's harbour is on the lee side, protected by the location of the islands of Telendos and Kalavros. It is worth paying a visit to the castle (Kastri) where there are parts of Cyclopean walls, as well as to the tower. **Skalia** village is 7 km SE of Emporeios and has been built amphitheatrically, affording a beautiful view of Telendos and Kalavros Islands. **Argiontas** cove is lo-

cated 10 km SE and forms an imposing landscape with an amazing sea, that resembles a fjord. **Distance from Pothia:** 24 km NW.

Nearby islands

Telendos 8

Telendos is a tiny island of serene beauty. It covers an area of 5 sq. km, lying barely 700 m. W of Myrties village in Kalymnos and there are 60 residents. In antiquity and up to the middle of the 6th century AD, Telendos was part of Kalymnos. It is estimated that the ancient *Mesos dimos* [Middle Town] was located in the sea area between Kalymnos and Telendos. In 554 AD, a devastating earthquake caused ground subsidence, the destruction of settlements and resulted in sinking the area between Kalymnos and Telendos into the sea. Telendos thrived during the early Christian period (4th-7th c.). There is only one small village on the island and it is built opposite the Kalymnos-Telendos strait. There is a beautiful **pine forest** on the south part of the island, next to ruins of Byzantine houses (Tholoi). Make sure you visit **Ai Giorgis** chapel, you will enjoy a lovely sunset view; also the **early-Christian necropolis**; and the **castle of Agios Konstantinos**.

30. A general view of Telendos. The one and only village is located in the centre of the island.





31. Kalymnos:
a paradise for climbers.

Go for a swim in Chochlakas, Plaka, Potha, and Paradise; scuba diving fans are welcome to explore the ancient town sunk between Kalymnos and Telendos, while others may opt for hiking, climbing, or spear fishing. Small boats make runs to Myrties cove, Kalymnos.

Pserimos

9

Pserimos has a 15 sq. km area and a population of approximately 150. This island offers the opportunity for a truly quiet vacation. Excavations have revealed ruins of an ancient settlement; certain archeologists consider it to have been the ancient *dimos* [town] of Perraiotan. **Platy** islet lies to the west; a segment of it is a rocky isle known as Nekrothiki. All of Pserimos' beaches are good for swimming while the beach in Vathys cove is the best by far. **Distance from Kalymnos:** 6 nautical miles SE.

Events

- International Scuba Diving Festival - August.
- International Climbing Festival, the only one to take place in Greece – May.
- "Cultural Summer". Events get organised by the municipality – every summer.
- Agios Panteleimon feast, in Panormos – July 26th.



- Reconstruction of the practice of traditional sponge harvesting, in the central square – Easter.
- Fairs at Telendos, Pserimos, Arginonta and Kyra Psili – August 15th.

Activities

- Climbing. In 1996, Andrea di Bari, an Italian, discovered the "potential" the island had as a climbing destination. In recent years, the island has become one of the top destinations for climbers worldwide. There are 43 climbing terrains on Kalymnos' limestone rock formations, 1,300 climbing routes and the island is the venue for various international climbing festivals.
- Scuba diving. There are two diving centres on Kalymnos offering a diving experience at select-



32. Pserimos; a beach in Vathy bay.

ed locations where beauty takes the form of forbidding underwater cape slopes, shipwrecks, underwater caves, and reefs of vibrant colour and thriving aquatic life. The Public School for Professional Divers is open on the island (info: Kalymnos Port Authority).

- Spear fishing
- Hiking from Chorio to Kastro tis Chrysocherias [Castle of Chrysocheria] (20'-min. hike) or further uphill to the top of Profitis Ilias (total trail length: 5 km). Another hiking route goes from Kalymnos (Pothia) to Vathy (total trail length: 4.5 km) along the old, Italian cobblestone path.
- Swimming at the beaches: Gefyra, Therma, Kantouni, Linaria, Rina, Akti, Vlychadia, Arginontas cove and Platys Gialos. You will reach Almyres, Drasonta, Pezonta, Palionisos, Sikati,

and Petronta beaches by boat.

- Balneotherapy at the saline **Thermae spring** (water temperature: 37 °C), 1 km S of Pothia. It is ideal for those suffering from rheumatic and arthritic pains as well as gynecological complaints.
- Paintball (at "Potamoi" location).
- Caving: there are over 50 recorded caves on the island.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22430-59141
- **Municipal Tourist Organisation:** 22430-59.056
- **Police Station:** 22430-29.301
- **Hotel Owners Association:** 22430-51.211
- **Hospital:** 22430-23.025
- **Port Authority:** 22430-29.304, 22430-24.444
- **Airport:** 22430-59.302
- **Vouvalis Mansion:** 22430-24.149
- **Archeological Museum:** 22430-59.092
- **Nautical Museum:** 22430-51.361
- **Kalymniko Spiti:** 22430- 51635
- **Valsamidis Museum of Marine Findings:** 22430-50.662

website: www.kalymnos-isl.gr

33. Exploring the seabed near Kalymnos.





34. Pothia:
a town with strong island architecture traits.



KOS



35. View of the Ancient Agora.

Endless beaches with turquoise waters; lush vegetation and abundantly flowing streams; ancient and medieval monuments; grand edifices of Italian architecture all come to spell one word: Kos, the third largest island of the Dodecanese Group, only 4 miles away from the coast of Turkey. It is said that the island was named after the daughter of Merops, an ancient king – according to legend - who was also known as Koos. It is the birthplace of Hippocrates, the “Father of Medicine” (460-377 BC). It has been populated since neolithic times (5th-4th millennium BC). In the 14th c., the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John took over the island, strengthened the fortifications of older castles and built new ones. During the Turkish Occupation, the island suffered onslaughts by many invaders (the Knights, the Venetians, etc.). A number of monumental public buildings were constructed during the Italian rule (1912-1945). The island was integrated in Greece in 1948. There is a ferry service to Piraeus harbour and flights to “Eleftherios Venizelos” airport, Athens. Island area: 290 sq. km; coastline: 112 km; population: 31,000.



37. A three-drachma coin from Kos (5th cent. BC) depicting the "Discobolus of Kos".

Kos Town

1

It is built on the NE edge of the island (population: 16,000). It has well-paved, wide roads, large squares and parks with rows of trees. It owes its excellent urban plan to the 1933 earthquake which nearly razed the town to the ground. The Italians who ruled the island at that time rebuilt the town of Kos according to a well thought-out town plan. Its architectural diversity is quite impressive as next to the colonial-style Italian buildings (the Municipal Information Office, the Governor's Palace, Cultural Centre, "Orpheas" cinema, etc) there are small island-style houses, mosques, walls built by the Knights, modern apartment complexes, and older, restored public buildings. Kos has an extensive cycling track network offering to cyclists easy access down-town.



in Byzantine times (7th c.). The impressive edifice comprises the inner grounds with round turrets at each of the four corners, and the outer grounds that are surrounded by massive battlements. The two of them are separated by a moat, with a drawbridge over it. There are altars, steles, and ancient Greek architectural members in the inner part.

- To **Eleftheria Square**. It is the hub of the modern town. It is bordered by three enormous buildings, a legacy of the Italian rule: the **municipal market**; the **club** (during the Italian rule, it was called the "Hall of Fascism"); and the **Archaeological Museum** (housing a collection of prehistoric finds, sculptures, and mosaic floors removed from the ancient town's Roman buildings), built as a replica of the Roman public baths (*thermae*). **Defterdar Mosque** also borders the square.
- To the **ancient Kos town**, the island's capital as of 366 B.C. The remarkable archaeological sites include the **agora** (market place); the **Doric-style Hellenistic temple**; the **altar of god Dionysos**; the **sanctuary** and **stoa** (archway) **at the port**; the **sanctuary of Hercules**;

Town promenade

- To the 1436 **medieval castle** (Kastro Nerantzas). It is situated in the port entrance in a location which is believed to have been fortified



38. Hippocrates' plane tree, drawn by J.B. Hilaire (1822).

the ruins of the **castle walls**' northern side; the **Roman public baths**; the luxurious **Roman mansions** with their remarkable mosaic floors; the **Roman Residence** (Casa Romana) where scenes from everyday Roman life are depicted; the **House of Europa** where the famous mosaic titled

"the Abduction of Europa" is to be found; and the 2nd-century AD **Roman odeon** which seated 750 people.

- To the impressive avenue flanked by **Palm Trees** and the **medieval bridge**, connecting Platanos Square with the medieval castle.

- To **Platanos Square** (Lotzia Square), very popular with tourists.



- To the 1786 **Lotzia Mosque** where segments of ancient and medieval monuments have been integrated into the walls.

- To **Hippocrates' plane tree**, opposite Lotzia Mosque. It is said that the great doctor taught his students and examined his patients in the shade of that tree; that means that the plane tree must be over 2,500 years old! The trunk's circumference is more than 10 metres and its gigantic branches cast their shade over the entire square. To the east side of the plane tree there is a round fountain whose dome is supported by

7 columns with Corinthian-order capitals.

- To **Asklipieio**, located 3.5 km SW of Kos town, the most famous Asklipieio [a healing temple sacred to god Asklepios] of the Hellenic world. It



39. Lotzia mosque.

was built in the 4th century BC after the death of Hippocrates. Make a point of visiting **stoa**; the complex of the **Roman Thermae**; the **altar** dedicated to Helios, Hekate, and Machaon (son of Asklipios); the **Ionian Temple of Asklipios**; and the large **Doric Peripteral Temple** of Asklipios (170-160 BC).

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches of Meropida, Psalidi

(the location of an aquatic reserve), Akti Miaouli, Thermes and Lampi.

- If you travel by yacht, you will find a 250-berth modern marina in Kos town (near the old harbour) with all necessary facilities (tel: 22420-57.500, www.kosmarina.gr)

Trips around Kos

East

Agios Fokas

2

It is an old rural community, with a beautiful beach, that has recently acquired the character of a tourist resort. At nearby **Empros Thermi** (2 km SW) there is a warm-water well keeping a temperature of 42-45°C. In the summertime, the well's therapeutic waters flow into the sea. The waters are particularly beneficial to those suffering from rheumatic and arthritic pains, and gynecological complaints. The water follows a submarine course from the volcano on Nisyros Island. Although it has high sulphur content it does not give off the unpleasant smell associated with sulphur. **Distance from Kos:** 8 km SE.

40. Kos town, the medieval bridge over the Palm Tree avenue.



Tigkaki

3

Tigkaki is a resort where large hotel complexes border the island's most popular beach. It is a very long beach with fine white sand and blue waters, where the visitor will find a wide range of services on offer, making it one of the best beaches on the island. Nearby **Alykes** is the habitat for many species of birds, mostly aquatic; this is also the starting point for the bicycle route that goes as far as Kos town; that makes it the longest route in the Aegean. **Distance from Kos:** 11 km NW.

Asfendiou

4

Asfendiou is one of the oldest villages in the Dodecanese with a history that goes back to the late 18th century. It prospered during the 1850-1930 period when the locals were engaged in the cultivation of grapevines and olive trees. The village is a heritage area on account of the traditional houses dating from that period. The 11th-century Asomatoi Taxiarches church is in the village whereas the early-Christian basilica dedicated to Agios Pavlos is located outside the village. Another sight worth visiting is the church in honour of Agios Ioannis o Theologos Lagoudiou, wedged between the rocks. **Distance from Kos:** 14 km SW.

41. *The view from Zia is unique.*



Zia

5

This is probably the most picturesque village on the island, (named a site of particular beauty) that keeps to its traditional character. The small white houses with blue doors and windows built in an amphitheatre-like manner on the rocks, the simple and hospitable people, the open-air market and the spectacular view have made Zia one of the favourite destinations on Kos. On the top of Mount Dikaïos, above Zia, you will find the 1079 historic chapel dedicated to Dikaïos Christos. **Distance from Kos:** 15 km SW.

Pyli

6

Pyli (ancient Peli) has been built in a plain with olive tree groves and other crops, lying almost in the centre of the island. The old stone houses add to its special character. **Distance from Kos:** 16 km SW.

Must see



- The traditional **Pyli House**, in the village square.
- The **six fountains** where the springwater is channelled, approximately 100 m. away from the square. The ancient domes are next to the fountains.



42. Kastri islet and Agios Nikolaos chapel in Kefalos area.

- The deserted **Palaio Pyli** [Old Pyli]. It lies 4 km SE from present-day Pyli village. In the Church of Ypapanti at Old Pyli there are murals that date back to the 14th century. Above Palaio Pyli, you can visit the 11th-century **Castle of Pyli**. The view to the nearby beaches is extraordinary.

- **Marmari**, 4 km N., a very nice tourist resort. The beach is ideal for wind surfing.

fortified walls still stand together with a single bastion; there are also ruins of houses and storage rooms as well as Agios Nikolaos and Agia Paraskevi churches.

- **Mastichari** (4 km N). Its beach is a very popular one; also, visit the ruins of an

43. Antimacheia castle, part of the walls.

West

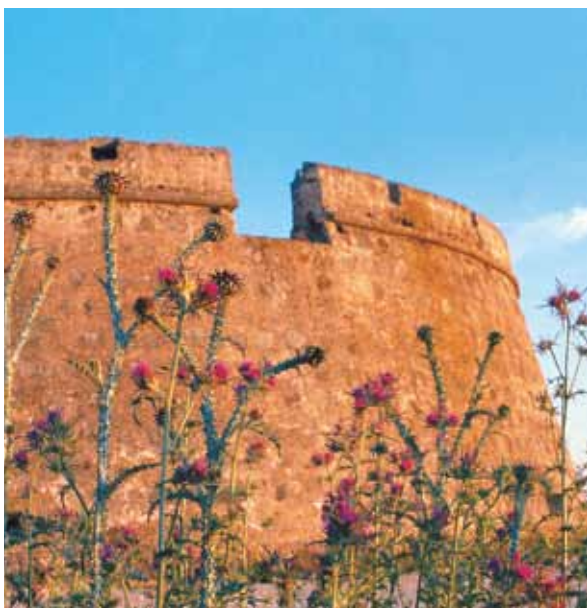
Antimacheia 7

It is a traditional rural village—one of the island's largest—and has been built on a low plateau; it was inhabited for the first time in the post-Neolithic period. It is famous for its musicians, singers and dancers. "Ippokratis", the island's airport is close to this village (4 km SW). **Distance from Kos:** 25 km SW.

Must see



- The **Antimacheia House**, a local traditional house typical of the first half of the 20th century. Papas' mill is exactly opposite.
- The 15th-century **castle**, 4 km SE, stretches over a 4.5 hectare area. Its imposing





44. The beach in Limnionas bay.

early-Christian basilica. There is a small boat service from Mastichari to Kalymnos.

Kardamaina 8

Kardamaina is a seaside village with an extensive stretch of beach and very popular with tourists. It is built in the area of ancient Alasarna. Visit the

45. Aromatherapy in a Kos resort.



ruins of the old *demos* (town) of Alasarna that used to be of great significance with respect to the islanders' worshipping practices. The small village harbour links Kos to Nisyros. Small boats from Kardamaina go to the therapeutic springs in **Agia Eirini**, which are beneficial for gynecological complaints. **Distance from Kos:** 29 km SW.

Kefalos 9

Kefalos used to be the island's ancient capital. It is a large and lively village built at the edge of a ravine and "wreathed" by its **medieval castle**. **Distance from Kos:** 43 km SW.

Must see



- The **Kefalos' Traditional House**; the island's rural life features in the exhibits of this Folk Art Museum.
- **Kamari**, the port of Kefalos and a busy summer resort; you will find a far stretching, sandy beach with many facilities. Visit also **Limnionas** bay (5 km N). At **Kamos**, you will see the ruins of Agios Stefanos, an early-Christian double basilica (5th c. AD); the remaining mosaics and pillars are remarkable.
- "**Palatia**" location (approx. 2 km S). It is considered to have been the location of Astypalaia, the island's ancient capital town. The foundations of the temple of goddess

Demeter, as well as a small theatre, remain in the area. The abysmal depths next to the ancient theatre manifest the intensity of the earthquake that hit the island in 413 BC, destroyed the town and forced the inhabitants to move to the location of the present-day capital.

- The small churches of **Panagia Palatiani**, **Panagia Ziniotissa**, **Agios Mamas** and **Agios Theologos** are to be found in the wider area.

Events

- The honey festival, late August.
- Agia Triada feast, Panagia feast on August 15th, Agioi Apostoloi feast on June 30th, Agios Ioannis feast on August 29th, and Theotokos feast on September 8th.
- "Alasarneia"; it is a summer festival that includes exhibitions of paintings and photography, traditional dancing, concerts, and theatrical plays.
- "Ippokrateia"; events include concerts, exhibitions, plays, musical nights, and other festivities.

Activities

- Swimming. On the way to Kefalos where the strip of land becomes narrower and the sea is visible on either side of the road ("Lavi" location)

there are many beautiful and popular beaches. The best one is at Agios Stefanos.

- Scuba diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Hiking.
- Sailing.
- Water sports.
- Wind surfing.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22423-60.400, 22420-22.326
- **Tourist Office:** 22420-29.200
- **Information Office:** 22420-22.460
- **Police Station:** 22420-22.222
- **Hospital:** 22420-22.300
- **Port Authority:** 22420-26.595
- **Airport:** 22420-51.229, 56.000
- **Taxi Service:** 22420-23.333
- **KTEL (Long-distance) buses:** 22420-22.292
- **Archeological Museum:** 22420-28.326
- **Roman Residence (Casa Romana):** 22420-23.234

website: www.kosisland.gr

46. A snapshot of the "Ippokrateia" events within the Asklepieion area.







*47. Asklepieion, Kos.
Visit the Corinthian-style Roman temple
with a monumental stairway.
It is believed to have been dedicated to Apollo.*

ASTYPALAIA



48. A panoramic view of Chora, Astypalaia.

Astypalaia is the westernmost island of the Group, located exactly where the Dodecanese Islands meet the Cyclades Islands. This is why Astypalaia's landscapes and architecture are quite similar to those found in Cyclades. It is naturally separated into Mesa Nisi [the inner island] (western part) and Exo Nisi [the outer island] (eastern part) by a thin strip of land less than 100 m. wide. Area: 97 sq. km; coastline: 110 km, population: 1,300.

The island was named after Astypalaia, the daughter of Phoenix and Perimede. In the old days the island *was also called Ichthyoessa* due to its abundant fishing grounds. It was first inhabited in prehistoric times. In 1204 it came under the Venetian rule enforced by the Guerini family until 1537 with the exception of a brief period in time (1269-1310) when the Byzantine Empire took over again. In 1537 the Turks occupied the island. As is the case with the other Dodecanese islands, Astypalaia remained under Turkish rule until 1912; it was then conquered by the Italians, the British, and the Germans until it was finally integrated in Greece in 1948. There are ferries to Piraeus and Kalymnos and flights to Athens and Rhodes Airports.



49. Chora's houses, below the castle.

Chora

1

Chora is the island's capital town and port. It is one of the most picturesque towns in the Aegean, perched on a rock that advances into the sea, forming two bays. On the top, you will see Chora's castle towering over the town with the strikingly white domes of Evangelistria and Agios Georgios churches, visible over the walls. Around the castle lie Chora's houses with whitewashed walls, blue doors and windows, and wooden balcony rails.

Town promenade

- To the Venetian **Guerini Castle** (13th c). The small three-storey houses built in the castle's outer grounds are of particular architectural interest since the outer walls of the houses form the castle wall and narrow windows were used as battlements. Within the castle there are two churches, painted in a pure white colour, with elaborate stone belfries: Panagia Evangelistria (1853), inside which you will see the founders' inscription dated 1413 and the Guerini coats of arms; and Agios Georgios.

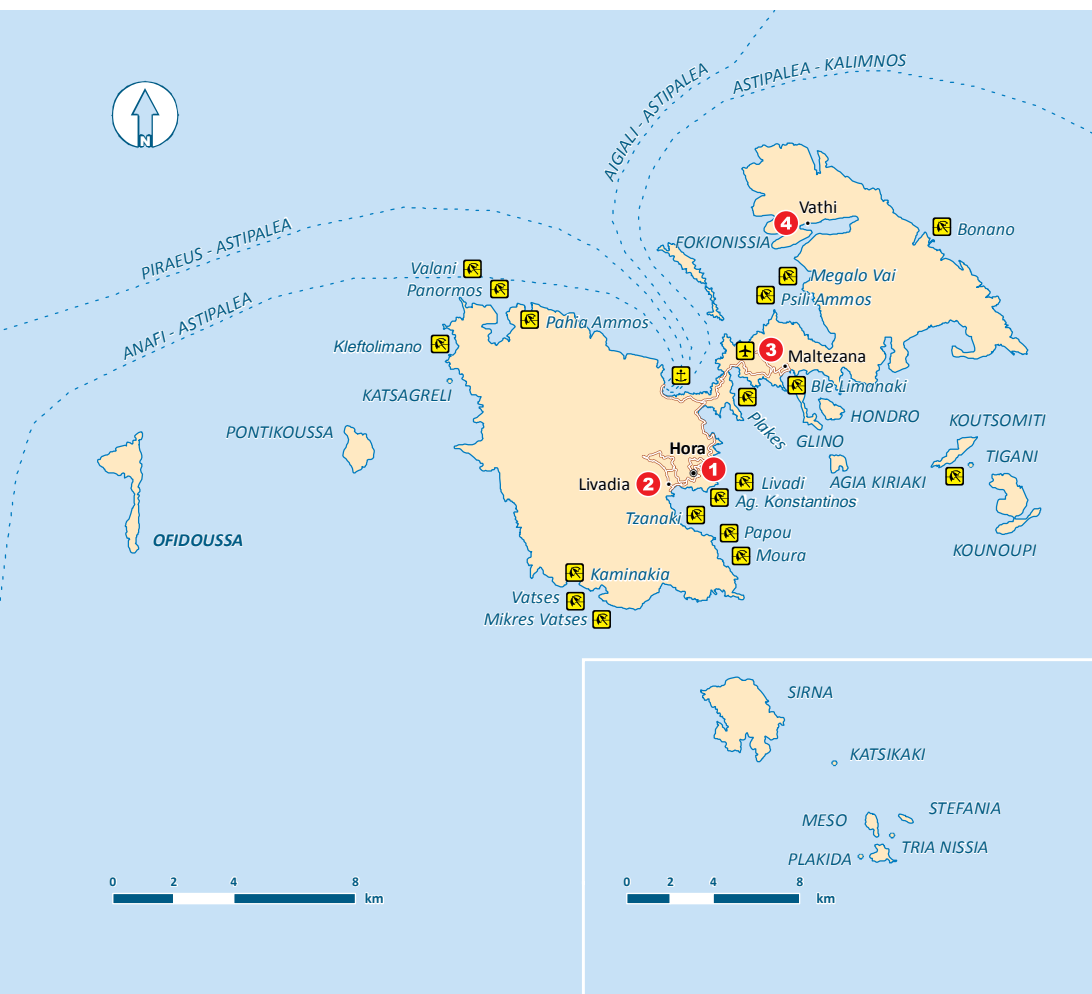
- To the 18th-century **Panagia Portaitissa** church below the castle, one of the most beautiful churches in the Dodecanese with a wood-carved, gilded iconostasis. Right next to it there is an interesting Ecclesiastical Museum.
- To **Narkisseios Municipal Library**, also housing the island's *archeological collection*.
- To the **Archeological Museum** in Pera Gialos where finds from the island are on display. Most of them date back to the prehistoric times when Astypalaia had prospered.
- To the eight **windmills** located over Skala, at Chora. They belong to the *xetrocharis* category, a horizontal axis type with the roof turning according to the wind direction.
- To **Kylintra**, bordering Chora on the south side. It is the site where a burial ground for infants was excavated – the only one known to have existed in the whole world. This place was considered as sacred ground since the Geometric Period and up to the Hellenistic times.
- To **Megali Panagia**. Its courtyard features a remarkable pebbled floor.
- To **Panagia Flevariottissa**, 6 km NW of Chora.

50. The dome and the belfry of Panagia Portaitissa.





51. Maltezana; a unique mosaique depicting the four seasons and the Zodiac.



Part of the church is built inside a cave. It has an interesting woodcarved iconostasis.

- To the Monastery of **Agios Ioannis o Makrys** (12 km W). It is built in an impressive landscape between two forbidding slopes, overlooking the open sea and offering a spectacular sunset view.
- To the castle of **Ai-Giannis**, opposite the monastery by the same name.

Trips around Astypalaia

West (Inner Island)

Livadia

2

Livadia is a seaside village with few residents, built in a fertile valley. There are citrus fruit groves, vineyards and houses overflowing with flowers, creating a delightful setting next to a lovely beach.

Distance from Chora: 2 km SW.

Must see



- **Negros cave**, at Vatses (6 km SW). Access it by boat from Chora, or follow an organised tour.

- **Agios Vasileios** hill and the ruins of an early-Christian basilica.

East (Outer Island)

Maltezana (Analipsi)

3

Maltezana is a seaside resort that attracts most of the island's tourism. It has been named after the Maltese pirates who made their hideout on the island. This is where the French Admiral Bigot set his ship on fire in 1827 so that it may not be captured by the pirates. **Distance from Chora:** 9 km NE

Must see



- **Talaras Baths** and their Hellenistic period mosaics that are unique in the Hellenic world coloured in light blue and brick shades as well as an interesting composition that depicts the four seasons and the symbols of the zodiac.
- The monument of the **French Admiral Bigot** who led the struggle against the pirates in the early 19th century.

52. A view of Maltezana from the sea.



- The ruins of an **early-Christian basilica** (5th c.) with remarkable mosaics. **Agia Varvara** chapel was built over those ruins using the existing Ionian capitals as building material.
- **Analipsi** church, the village's oldest one.

Vathy

4

Vathy looks more like a lagoon due to its protected inlet (having an opening of about 50 m.). It comprises two small communities: Exo [outer] Vathy at the inlet entrance with a small wharf for mooring boats; and Mesa [inner] Vathy in the nook of the cove next to cropland, sparse tree vegetation and vineyards. **Distance from Chora:** 21 km NE.

Must see



- **Chameni Limni** [lost lake], a lagoon in the NE side of Astypalaia.
- The ruins of a **Minoan settlement and tower** situated at the entrance to the cove.
- **Drakos cave**, where you will see impressive stalagmite and stalactite formations. Access the cave by boat or on foot.
- **Panagia Poulariani** church, on the way to Vathy. It is built on a rock formation which looks like the Virgin Mary holding the Baby Jesus.

Nearby islands

From Maltezana cove take an excursion boat and visit **Diaporia**, **Ligno**, **Chondro**, **Kounoupoi** and **Koutsomyri** islands (SE) as well as **Agia Kyriaki** island and its beautiful beach (S). Farther away, to the NE of Astypalaia, visit **Fokionisia**; then **Panormos** and **Katsagrelis** to the NW; **Pontikousa** and **Ofidousa** to the E; and finally **Syrna**, **Katsikoulia**, **Tria Nisia**, **Meso**, **Stefania**, and **Zafora** isles to the SE.

Events

- Panagia [Virgin Mary] Flevariottissa feast, the winter reunion event for Astypalaiaians on February 2nd.
- The island's biggest celebration takes place at Panagia Portaitissa church on Panagia's feast



53. Vatses beach, among the best on Astypalaia.

(August 15th) and lasts for three days (August 14th-16th). On August 16th, the municipal authority and the Cultural Organisation arrange special sports contests called "Koukania".

- Religious procession taking place in Chora, on September 4th with the icon of Panagia Portaitissa as well as the holy relics of Osios Anthimos placed at the head.
- Agios Panteleimon feast on July 27th; and Sotiras Christos feast (Christ Saviour) on August 6th.
- Astypalaia Festival, involving many concerts, from June to October.
- Panagia Poulariani feast on September 8th.

- Panagia tou Thoma feast, at Vathy, on September 8th.

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches: Agios Konstantinos, Vatses, Plakes, Kaminakia, Agios Giannis, Panormos, Pachia Ammos, Pera Gialos and Livadia.
- Boat excursions for swimming in secluded beaches in the nearby Koutsomyti and Syrna isles.
- Caving.
- Climbing to "Ftera" terrain that involves 20 climbing routes.
- Mountaineering.
- Mountain biking.
- Hiking.
- Spear fishing.
- Scuba diving.
- Camping at Chora.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



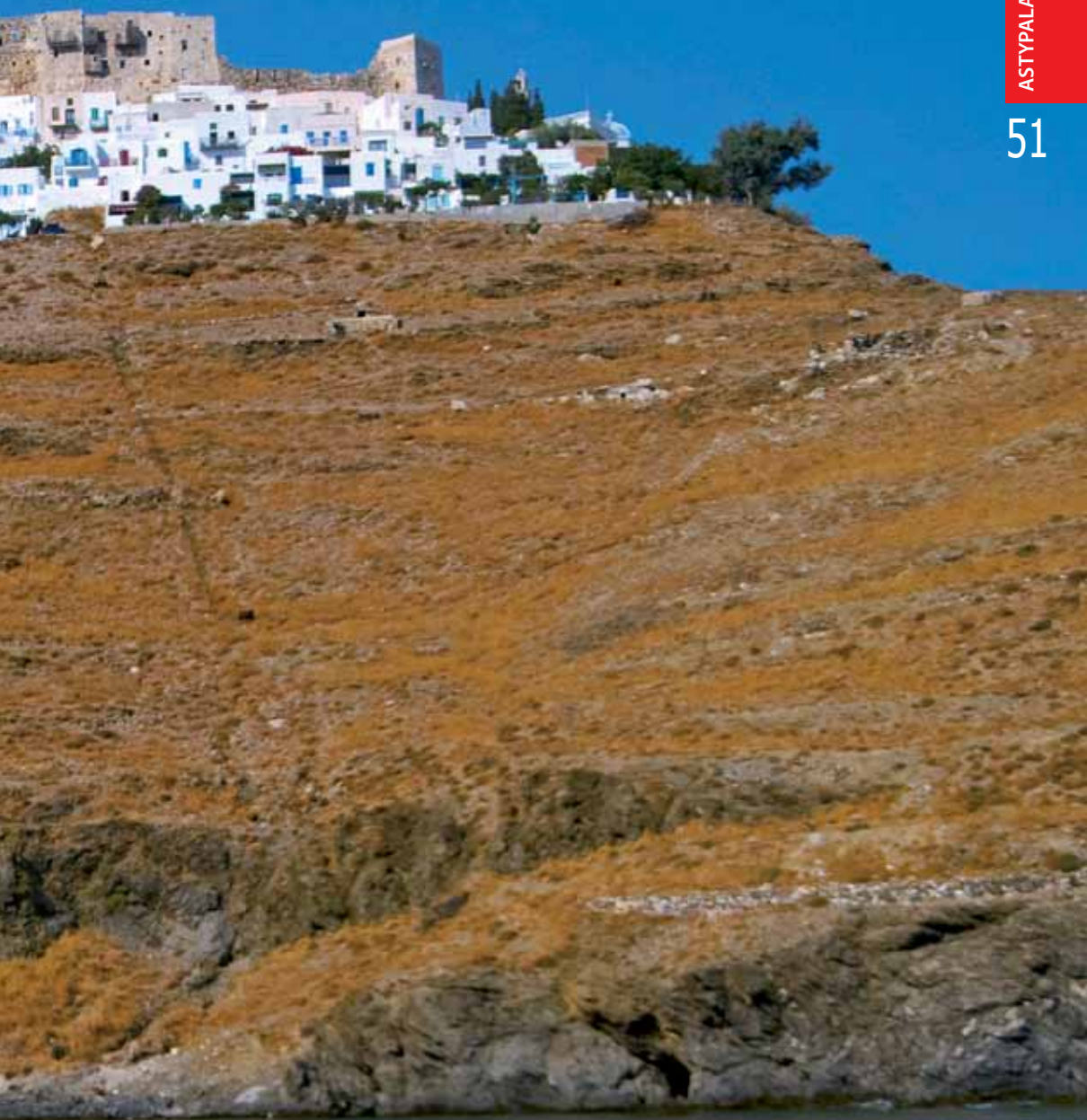
- **Municipal Office:** 22433-60.000/015
- **Municipal Tourism Office:** 22430-61.412
- **Police Station:** 22430-61.207
- **Hotel Owners Association:** 22430-61.412
- **Rural medical clinic:** 22430-61.222
- **Chemist's:** 22430-61.444
- **Post Office:** 22430-61.223
- **Port Authority:** 22430-61.208
- **Airport:** 22430-61.410, 22430-61.588
- **Archeological Museum:** 22430-61.500

website: www.astypalaia.gr

54. An exotic beach on Kounoupoi (or Kounoupa) islet.







55. Chora,
Astypalaia and the prominent Venetian castle on the hilltop.

NISYROS



56. A view of Mandraki, the capital of Nisyros, at sunset.

Nisyros is one of the most beautiful Aegean Islands, yet untouched by tourism growth. According to Mythology, the island was created during the Gigantomachy, the battle between the Giants and the Gods. During that battle, Poseidon pursued the Giant Polyvotis to Kos, cut off a piece of the island and hurled it onto the Giant, thus sinking him into the Aegean Sea for eternity. That legendary piece of rock is Nisyros and the eruptions of its volcano are the wrathful breathing of the defeated Giant. Nisyros island was created from these volcanic eruptions making it the “newest” of Greece’s volcanic centres and still an active one – along with the volcanic centres at Milos, Santorini, and Methana. In antiquity, Nisyros had a thriving trade in obsidian which the island’s inhabitants would extract from the nearby island of Gyalí. There are ferries to Kos and Rhodes. Area: 41 sq.km; coastline: 28 km, population: 1,000.



57. A traditional house at Mandraki.

Mandraki

1

Beautiful Mandraki is the island's capital town and port. Its squares feature amazing pebbled paving, and the narrow alleys are flanked by white or coloured two-storey houses with wooden balconies. The houses have been built using volcanic rock and have been insulated with pumice.

Town promenade

- To **Kastro** [Castle] (1315). The walls bear the coats of arms of the Grand Masters who built it. The 14th-century monastery dedicated to **Panagia Spiliani** is also located at Kastro; it is quite famous to the wider island area because of the miraculous icon housed in its main church.
- To the **Archeological Museum** where finds and photographic material are on display referring to the early-Christian, Byzantine, and post-Byzantine Nisyros. There are also finds from the prehistoric settlement on the volcanic Gyal

isle and from the necropolis of the ancient town (archaic, classical and Hellenistic periods).

- To the "**Ilikiomeni**" Square, a rendez-vous place for visitors and locals alike.
- To the **History-Folk Art Museum**, housed in an 18th-century mansion. Exhibits include traditional vessels, island costumes and handmade embroideries.
- To **Panagia Potamitissa** church, established as Mandraki's metropolitan church in 1837; its dome is a work of art.
- To **Chochlakoi beach**. It is a singular landscape of wild nature with black volcanic pebbles, rocks and a cave located below Panagia Kastriani.
- To the **municipal spas**, at "Therma" or "Loutra" location, 1 km away from Mandraki.

58. Chochlakoi beach.





59. Palaiokastro with its impressive walls is Nisyros' ancient acropolis.





60. A general view of Emporeios.

- To **Palaiokastro** on the hill above Mandraki. The oldest monument in the area dates back to the neolithic period. The acropolis (Palaiokastro) goes back to the classical antiquity; its walls (4th c. BC) are constructed of volcanic black rock. The castle has two monumental stairways and two impressive towers, each one being approximately 10 metres high. The first tower dates back to classical antiquity. The second one belongs to the Hellenistic period.

- To the monastery of **Evangelistria**, built in a lovely location, 5 km SE.

Events

- The commemoration of *Koimisis tis Theotokou* (Dormition of the Mother of God). It takes place at Panagia Spiliani and lasts for 9 days (August 6th–15th). During this period the women-pilgrims prostrate themselves before the icon 300 times and chant the mourning song of *Megalochari* [Mother of God of Great Joy]. On the holiday (August 15th) there is a procession and festivities take place at Mandraki. Dancing begins in the evening with a traditional dance called “*koupa tis Panagias*” (the Cup of the Virgin Mary): the

woman who leads holds up a cup while dancing and each person who joins the other dancers drops money in the cup for the Virgin Mary and the island.

Trips around Nisyros

North

Paloi

2

Paloi is a small, picturesque fishing village; this is where you'll find the island's small marina. At Limni location, outside the village, there are ruins of Roman thermae on a rock. Later on, the site became the location of Panagia Thermiani church. This is also the location of an ancient clinic and an Asklepieion [a healing temple] already known since the 5th century BC. **Distance from Mandraki:** 4 km E.

Emporeios

3

The houses in this village stand out from an architectural point of view. Emporeios thrived in the early 20th century, a time when it was densely populated, had a bustling trade (blacksmiths,



61. The central square in Nikia, awarded a prize for being the most picturesque in Europe.

grocery, tailor and coffee shops) and was famous for its stone masons. In the mid-1960's, a large part of its population moved to Paloi, the village's seaport. **Distance from Mandraki:** 8 km E

- The monasteries dedicated to **Panagia Kyra** (7.5 km SE); and **Stavros** (8.5 km SW), at Argos location.

Must see



- The **volcano** (www.nisyrosvolcano.gr). Walk in the caldera and watch the bubbling steam vents. At the caldera's bottom there are ten craters in very good condition, each with its own name. The largest and most impressive one is called "Stefanos". It has an elliptic shape; its longest axis reaches 330 m and the shortest one is 260 m long, while its depth goes down to 27 m. The volcano forms a valley (caldera) that is 2,400 metres long and 950 metres wide.
- **Panagia Listiriotissa** church, inside a cave near the village.
- The medieval **castle of Pantoniki**, offering spectacular views. Visit **Taxiarches** church (11th or 13th century), at the castle's highest point; its murals and icons are wonderful.

South

Nikia

4

Porta is Nikia's main square where you can visit **Eisodia tis Theotokou** church [Entry of the Virgin Mary in the Temple], among the most beautiful churches in Greece! The square has an elliptic shape and a pebbled paving designed by Paschalis Paschalakis, the well-known, 19th-century local craftsman. In Nikia, there is a "**Volcano Museum**", the only one of its kind in Greece. It is a well-organised and equipped exhibition hall with samples from the most characteristic volcanic rocks on Nisyros, photographs, maps, volcano models, and computer simulations. Go for a walk in the village and you will find some great spots that offer a fine view of the volcano. **Distance from Mandraki:** 14 km SE.



62. Nisyros' volcano; the interior of "Stefanos" crater.

Nearby islands

Gyali

5

It is a small island, located 2 nautical miles NW of Nisyros, and is composed of thick layers of pumice rock at the NE part of the island and obsidian and perlite-veined rocks in the NE. There is a

pumice-extracting plant on the island. At a very short distance you will find **Agios Antonios** islet with a beautiful beach.

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches: Agios Savvas, Chochlakoi, Aspri Ammos, Lies, Avlaki, Katsouni, Pachia Ammos, Gyaliskari, Paloi. A municipal bus takes visitors to most of the beaches and villages on the island, free of charge.
- Boat excursions to Gyali Island. Red volcanic rock covers the beach in the south side, near the quarries, and white sand covers the north beach.
- Scuba diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Water sports.
- Hiking.
- Spas. The saline spring (water temp: 37°C) in Loutra has therapeutic properties for those suffering from rheumatism, arthritis, skin and lower back problems.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22423-60.501-2, 22420-31.302
- **Rural Clinic:** 22420-31.217
- **Police Station:** 22420-31.201
- **Port Authority:** 22420-31.222
- **Spa:** 22420-31.011-2
- **Archeological Museum:** 22420-31.588
- **Volcano Museum:** 22420-31.400

website: www.nisyros.gr

63. A Nisyros picturesque tiny church; Gyali islet can be seen further back.



64. Nisyros' volcano attracts many visitors who often approach the craters' interior to have a closer look at the gases surfacing from the depths of the earth.





TILOS



65. The church of Archangel Michael (Taxiarchis), restored in 1827.

The ragged, mountainous terrain of Tilos; its densely forested ranges; its hilly vistas; and its verdant valleys, are home to four hundred species of flowers and herbs and the habitat of rare species of birds such as Bonelli's eagles, hawks, nightingales, goldfinches, herons and bee-eaters. You will find picturesque villages and fascinating beaches. The last elephants on Europe lived here. The dwarf elephants made their appearance on the island 45,000 years ago and became extinct approximately 4,000 ago. The entire island is a huge ecological park and is protected by the relevant international treaties. In antiquity, Tilos was renowned for its herbs. It rose to prominence during the ancient classical times, the period when Irinna, a famous ancient poetess, lived on the island. There are ferries to Rhodes, Kos, Nisyros, Symi, Chalki and Piraeus. Area: 63 sq. km; coastline: 63 km; population: 533.

Megalo Chorio 1

Megalo Chorio is the island's capital, 7 km NW of the harbour. Stone houses built according to the island's unaffected traditional architecture make this small town stand out. Strolls along the narrow alleys are a pleasant pastime. The medieval castle has been built on the location of ancient Tilos town at the top of the hill.

Must see



- The **medieval castle** (north of the village); this site contains ruins of the Hellenistic acropolis and of Archangelos Michail [the Archangel Michael] church. A path leads to the castle where the view is enchanting.

- **Charkadio cave** (2 km SE).

In 1971 remains of dwarf elephants and deer, which lived 45,000 to 4,000 years ago, were found in this cave. There are also ceramic and stone tools among the finds that date to the Neolithic times. **Mesaria's castle** (1366) is located above the cave together with ruins of houses and Byzantine churches.

- The **Palaeontological Collection**. Exhibits include dwarf elephant bones, sketches as well as photographic and information material relating to the excavations at Charkadio cave.

- **Agios Antonios**, a seaside village (2 km W) and a haven for fishing as well as excursion boats.

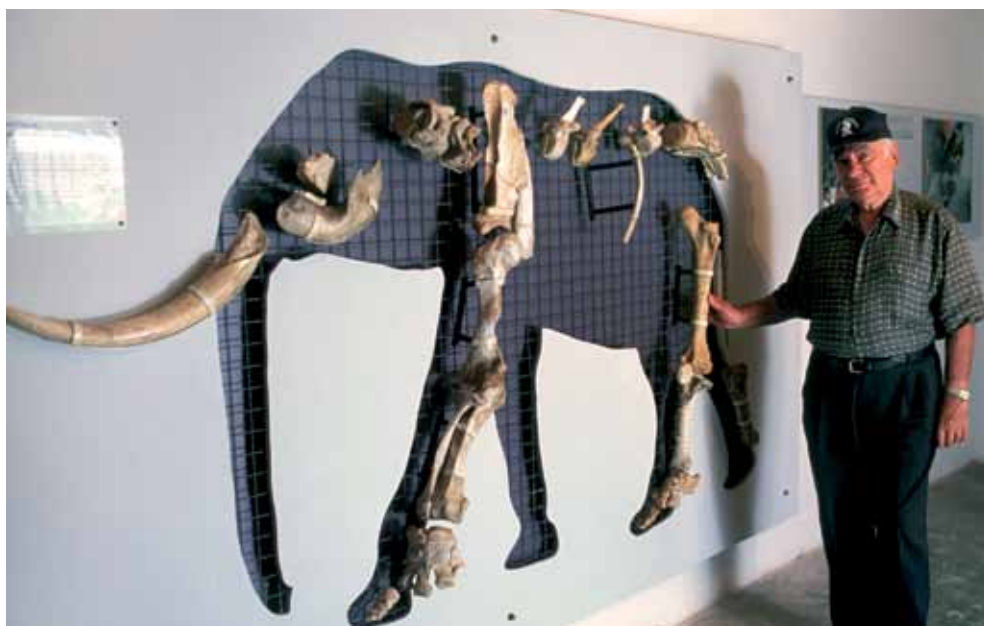
- The Byzantine monastery of **Agios Panteleimon** (15th c.). It is located in an area of lush vegetation with giant cypress and plane trees (9 km SW) and features 13th-century murals and an 18th-century woodcarved iconostasis.

Trips around Tilos

Livadia 2

This village is situated in the southeast coast at the foot of the mountains rising above its beach; deep into the horizon you can make out the island of Symi and the mountains of Turkey. Livadia is the port of the island. It has been recently rebuilt, making berthing services for coastal ferries and recreational boats better and safer. While strolling in the village streets you will pass by a good many rooms to let, tavernas, and cafés overlooking the beach. Swim at the village's long beach (next to the port) where the waters are warm and crystal-clear. Another beach you can visit is in Eristos, where the sandy shore stretches for almost 2 kilometres. Also, there are boat

66. Paleontology professor Mr. Nikos Symeonidis was the first to detect traces of dwarf elephants on Tilos Island.



excursions to the beaches: Lethra, Agios Sergios and Theologos. **Distance from Megalo Chorio:** 7 km SE.

Must see



- The building housing the **police department**. It is a fine example of Italian architecture, erected during the Italian occupation of the island (1912-1948).
- Agios Stefanos, a small **medieval harbour** and the lighthouse.
- The churches: **Agios Nikolaos** (in the port), **Agios Georgios** (on the beach) and **Agia Anna** (on "Kastello" hill).
- **Agiosykia castle** (15th c.). It stands on the peak of a mountain above the village.
- **Agios Nikolaos** (14th c.) and **Panagia Politissa** (1879) chapels, near the village.

- **Gera** a picturesque village (2.5 km SE) and its fountain by the name "Despoti Nero".
- **Mikro Chorio** (3 km NW), inhabited from the 15th century up to the mid-1970's when it became deserted. There are ruins of a castle, abandoned dilapidated stone houses, and stone-paved streets as well as Byzantine churches (Agios Ioannis Avdallas, Agia Zoni, Sotiras, etc) with very old murals, creating a singular atmosphere.

Events

- Agios Panteleimonas' three-day feast in July; Koimisi tis Theotokou (Dormition of the Mother of God) feast at the abandoned Mikro Chorio, August 15th; feasts on the day of the leavetaking [apodosi] of the Dormition of the Mother of God





67. Plaka is a popular beach on Tilos, with a fresh water well.

(*enniamera tis Theotokou*) at the country chapels dedicated to Panagia Politissa and Panagia Kamariani, August 23rd. Food and lots of wine are on offer.

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches: Livadia, Eristos, Agios Antonios, Plaka, Lethra, Skafi, Agios Sergios and Theologos.
- Hiking: from Livadia, in the SE part of the island, through postsignated paths (4 hours) or towards Mikro Chorio via Lethra beach (3 hours); from Megalo Chorio to the castle (20 min.); and from the helipad (near Megalo Chorio) to Prof-

itis Ilias hilltop where there are ruins of an Italian watch tower (60 min.).

- Bird watching.
- Scuba diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Windsurfing.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22463-60.508-13
- **Police Station:** 22460-44.222
- **Rural Clinic:** 22460-44.210
- **Port Authority:** 22460-44.350
- **Post Office:** 22460-44.249

website: www.tilos.gr

68. Visitors catch their breath before Tilos' scenery.



SYMI



69. A view of Gialos, the seaside area of Symi's capital town.

Symi is a cosmopolitan island that has one of the biggest and most beautiful neoclassical towns in the whole country. It boasts a rich tradition in myths as it was first inhabited in the prehistoric times. King Nireas became a legend as he participated in the Trojan War. The locals became engaged in sea sponge harvesting and shipbuilding and that is why during the Turkish Occupation (since 1522) the islanders secured firmans of preferential treatment from the Sultan. This is when the School of Agia Marina and Aigli Reading Room were founded. The 19th century is the period of great prosperity for the island when its population had reached 25,000. In 1945, the treaty for the Dodecanese surrender to the Allied Forces was signed on the island. Symi was integrated in Greece in 1948. Area: 58 sq. km; coastline: 85 km; population: 2,500.

The capital town is divided into two large districts. **Gialos** is the port of the island that never fails to impress visitors with its magnificent neo-classical multi-coloured buildings next to the sea and on the hills and **Chorio**, the other district, is the larger of the two. Apart from the approximately 3-kilometre asphalted road that connects Gialos and Chorio there is also Kali Strata: 500 wide stone steps climbing uphill and connecting the two districts. Kali Strata is flanked by the largest mansions in Symi.

Town promenade

- To the 1881 municipal imposing, stone **clock-tower**. The **statue** of Michalakis, a very young fisherman, was sculpted by K. Valsamis, a local sculptor.
- To the old **shipyard** (tarsanas) in Charani quarter.
- To **Agios Ioannis**, Symi's Metropolitan church, with its magnificent stone belfry and pebble-paved courtyard.
- To **Pontikokastro (Noulias Hill)**. It is situated at the entrance to Chorio and offers a spectacular view of Gialos. Pontikokastro is also the site of an ancient, circular tomb (5th c. BC) and of 20 windmills in ruins.
- To **Kyra tou Kastrou** [Our Lady of the Castle]. Only a very small part of the castle walls have remained. In the church there are rare icons and the spot offers a breathtaking view of Gialos, Chorio and Pedi.
- To the **Archeological** and **Folk Art Museums**, right in the centre of Chorio. In the first museum there are finds that date from the prehistoric to the post-Byzantine times. In the second one you will see traditional costumes, household items and tools exhibited in separate galleries. It is also worth visiting **Sala Chatzi-agapitou**, an 18th-century mansion; the architectural designs for this building were prepared in Venice.
- To the **Maritime Museum**, on Kampos Square. A large part of the museum is dedicated to the sponge harvesting trade and includes exhibits such as the deep sea diving suit with an air pump, first used by local sponge harvesters in 1863.

There are also replicas of small and big ships, compasses, lanterns, old telegraph machines, and much more.

- To **Spetsaria**, the island's old municipal pharmacy housed in an 1884 building in Chorio.
- To the former **Kampsopoulou residence** (today "Caterrinetes" inn), where on May 8th, 1945 the Protocol of Surrender was signed by the Germans turning all of the Dodecanese islands over to the Allied Forces.
- To the fortified monastery of **Michail Roukouniotis**, once a Patriarchal stavropegiat monastery. Its murals date back to the 15th century and the cypress tree at the entrance is 850 years old. It is located 3 km W of Chorio.
- To **Megalos Sotiris** fortified monastery on the way to Panormitis.
- To the forest in Kourkouniotis area. You will find 11 restored **wine presses** there, out of the 120 that existed earlier on the island as Symi had a long tradition in vini-culture until the 18th century (www.patitiria.com).

70. A traditional male costume worn in Symi.





Trips around Symi

North

Pedi 2

Pedi is a seaside village with multi-coloured houses scattered in a tranquil bay with many fishing boats. There is an old dockyard. **Distance from Chorio:** 3 km E.

Nimporio 3

Nimporio is a serene village and a retreat as well as one of the island's first ports. Many of the houses are built by the sea. Mosaics and ruins of

ancient buildings have been found in the area.

Distance from Gialos: 3 km W.

South

Panormitis 4

Many people come to Symi to worship before the wonder-working icon of Archangel Michael that is covered in silver and gold. It is kept at the monastery of **Taxiarchis Michail Panormitis**, one of the most significant monasteries in the Dodecanese, built in the nook of Panormos bay. There is an imposing multi-coloured belfry at its entrance, erected in 1911. The monastery's

church was built in 1783. It is a single-naved spacious basilica with rare 18th-century murals, cross vaults, and an elaborate woodcarved iconostasis dating back to 1787. **Distance from Gialos:** 15 km S.

Must see



- The **Byzantine Museum**, where you will see exhibits of the votive miniature ships and bottles released into the sea waters so that they may "journey" to the door of Panormitis Monastery. There are also numerous ecclesiastical relics on display.
- The **Folk Art Museum**, with exhibits of objects related to every day life of the locals.
- The Faneromeni **pine tree** forest, on the way to Marathounta.

Events

- Symi Festival. It takes place from early July to early September and includes numerous events: classical music concerts; *entechno* style songs [a combination of greek urban folk music and western music]; dance performances; cinema; art exhibitions with works of Greek and foreign artists, and much more.
- Local feasts on August 15th (The Dormition of the Mother of God), July 27th (Agios Panteleimon), August 6th (Megalos Sotiris), August 24th

(Panagia tis Nimou) and November 8th (Taxiarches [the Archangels]), in Panormitis.

Activities

- Swimming at Nos beach; the beach next to Charani; at Nimporio; Pedi; Toli; Faneromeni; and Marathounta.
- Excursion by small craft or a sea-taxi to the beaches: Ai-Giorgis Dysalonas; Agios Vasilios; Fokospilia; Nanou; Agia Marina; Agios Aimilianos; in **Nimos** island (north) and **Sesklia** island (south).
- Hiking (visit the 120 Byzantine wine presses scattered in the island).
- Scuba diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Sailing.
- Climbing.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22463-60.401/8
- **Police Station:** 22460-71.111
- **Symi's Medical Centre:** 22460-71.290
- **Rural Clinic (Chorio):** 22460-71.316
- **Port Authority:** 22460-71.205
- **Archeological-Folk Art Museums:** 22460-71.114
- **Maritime Museum:** 22460-72.363

website: www.symi.gr

71. The monastery of Lord Michael Panormitis with an impressive belfry.



CHALKI



72. A view of Nimporio; the stone clock tower.

Chalki has been named after the copper (*chalkos*) mines that used to exist on the island. As of 1983 it has been known worldwide as the “Island of Peace and Friendship” for the young; it offers an enjoyable stay in an enviable serene setting. Chalki prospered in the late 19th century when the islanders became engaged in shipping and the sea sponge trade. Chalki shared the historical path of Rhodes and the island was integrated in the Greek state in 1948. There are ferries to Piraeus (220 nautical miles) and to Kameiros, Rhodes (10 nautical miles). Area: 28 sq. km; coastline 34 km; population: 430.

Chalki (Nimporio) 1

Nimporio is the island's capital town and has been built in an amphitheatre-like manner, overlooking the crystal-clear blue sea. It keeps a stately beauty, evident in the picturesque alleys and the singular architectural features that adorn the houses; it is one of the most beautiful neoclassical towns in Greece! Chorio used to be the island's old capital and it was built next to the mighty castle of the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John for protection against the pirates. Once the pirate threat had been removed, the locals founded Chalki town or Nimporio (1850-1870) and built magnificent mansions; the latter manifest today the island's past prosperity times. Chalki has been listed as a heritage town.

Must see



- The imposing **stone clock tower** standing before the neoclassical building of the **Town Hall**.
- The 1861 church of **Agios Nikolaos**, Chalki's patron saint. It has the tallest bell-tower in Dodecanese and beautiful, black-and-white pebble mosaic in its courtyard.



73. The pebble mosaic on Agios Nikolaos churchyard.

- **Chorio** (2.5 km W). It is the island's former capital but was abandoned for good in the

74. Chalki's medieval castle - part of the walls.





1960's. The small stone houses are built with material from ancient buildings under the **castle** built by the Knights Hospitaller in an amazing location that affords unforgettable views. The 16th-century **Panagia** [the Virgin Mary] is also worth a visit.

- **Taxiarchis Michail** monastery [Archangel Michael] (5 km NW), housing a remarkable icon of the archangel; as well as **Ai-Giannis Alargas** monastery on the west tip of Chalki and its towering cypress tree.
- **Kameno Spilio** [burnt cave], at "Amiglai" location (8 km NW). In 1658 Morosini (a Venetian lord) led the hidden islanders to their doom by lighting a fire at the cave's entrance.

Events

- Feasts: Panagia on August 15th (at Chorio); Ai-Giannis Alargas on August 29th; Stavros on September 14th; and Agios Georgios on April 23rd.
- Youth Festival, held during the first fortnight of September. It includes traditional music concerts, theatrical performances etc.



Activities

- Swimming at the beaches: Pontamos Ftenagia, Trachia and Gyalí; you will reach them on foot from Nimporio. Take a boat to get to Kania, Areta, Agios Georgios and Dyo Gialoi beaches. You will find a group of isles namely Agioi Theodoroi, Makry and Tragousa, within the triangle formed by Chalki, Alimia and Rhodes.
- Boat excursions to Alimia island, NE of Chalki. The small bay served as a naval yard during the Italian rule. Visit the ruins of the old village, a small fort and a fantastic pebble beach.
- Hiking from Nimporio to Agios Ioannis Alargas monastery (a 3-hour route).
- Scuba diving and spear fishing.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22460-45.207
- **Police Station:** 22460-45.213
- **Rural Clinic:** 22460-45.206
- **Port Authority:** 22460-45.220

website: www.halki.gr



75. Agios Nikolaos' belfry is clearly visible at Chalki's port.



RHODES (RODOS)



77. Rhodes' medieval town, among the most beautiful in the Mediterranean.

Rhodes is the fourth largest island in Greece, after Crete, Evoia and Lesbos. Endless stretches of coastline and pine forests on mountains dotted with villages, archeological sites, and a medieval city of exceptional beauty attract over a million tourists every year.

Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Group with an area of 1,398 sq. km, a coastline that reaches 220 km, and a population of 120,000. It has been populated since prehistoric times and flourished during the Mycenaean period. It enjoyed great prosperity in the 4th c. BC when the Colossus of Rhodes was erected, a work of art by Chares from Lindos, Rhodes, a disciple of the sculptor Lysippos. After the destructive earthquake in 155 AD, Rhodes knew many conquerors (Persians, Arabs, Saracens and Selzuk Turks). In 1309, the Knights Hospitaller [Order of the Knights of Rhodes] acquired the island and restored the castle adding fortifications that were unmatched in Europe at the time. This castle remained the seat of the Knights until 1522 when the Turks conquered it after tough fights. In 1912, Rhodes became occupied by the Italians until 1948, when Dodecanese became integrated in the Greek state.

78. A Rhodes silver five-drachma coin (circa 350 B.C.) bearing the head of the god Sun.

The City of Rhodes 1

The capital of the island is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities worldwide (population: 44,000). It was founded in 408 BC. Its medieval architectural features blend with the modern style in buildings. The city comprises the old, fortified medieval town and the modern one, with its old, neoclassical buildings and other recent structures. The medieval town is a UNESCO World Heritage Monument and has been built in a semi-circular fashion around the central harbour.

City promenade

- To the **Old (medieval) Town**, along the narrow alleys, past the small houses, the imposing buildings erected by the Knights, and about 200 medieval churches. After the arrival of the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John in 1309, the town's fortifications got expanded as it had quadrupled in size in comparison to the earlier byzantine town. The new fortifications the knights built had three lines of defense with the last one



being the fortified complex of the Palace of the Grand Master. Between the Palace and the peripheral walls there was an intermediate defense line (a wall) which divided the town into two unequal parts. The smaller, northern part was called **Kollakio** and was exclusively reserved for the activities of members of the Order. Its main

hub was the Street of the Knights

beginning at the Palace of the Grand Master and ending at Panagia tou Kastrou (Virgin Mary of the Castle) church.

The rest of the population lived in **Bourgko**. The circuit of the walls surrounding the medieval town is 4 km long. Along the way, there are numerous turrets and battlements, bridges, moats, and decorative archi-

tectural elements such as coats of arms. Besides the buildings erected

at the time of the Knights, there is also a number of mosques with their minarets, remnants of the Turkish Occupation. The Medieval Town can be accessed through eleven grand entrances, with **Porta Marina** (the Sea Gate) being the most popular one.

- To the renowned **Street of the Knights**,

79. Agios Pavlos' gate connects the Old Town and Mandraki.





80. Mandraki; the buildings erected during the Italian rule and Agios Nikolaos tower-lighthouse at the port's entrance.





81. The Palace of the Grand Master.

faithfully restored to its old medieval form. The quarters of the various "languages" - i.e. the ethnic subgroupings which once comprised the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John - are lined up on either side of the street.

- To the **Palace of the Grand Master** (14th c.), or "Castello" as locals call it. It was one of the first buildings the Knights constructed (completed in 1346). In 1856 it was accidentally razed to the ground by an explosion and was restored in 1939 by Cesare Maria de' Vecchi, the Italian commander of the Dodecanese Islands.

- To the **Archeological Museum**. It is housed in the building of the Hospital of the Knights (15th c.) in the Old Town. The particularly important finds

on display refer to a period from the archaic up to the roman times on the island.

- To **Ippokratous Square**. The two major, central streets of the Old Town begin here: **Aristotelous** Street, leading east to the Square of the Jewish Martyrs [Evraion Martyron]; and **Sokratous** Street, the busiest street in the old marketplace. Suleyman [Suleymaniye] Mosque rises at the top of this street (built by Sultan Suleyman following the occupation of Rhodes). The corner of Sokratous and Orfeos Streets is the location of the clock tower built by Fethi Pasha in 1857, now housing a bar. The view of the Old Town from the top of the tower is spectacular; this is the right place to take panoramic photos.

- To the **Byzantine Museum**, housed in Panagia tis Nikis church in the Old Town. There are murals and icons on display that date to the Late Byzantine and Post Byzantine period.



82. Suleiman Mosque.

- To **Mandraki**, the small harbour area where imposing edifices of the Italian era house public agencies. Visit also the **Municipal Theatre** and the **New Agora** [Marketplace]. Don't miss: the **Governor's** complex; **Agios Ioannis** [St. John's] Church with Gothic and Romanesque style features (today Evangelismos Church, 1925); **Agios Nikolaos lighthouse** (1464-1467); the three **medieval windmills** at the jetty's edge; and **Mourat Reis** mosque (16th c.).

- To the famous **Casino**, housed in the historic hotel "Grande Albergo delle Rose", (1927), a destination preferred by celebrities around the world.

- To the **Aquarium** (built by the Italians in 1934-1936) with representative specimens of the



area's marine ecosystem.

- To **Agios Stefanos** or **Monte Smith** hill – the acropolis of *ancient Rhodes*– and the temples of Athena Polias and Zeus Poliefs; to the cavernous structures called Nymfaia; to the odeon that could accommodate up to 800 people; and to the Temple of Apollo Pythios. Around these monuments stretches the modern city neighbourhood of luxury villas and modern buildings. The sunset view from the top of the hill is amazing.

- To **Yeni Hamam**, built before 1588 (still open today!). It is called Yeni (new) so as to differentiate it from Eski (old) Hamam whose ruins are to be found in Evdilos Square.

- To the **Municipal Gallery**, housed in a restored building erected by the knights, in Symi Square. There are 16th-20th century engravings and the Collection of Maps and Etchings. The Gallery is often the venue for temporary exhibitions.

- To the **Rhodes Decorative Arts Collection**

83. *The ancient acropolis of Rhodes; the temple of Pythian Apollo.*



(Folk Art Museum), in Argyrokastro Square.

- To the **Centre of Modern Art**; exhibits include the artwork of contemporary Greek and foreign artists residing in Rhodes.

- To **Nestorideion Melathron**. The artwork of 19th & 20th century Greek painters and sculptors are on display.

- To **Rodini** (3 km S), a small park of lush vegetation, streams and a zoo.

Events

- Summertime events organised by the Cultural Organisation of the Municipality of Rhodes.

- "Ecofilms", an International Cinema and Fine Arts Festival with films and environmentally-oriented events taking place every June.

Useful phone numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22413-61.200
- **E.O.T. office (Greek National Tourism Organisation):** 22410-23.255
- **Police Station:** 22410-23.849
- **Tourist Police:** 22410-23.329
- **Traffic Police:** 22410-44.131-2
- **Cultural Organisation of the**



84. Kallithea, a famous Rhodes resort.

Municipality of Rhodes: 22410-27.427

• **Rhodes General Hospital:** 22410-80.000

• **KTEL Long-Distance Buses:**

22410-27.706

• **Taxi service:** 22410-34.758

• **Port Authority:** 22410-28.888

• **"Diagoras" Airport:** 22410-88.700

Rural Medical Centres-Clinics in

• **Apolakkia:** 22440-61.260

• **Afantou:** 22410-51.055

• **Archangelos:** 22440-22.400

• **Southern Rhodes:** 22440-43.233

• **Ialysos:** 22410-91.444

• **Kattavia:** 22440-91.222

• **Koskinou:** 22410-67711

• **Kremasti:** 22410-91.222

• **Lindos:** 22440-31.224

• **Maritses:** 22410-48150

Museums

• **Archeological:** 22410-75.674

• **Municipal Gallery:** 22410-23.766

• **Centre of Modern Art:** 22410-77.071

• **Nestorideion Melathron:** 22410-43.780

Municipality of Rhodes website: www.rhodes.gr

Rhodes Island website: www.rodosisland.gr

Trips around Rhodes North

Koskinou

2

The village houses are decorated in the local style, with ceramic plates and hand-woven textiles and the doors are painted in a variety of strong colours. Koskinou is near the well known spa facilities of **Kallithea**, where Ronda, the impressive domed building houses the hot springs known in antiquity for the therapeutic properties of their "red water" that surfaced on this spot.



85. A typical ceramic plate from Koskinou.

They were organised into a spa by the Italians in 1929. **Distance from Rhodes:** 7 km SE.



86. An impressive landscape in the valley of the Butterflies.

Ialysos or Trianta 3

Ialysos is a resort of international fame. Its acropolis is the birthplace of Diagoras, an ancient Olympic Games winner. Ialysos was one of the three powerful cities of ancient Rhodes alongside Lindos and Kamiros. It stretched below Filerimos hill between present-day **Trianta** and **Kremasti** villages. A stroll along Ialysos' busy avenue reveals grand neoclassical mansions ("pyrgoi"), which used to be country residences of wealthy Rhodesians. **Distance from Rhodes:** 10 km SW.

Must see

- The archeological site of **ancient Ialysos'** acropolis, on Filerimos hill, comprises many a monument such as temples, Byzantine churches, etc. The greatest among them are the **temple of Athena Polias**; the **Doric fountain**, the **Church dating to the Period of the Knights**; and the chapel of **Agios Georgios Chostos** (with 15th century murals).
- The monastery of **Panagia Filerimos** with its large cobblestone courtyard and the Gothic stone church (15th c). It is said that the icon of the Virgin Mary was brought from Jerusalem in the 13th century.
- "**Golgotha (Calvary) Way**", lined with

cypress trees and stone steles depicting various scenes from the Passion of Christ. At the end of the way there is a large cross.

Activities

- Swimming at the endless beach that extends from the city of Rhodes until Ialysos.
- Water sports and wind surfing.
- Hiking from Filerimos, through a fascinating pine forest, towards the sea (2-hour journey).

Faliraki 4

Faliraki is one of the island's most popular resorts for visitors who seek to experience the intense nightlife and enjoy its enchanting beaches. **Distance from Rhodes:** 16 km SE.

Must see

- **Kalythies** (2 km W), an area with country chapels and antiquities.
- **Kalamonia cave**.
- **Sarandapichos acropolis** and its



significant archeological finds. Visit also **Erimokastro** dating to the Mycenaean period.

Activities

- Swimming at Faliraki, Ixia, and Kallithea beaches with many facilities on offer; at the small Mantomata beach next to Faliraki; Ladiko beach is nearby where the film "Guns of Navarone" was shot in 1961; or at the "Anthony Quinn" beach.
- Water sports: windsurfing and water skiing.
- At the Water Park, waterslides and other water frolics.

Afantou

5

Afantou is one of the oldest villages on the island. There are traditional stone houses, coffee shops, pastry shops, and a centuries-old church of Panagia [the Virgin Mary]. **Epta Piges** [Seven Springs] lie 8 km SW; the cascading waters form a lake, set in a wonderful green location. Near the village you will find **Kolympia** (6 km S.), a seaside area. Stroll along the beautiful Eucalypt-

87. Filerimos monastery, reconstructed during the Italian Period.



88. Windsurfing in Rhodes.

tus Street, planted with eucalyptus trees by the Italians. **Distance from Rhodes:** 18.5 km SE.

Activities

- Swimming at the far stretching sand and fine pebble beach. It begins as Traganou or Traounou Beach, mid-way it becomes Afantou Beach, and is named Kolympia Beach at the other end.
- Golfing at the 18-hole golf course, Afantou Golf Course, tel: (+30) 22410-51.451, www.afandougolfcourse.gr.
- Playing football at the EOT [Greek National Tourism Organisation] football field in Afantou beach.
- Water sports.
- Touring the area riding enduro bikes or four-wheel drive vehicles.

Theologos

6

A village that has been attracting tourists lately, as it is near the famous **Valley of the Butterflies** (8 km S). Every year, from June to September millions of *Callimorpha Quadripunctaria* butterflies, sporting four black spots on each wing, appear in very large numbers in the valley. There is a small Museum of Natural History in the same area (60 hectares). Visit also **Psinthos** village (13 km SE), in an area of lush vegetation and streams. **Distance from Rhodes:** 22 km SW.

Archangelos

7

Archangelos is the island's largest town (population: 5,500). It has been inhabited since the Mycenaean times. There are cheerfully painted old houses in the traditional quarter built at the foot of the castle around Archangelos Michail church. **Distance from Rhodes:** 28 km SE.

Must see



- The **castle**, built by the Knights Hospitaller in 1320.
- **Archangelos Michail** church and its pebble-paved courtyard.
- **Panagia Tsampika** Ano (or New) Monastery. Panagia's icon [the Virgin Mary] is said to be miraculous especially for women with fertility problems. It is situated 1 km N. on the way towards Rhodes city.
- **Koumellos Cave**, 3 km NW on a small hill, a place of interest for those interested in archeology as well as speleology.
- **Malonas** village located within the largest orange grove on Rhodes. Make a point of visiting **Charaki** village (7 km S) and the medieval **Faraklou Castle**, near the beautiful beach.

Activities

- Swimming at Tsampika, one of the best beaches on Rhodes; also at Stegna beach.
- Water sports.
- Scuba diving.

Salakos

8

Salakos is built in a location of exceptional beauty. The village square is very beautiful with a fountain and fiddle-leaf fig trees, located on the verdant Mount Profitis Elias (where you will also find Profitis Elias Monastery). In 1912-1948, Salakos and the neighbouring **Eleousa** village used to be resort areas for the ruling Italians. **Distance from Rhodes:** 39 km SW.

Must see



- **Ancient Kameiros**, 10 km N. From the archaic until the Hellenistic period, Kameiros used to be a hub, one of the three towns of ancient Rhodes, (Ialysos and Lindos being the other two). There are ruins of a **Doric temple** (3rd c. BC) and a **fountain**, an **altar** dedicated to the Sun, public **baths**, a **reservoir**, ruins of **houses** and **public buildings**;

89. Lindos, a traditional village at the foot of the ancient acropolis.





90. There are many freediving schools in Rhodes.

at a higher level lies the **temple of Athena**, the ruins of a **stoa** (206 m. long) and a monumental **stairway; ancient tombs** and an early Christian **catacomb** have been unearthed in the wider area.

- **Makarouna Cave.**
- The dense pine forest on Mount **Profitis Ilias**; it is the third tallest mountain on the island (alt: 798 m.) after Atavyros

and Akramytis mountains. It is also the habitat of 115 plant species -out of which 20 are rare varieties- and quite a few species of wild animals. At a short distance from **Eleousa** village, starting for Mount Profitis Ilias, there is an artificial pond shaped like a pool, which was built by the Italians so as to collect the waters from nearby Koskinistis spring. The pond is home to **gizani** [ladigesocypris ghigii], a small freshwater fish endemic to Rhodes.

- The **Nymph Fountain**, supplying Rhodes with water.

Events

- Reenactment of the Nativity of Christ at Makarouna Cave, Christmas.

Activities

- Hiking from Salakos to Profitis Ilias mountain-top (4-hour journey).
- Touring the area riding enduro bikes or four-wheel drive vehicles.

South

Lindos

9

Lindos is a traditional village that has been designated as a national heritage monument. Its narrow alleys and archways bring to mind a Cyclades village. **Kapetanospita** [the "captains' houses"] are quite impressive structures, surrounded by high yard walls, arched entrances (**pyliones**) decorated with coats of arms, and heavy wooden gates. Lindos is the birthplace of Chares, the disciple of Lyssippos, a famous ancient sculptor, who crafted the 31-metre tall Colossus of Rhodes dedicated to god Helios. In the summertime, Lindos is also accessible by excursion boat from Rhodes.

Distance from Rhodes: 46 km SE.

Must See



- The **Ancient Lindos acropolis**. Dominating atop a rock, 116 m. above sea level, the acropolis is surrounded by the fortified walls built by the knights. It occupies an area of 8,400 sq. km. and bears the strongest fortifications on the island. The **temple of Athena Lindia** (4th c. BC) is built on the highest spot of the rock. You can also visit





91. A panoramic view of Monolithos castle and the surrounding area.

the Hellenistic **Makra Stoa** (200 BC); the **Doric Stoa** (3rd c. BC); the ruins of the **Propylaea**; the **monumental stairway**, and **Agios Ioannis** church (13th c.).

The view from the Acropolis is amazing.

- The alleged **tomb of Cleobulus** (6th c. BC) - born in Lindos and one of the seven sages in ancient Greece - known for his apophthegm "everything in moderation". The view from this location is breathtaking.
- The 15th-century **Panagia of Lindos** church with exquisite murals and icons. Visit, also, the picturesque **Agios Pavlos** chapel, built in the nook of Agios Pavlos cove.
- **Asklipieio** village (21 km SW). There is an interesting Ecclesiastical - Folk Art museum housed in the old olive-press facilities, next to Koimisis tis Theotokou church, where there are valuable, centuries-old murals; the ruins of a castle lie on the hill.

Activities

- Swimming at Lardos beach, Agios Pavlos, Glis-tra, Gennadi, and Kiotari.
- Wind surfing, kite surfing and jet skiing.
- Scuba diving and spear fishing.

Kritinia

10

Kritinia is a beautiful village, affording a lovely view of the Aegean and Chalki Island from the main square. Visit the imposing Venetian castle that is in good condition. Two scenic - yet demanding - hiking routes start at the village. One

goes all the way to the castle, traversing a fertile valley (4-hour journey) and the other ends at the top of Mount Atavyros (6-hour route). **Skala Kameirou** is the seaport of Kritinia where you will find some very good fish tavernas. There is a ferry link to Chalki Island. **Distance from Rhodes:** 54 km SW.

Emponas

11

Emponas is a scenic mountain village away from popular destinations. It is built on a slope of Mount Atavyros, the island's highest mountain (alt: 1,216 m), in a fertile forested area. The village is known for its top quality wines. The old folks still wear their traditional costumes and there is an interesting Folk Art Museum, housed in a 19th-century building. Ruins of the temple of Zeus Atavyrios lie on the hilltop; the spot offers a panoramic view. At a short distance, (close to **Nanoi** village, approx. 10 km N) you will find Nanoi artificial lake, a scenic location with flowing waters. **Distance from Rhodes:** 52 km SW.

Activities

- Hiking.
- Touring the area riding enduro bikes or four-wheel drive vehicles.

Laerma

12

Laerma is a small village with refurbished houses, populated since antiquity. In Tharri (4 km from Laerma), there is the historic Archangelos Michail

[Archangel Michael] monastery (Tharri Monastery). According to tradition, it was built by the parents of a young lady of a noble Byzantine family, when the temperate climate and beneficial waters in the area cured their daughter from a severe illness. A visit at nearby **Ipseni Monastery** (in Lardos village) and **Ikнос Monastery** is worthwhile. **Distance from Rhodes:** 58 km SW.

Activities

- Hiking.
- Touring the area riding enduro bikes or four-wheel drive vehicles.

Monolithos 13

Monolithos is a traditional village built in an amphitheatre-like manner on a colossal boulder (monolith) – hence the name. **Distance from Rhodes:** 73 km SW.

Must see



- The impressive **Monolithos castle** (3 km SW). It is built atop a rock (height: 236 metres), overlooking the open sea and Chalki Island. It was built in 1476 by Grand Master Pierre d'Aubusson. Inside the castle, there are ruins of two 15th-century churches.
- **Siana** (4.5 km NE), a village known for producing *souma* (a strong alcoholic drink made from grapes) and honey.
- **Appolakia** (10 km SE), a picturesque village next to a dam (4 km N).
- **Mesanagros** (47.5 km SE), a traditional

village. Visit Agia Paraskevi and Profitis Elias churches as well as nearby Skiadi Monastery (21 km SE).

Activities

- Swimming in Plaka and Fourni beaches, located 5 km after the castle.
- Spear fishing.

Kattavia - Prasonisi 14

This village has been built on the southernmost part of the island and is said to have taken its name from Kattavos, a local sovereign. There are some fine buildings in the area that date to the time of the Italian rule. Through Kattavia you can access Prasonisi, a surfer's paradise. In the summertime, Rhodes and the small island are linked by a strip of sand, making it possible to reach Prasonisi on foot. In wintertime, the sea level rises covering the sandy strip therefore "cutting" the small island off from Rhodes. The lighthouse on Prasonisi is a spot that affords a wonderful sunset view. **Distance from Rhodes:** 83 km (Kattavia) and 91 km (Prasonisi), SW.

Activities

- Swimming at Prasonisi, in Agios Georgios beach (7 km SE) and in Mavros Kavos beach (10.5 km SE).
- Wind surfing and kite surfing.
- Spear fishing.
- Scuba diving.

92. Prasonisi beach is considered as one of the best on Rhodes.





93. Rhodes town;
Mandraki's port teems with sailing boats,
yachts and fishing boats all year round.



KARPATHOS



94. Karpathos; an aerial photo of Pigadia and the wider area.

Karpathos Island is to be found in the southernmost part of the Dodecanese Group between Crete and Rhodes, and it is the second largest island in the group. It is basically a mountainous island (its highest peak is Kali Limni at 1,214 m. above sea level), blessed with flowing waters, pine-tree forests, vineyards, olive groves, and orchards. Its rocky caves are home to *Monachus monachus*, the Mediterranean monk seal. A kind of rare amphibian species that can be found only on Karpathos and Kastelorizo is *mertensiella luscani*. The titan Iapetus, son of Uranus and Gaia, is the mythical first inhabitant of Karpathos. The island was first populated in neolithic times. During Homer's time, Karpathos was also known as *Anemoessa* [she of the many winds]. Its history is connected to that of Rhodes and the other Dodecanese islands. The ruling Franks, Turks and Italians shaped the island's fate. Area: 301 sq. km; coastline: 160 km; population: 6,500.

Pigadia (Karpathos) 1

Pigadia is the capital and port of the island with a population of 2,100. It was named after the considerable number of wells that used to exist in the area. It is a relatively new town, built in the SE part of the island, on the location of Poseidio (or Potidaio), the island's ancient port.

Town promenade

- To **Eparcheio** [the Administration Building], constructed by the Italians. Information on the Mediterranean monk seal can be obtained here. There is also an open-air museum with finds referring to the island's history.
- To "**Vounos**", at the port's entrance. It is an imposing boulder, 23 metres high, with ruins of the acropolis (Cyclopean walls) of ancient Poseidio.
- To **Agioi Apostoloi**, the most important church in Pigadia.
- To "**Afoti**" location (on the beachfront road), the site of the ruins of Agia Foteini's Early-Christian basilica.
- To the **pine-tree forest**, 1.5 km SW.
- To **Poseidon's cave**, at "Myloi" location. It is considered to have been either a monumental tomb hewn into the rock or a sanctuary.

Trips around Karpathos

North

Aperi 2

This is a prosperous village, counting 470 inhabitants, built at 320 m. above sea level, in such a way as to remain unseen from the sea and therefore protected against pirate raids. In earlier times, it was the island's capital as well as a cultural centre: hence, its name, Aperi, which means "capital town" [*apergi*] in Turkish. Distance from Pigadia: 8 km NW.

96. Pigadia; Eparcheio [the Administration Building].



95. Agia Foteini (Afoti) at Pigadia, Karpathos.





97. Lefkos with its small bays and sandy beaches.





98. Kyra Panagia beach photographed from the church by the same name.

Must see



- The **hilltop** above the village. This is the location of the acropolis of ancient Karpathos. The view from the hill is panoramic.
- **Volada** village, 2 km NW and its traditionally built houses. Within the area, you will see the ruins of three castles (specifically in Pinni area).
- **Achata** bay, where you will find a beautiful pebble beach and the ruins of an ancient sanctuary nearby. Above the beach, there is a cavern with interesting decorations.
- **Kyra Panagia** church, in Kyra Panagia village, located 7 km NE of Aperi.

Othos

3

Othos has been built at 510 m. above sea level and is often covered in clouds. A worthwhile visit would be to the **Folk Art Museum** where you will see a replica of a traditional local house. The village is well known for the traditional celebrations organised here. It is worth joining Agios Panteleimon feast (a three-day celebration on July 26th-28th) as well as Agios Georgios Methystis feast (November 3rd). A small village called **Pyles** is situated three km SW, with gardens everywhere you look. The sunset views from this place will amaze you. **Distance from Pigadia:** 12 km NW.

Lefkos

4

Lefkos is a picturesque, seaside village surrounded by a small pine grove and a beautiful, much-frequented beach. Visit the **Acropolis** on "Pelekito" location where you will see parts of the walls and mosaics as well as the 13th c. Agios Georgios chapel. Another site worth visiting is **Sokastro**, an islet that had once been a peninsula, where there are Byzantine and medieval ruins. It is said that the byzantine Emperor Nikiforos Fokas used it as a base of operations. **Distance from Pigadia:** 31 km NW.

Mesochori

5

Mesochori is built in the centre of the island. It has cobblestone streets and traditionally built houses with pebble-paved yards. The houses interiors resemble small museums decorated as they are with local rare handwoven fabrics and embroideries. **Distance from Pigadia:** 34 km NW.

Must see



- **Panagia Vrysiani**, the village's most important church built over a fountain.
- **Agios Ioannis Prodromos** church, its 1781 icons and the woodcarved iconostasis.
- The ruins of **Agia Eirini** Byzantine church, at Agia Eirini location, accessible by boat.



99. A traditional Olympos costume.

Spoa

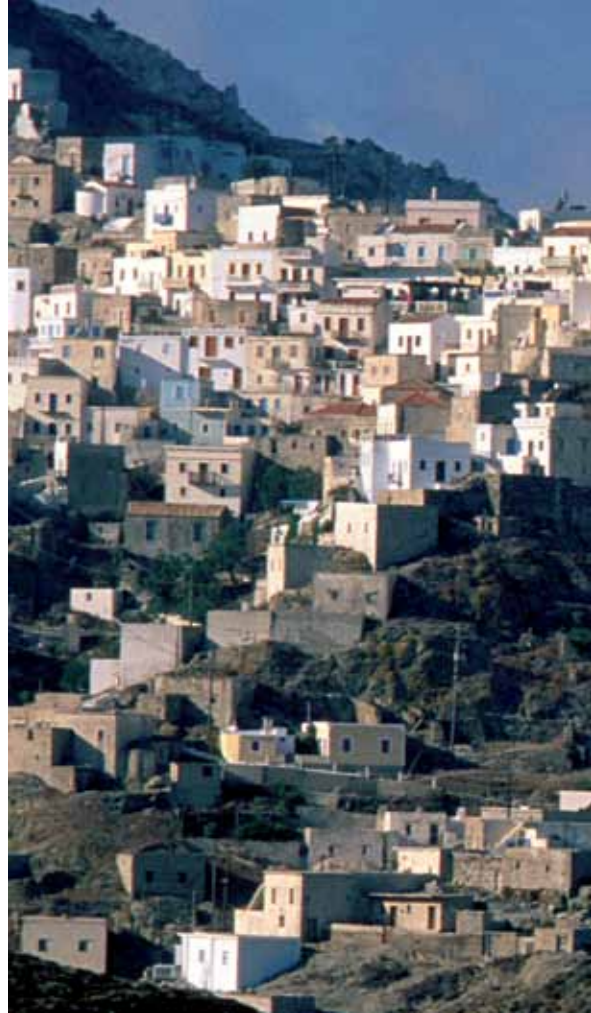
6

Spoa is also in the centre of the island, built in an amphitheatre-like manner on a mountain slope and overlooking the open sea. Visit its three windmills and the small Agios Loukas church, in Apella bay. There is a popular beach and **Agios Nikolaos** village, four km. E. **Distance from Pigadia:** 38 km NW.

Olympos

7

Many tourists come to Karpathos just to visit Olympos, one of the most beautiful and interesting villages in Greece. You will reach Olympos following a route of great natural beauty. The village was founded in the 15th c. amidst wild nature. The houses are built following an amphitheatre-like shape and in such a way that no house may cast its shadow on the next one. The locals live the way they have lived for centuries: they



100. A view of Olympos.

dress in the old way and talk in their own centuries-old dialect (with many Doric elements). Each family has its own mill and its own church! The entire village is a living ethnological museum, a sight not to be missed. **Distance from Pigadia:** 57.5 km N.

Must see



- **Panagia** church (16th c.) and its exquisite iconostasis.
- **Ancient Vrykounta**, one of Karpathos' largest towns, which flourished as early as the 5th c. BC.
- **Agios Ioannis** church, off Avlona village (6 km NW), in a location of breathtaking beauty.



- **Tristomo** bay, at the northernmost tip of the island. It is a protected deep water harbour, yet fairly difficult to access.

Diafani 8

Diafani is the island's second harbour. Visit the Mycenaean tomb, located 500 m SE, the finds from which are on display at the British Museum. See, also the red-domed Agios Nikolaos and Zoodochos Pigi churches as well as Agios Vasileios church. **Distance from Pigadia:** 67 km N.

South

Menetes 9

Menetes is a village well known for its musicians and craftsmen of the Karpathos lyre. Visit the 19th c. **Koimisi tis Theotokou** church [Dormition of the Mother of God], the best known on the island, also Agios Mamas and Agios Antonios byzantine chapels. There is an **Archeological Collection** in the village, where vessels, sculptures, and icons from the wider area are on display. **Distance from Pigadia:** 8 km SW.

Makrys Gialos 10

Makrys Gialos is known for its many beaches, and is an area popular with wind surfers. Afiartis beach is one of the most favourite destinations. At "Fournoi" location, near the airport, excavations have revealed part of a Minoan settlement. **Distance from Pigadia:** 15 km S.

101. Diafani lies in the nook of a small bay.





102. Apella beach, ranking among the most beautiful in the Dodecanese, with pine trees reaching up to the white sand.

Arkasa

11

The name and locality of this village have remained the same since antiquity. The small peninsula of Arkasa's ancient acropolis faces the village. **Distance from Pigadia:** 16 km SW.

Must see



- **Palaiokastro**, where there are ruins from as early as antiquity (ancient Arkesia) until the Turkish Occupation Period and the 5th c. Agia Anastasia church with superb mosaics.
- The **Archeological Museum**, with finds from Palaiokastros.
- **Foiniki**, a neighbouring fishing village (1 km N).

103. Afiarti area is popular with surfers from all over the world.



Nearby islands

Saria

12

Saria is a small uninhabited isle (area: 19 sq. km), north of Karpathos island that was once united to it. Archeological finds on this island cover a wide span of time from the neolithic period until the times of recorded history. North you will find Palatia an old settlement with impressive 10th-century houses (probably a former pirate hideout). It has very old churches and a small, beautiful sandy beach. The entire island as well as Karpathos' northern part – including the wider sea area have been placed under the Natura 2000 programme; there are thriving populations of more than 80 species of rare or endemic

104. An aerial photo of Arkasa and the peninsula of the ancient acropolis.



plants, significant numbers of predatory birds as well as Mediterranean Monk seals (*Monachus monachus*).

Events

- Folk performances on Clean [or Ash] Monday, that involve a comic reenactment of a “Court trying Indecent Acts”.
- Agia Kyriaki feast on July 7th; Gennisi tis Theotokou [Nativity of the Mother of God] Larniotissa on September 7th.
- Panagia Vrysiani feast at Mesochori on September 8th; and Agia Eirini feast on May 5th.
- Agios Ioannis feast on August 29th (the church is built inside a cave, north of Vrykounta).
- Sotiras [Christ the Saviour] feast at Aperi on August 6th; Panagia [Virgin Mary] feast on August 15th; Kyra Panagia and Myrtidiotissa feasts on August 23rd; and Theotokos [Mother of God] feast on September 8th.
- Traditional festival involving dancing and singing, at Aperi, in August. It is organised by the “Omonia” cultural society.
- World Speedsurfing Championship in Afiarti (July – August).

Activities

- Swimming at the beaches: Pigadia, Amooopi, Makrygialos, Diafani (a broad pebble beach), Vananta, Potali, Foki, Lefkos and Achata.
- Scuba diving in the areas: Kastelia, Fokia, Agios Petros, Achata and Diakoftis.
- Spear fishing.
- Wind surfing.
- Hiking.
- Touring the area on enduro bikes or four-wheel drive vehicles
- Boat excursions to the beaches: Apella, Agios Nikolaos, Agios Minas and Kyra Panagia.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22453-60.116/118
- **Police Station:** 22450-22.222
- **Tourist Police:** 22450-22.212
- **Rural Health Centre:** 22450-22.228
- **Airport:** 22450-91.030
- **Port Authority:** 22450-22.227
- **Hotel Owners Association:** 22450-22.483
- **Taxi service:** 22450-22.705

website: www.karpathos.gr



105. Mesochori, overlooking the sea, has been built following the traditional architectural style. Local houses comprise three buildings: the "large" house (for festive occasions), the "small" house (for everyday family life) and the oven.



KASOS



106. A view of Bouka at Fry. Agios Spyridon church and its impressive belfry stand out.

Kasos is the southernmost island of the Dodecanese Group with a history that goes way back in antiquity. It shares common features with Crete – its neighbour, lying at a short distance. The Phoenicians are said to have been its first settlers while Homer cites Kasos among the islands that participated in the Trojan War. Despite its small size, Kasos was once a mighty maritime and commercial power. Its fleet took part in the 1821 Greek War of Independence, and that was the reason why the Turks destroyed it in June 1824. In later years, Kasos shared the same history with the rest of the Dodecanese islands until it was integrated in Greece in 1948. Many local people migrated to the United States – as was the case with Karpathos. Others left for Egypt where they worked in the project of the opening of the Suez Canal in the mid-19th century. There are ferries to Piraeus, Crete (Siteia and Agios Nikolaos), Rhodes, Chalki and Karpathos. There are flights to Rhodes and Karpathos. Area: 66 sq. km, coastline: 50 km, population: 1,000.

Fry 1

Fry [pronounced *free*] is the capital and main port of Kasos, on the island's northern coast. The town is built around Bouka bay and closely resembles an eyebrow (hence the name, Fry, taken from *fyrdi* - the Greek word for eyebrow). It was founded in 1840 by people from Agia Marina which is located further south. Take a stroll in **Bouka**, an old harbour used by pirates, with its small fishing boats and trawlers, traditional coffee shops and the lighthouse. Fry has kept its traditional character in architecture that is manifest in the graceful mansions.

Must see

- The **Archeological** Collection, housed in a traditional building. Exhibits collected from the island include finds from the prehistoric times until the Roman period. Visit also the small, yet quite interesting Folk Art Pavilion.
- **Agios Spyridonas** church, patron saint of Kasos, with a beautiful belfry.
- The **Municipal Library** and the **Memorial** dedicated to the 1821 heroes of the Greek War of Independence.
- **Emporios**, 500 m. away, once the port of the island. You can visit the island's biggest church, Gennisi tis Theotokou [Nativity of the Mother of God] (1856), built on the site previously occupied by an early-Christian basilica.

Trips around Kasos

Agia Marina 2

Agia Marina is the island's largest village. Its narrow alleys are flanked by neoclassical buildings. You will also see Agia Marina and Stavros tou Christou churches. **Distance from Fry:** 500 m.

Must see

- The impressive **Ellinokamara cave**, fortified with a wall that dates to the 3rd c. BC. Two km SE of that cave there's a second one, called **Selai**, with beautiful stalactites.
- The 1690 **Agios Georgios** monastery at **Chadies** (10 km SW) on the way to **Chelatro** bay, through Argos valley.

Panagia 3

Panagia is an old village, known as the origin of sea captains and shipwrights, with beautiful mansions. On August 15th, locals and visitors gather here for the island's largest feast in Pera Panagia at the 1896 **Koimisi tis Theotokou** [Dormition of the Mother of God] church featuring an impressive woodcarved iconostasis. Six small churches in Apano Geitonia with 18th-century woodcarved iconostases and icons form a cluster that is unique in the Aegean. **Distance from Fry:** 1 km SE.

107. The pebble beach in Antiperatos





Poli

4

It is the island's oldest settlement. The white houses spread on the slope of a hill; on the top you will see the ruins of a castle. Pay a visit to **Agios Mamas** monastery (4 km SE); the wild beautiful landscape affords amazing views. **Distance from Fry:** 2 km SE.

Arvanitochori

5

Arvanitochori is a village with old mansions and picturesque chapels. In the small square you can stop by Maroukla's popular coffee shop. Visit also the 1864 Agios Dimitrios church, and the small Folk Art Museum. **Distance from Fry:** 3 km S.

Nearby islands

Armathia

6

Armathia is the largest of the islets around Kasos, 2 nautical miles NW of Fry. Today, it is uninhabited but in former times it played a significant part in the life on Kasos: until the 1950's there were active gypsum mines here and until the early 1970's there were a few remaining families

involved in sheep farming. Marmara is the best beach in the area. Karavostasi and the small Apopantoula are two other lovely beaches. Within a very short distance from Armathia, you will reach **Makra**, the second largest isle of this group.

Events

- Carnival and Clean (Ash) Monday festivities that also involve offering traditional dishes and the making of *taliera*, a local kind of kite.
- Easter festivities involving traditional customs.
- Events in early June, commemorating the holocaust of 1824.
- Concerts, theatrical performances, and exhibitions of local style jewellery, embroideries, and products (such as honey, dairy, bakery items, sweets), in August.
- «International Lyre Festival»: every two years in August.
- The Sitaka Fair (August).
- The feasts on Kasos island are reputed to be very lively and are the following: Agioi Konstantinos and Eleni on May 21st; Agia Triada at Poli (in June); Agia Marina at Agia Marina on July 17th; Christos tis Lakkas at Agia Marina on August 6th; Panagia at Pera Panagia on August 15th; Agios Fa-



108. Armathia islet is endowed with "exotic" beaches.

nourios at Chathistres on August 27th; Agios Mamas in Lyrstis / Thyra on September 1st and 2nd; Panagia Eleros on the mountain on September 8th; Timios Stavros at Agia Marina on September 14th; Agios Dimitrios at Arvanitochori on October 26th; Agios Georgios Chathies on November 3rd; and Agios Spyridonas on December 12th.

Activities

- Swimming at Antiperatos; Ammoua, an area offering the best sunset views on the island, also the location of the small Agios Konstantinos church; Katarti; Vrysi; Kofteri; Vlycha; Emporeio; Chelatro; Chochlakia; and Avlaki (accessible by boat only). Still, the best sandy beaches are to be found on Armathia.
- Scuba diving.
- Spear fishing.
- Hiking.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22450-41.277, 41.400
- **Police station:** 22450-41.222
- **Kasos Clinic:** 22450-41.333
- **Harbour Police station:** 22450-41.288

- **Airport:** 22450-41.444
- **Archeological Collection:** 22450-41.204

website: www.kasos.gr

109. "The International Lyre Festival" is a major cultural event in Kasos.



KASTELLORIZO (Megisti)



110. Kastellorizo village, among the most beautiful in Greece.

Kastellorizo lies at the easternmost end of Greece, a stone's throw away from the Turkish coast (72 nautical miles south of Rhodes). The small town centre is a captivating group of cheerfully painted houses of extraordinary architecture, awe-inspiring churches, and picturesque alleys. Kastellorizo has a long history and a great maritime tradition. It was first inhabited in the early Neolithic Era. It was named Megisti after Megisteas, its first settler, in ancient times. The island knew a thriving period in the late 19th century; in the early 20th century the population rose to almost 13,000. Later, most locals emigrated to Australia and Egypt, while others went to Palestine as refugees, after the Italian and German bombings. This lilliputian island barely covers an area of 9 square kilometres; it has a 19 km coastline, and a population of 500. It was integrated in Greece in 1948. There are ferries to Piraeus and Rhodes and flights to Rhodes.

The village 1

Picturesque Kastellorizo village is the island's only populated area. You will walk on cobblestone alleys, past traditional colourful mansions, wooden and iron balconies. It comprises two quarters: Pigadia and Chorafia. Taste *katoumari* and *strava*, the traditional sweets offered in local tavernas.

Village promenade

- To the 14th-c. castle of the **Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John**. It is on Castello Rosso, a hill of red rock, which gave the island its current name.

- To the following buildings: the **Town Hall** (Kava area), **Nea Agora** and **Entefktirio** (Agios Georgios area) which housed a kindergarten in the early 20th century.

- To the **Archaeological – Diachroniko Museum of Kastellorizo**, housed at "Konaki", a historic, listed building. The gallery dedicated to ancient Megisti is particularly interesting. Items referring to the period from the early Christian years until the postbyzantine times are on display in other galleries.

- To the 4th-century BC **temple-like Lycian tomb** below the castle.

- To **Mandraki**, a district with a small, picturesque harbour east of the village centre.



111. Kastellorizo; the Lycian Tomb.

- To **Chorafia**, where the 1903 Santrapeia Urban School is located as well as Agios Georgios church (1903).

- To **Agios Konstantinos and Agia Eleni** church, the island's patron saints. It was built in 1835 and its interior is supported by ten, monolithic granite pillars which were transported from the temple of Apollo in Patara, ancient Lycia [modern day Turkey].

- To **Kastellorizo Historical Collection**, housed in a mosque at the entrance of the port, in Kavos area. Exhibits include documents and photographic material referring to the modern

112. Kastellorizo is famous for its seafood dishes.





history of the island (19th century – 1948).

- To **Palaiokastro**. It is 2 km away from the village and has remained unaltered since the Byzantine times. Panagia tou Kastrou and Agios Stefanos churches are within the castle grounds. Below this area are *acheres*, ten cisterns built during the Turkish Occupation.
- To **Agios Georgios tou Vounou**, a fortified monastery affording a marvellous view.

Events

- Agios Konstantinos and Agia Eleni feast on May 21st, honouring the island's patron saints.
- On the eve of the August 15th feast, children jump over fires.
- On July 19th (eve of Profitis Ilias feast), the locals plunge – fully clothed – in the sea.

Activities

- Go boating to **Galazio Spilaio** (Blue Cave), the



biggest and most spectacular of all sea caves in Greece. It is known worldwide for its rich "decoration" of stalactites. The reflections of sun-rays on the water light the stalactites creating a unique spectacle. It is situated on the SE part of the island. Further south, you will find **Kolones**, another impressive cave.

- Go on excursion to **Ro** island (6 nautical miles W) to the memorial of Despina Achladioti, (called the "Lady of Ro"), who raised the Greek flag on the island every day for decades.
- Swim in Faros and Mandraki. Take the boat to Plakes on Ro Island and go swimming to Agios Georgios sandy beach as well as to Strongyli isle (5 nautical miles SE).
- Scuba diving and spear fishing.
- Hiking.

Useful phone Numbers (+30)



- **Municipal Office:** 22463-60.400
- **Police Station:** 22460-49.333
- **Rural Clinic:** 22460-49.267
- **Taxi service:** 693-8739.178
- **Port Authority:** 22460-49.270
- **Airport:** 22460-49.250

- **Archeological - Diachroniko Museum of Kastellorizo:** 22460-49.283
- **Historical Collection:** 22460-70.620

website: www.megisti.gr

114.. Ro island, currently uninhabited.



113. The Blue Cave (Parasta / Fokiali Cave) is the most renowned natural monument on the island and a refuge for seals.



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