



# Tour Information



## Rhodes History, Culture and Scenic Delights





## Covid-19 Travel Information

Do not travel or go to Gatwick if you or anyone that you are travelling with have Covid-19 symptoms.

You **must follow all travel rules** and **complete any necessary mandatory forms** before travelling. As regulations can change at short notice, please check the **latest official government information** of your departure and destination countries before travelling.

You may want to refer to the following Gov.UK website for useful information:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-travel-during-coronavirus>

## Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

## Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Greece.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



## Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit:

[www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 15kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Transfers

On arrival at Rhodes Airport please collect your luggage and proceed to the arrival's hall where you will find your Tour Manager holding a Travel Editions sign. The journey time to resort is approximately 30 minutes.

## Special Requests

If you haven't done so already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

## Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.



## Accommodation

### Best Western Plaza Hotel, Rhodes Town

Best Western Plaza Hotel is a relaxing 4\* hotel, situated in the centre of the modern city of Rhodes, and located just 400m from the famous and atmospheric Medieval Walled Town of Rhodes and the Mandraki Marina. Hotel facilities include an outdoor pool with snack bar, cocktail lounge, and restaurant. Each of the comfortable bedrooms feature a private balcony, TV, hairdryer, AC, safe, mini-bar and telephone.

For more information visit the hotel website: <https://www.bestwestern.gr/booking-path/hotel-details/best-western-plus-hotel-plaza-rhodes-77522>

### Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil.

When eating out the Greeks nearly always eat 'Mezedes' style. This means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It's a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Don't be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable.

When ordering fish in Greece you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don't be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose your fish and then it will be weighed in front of you, so you know what you will pay.

Nearly all tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine. It is something of an acquired taste, but it goes well with the local food. If you are unsure, you can always ask if you can try the wine before you agree to it. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 5 euros per half litre.

Other local drinks are ouzo, tsipoura, metaxa. Tsipoura is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine. You will probably find you come across this whether you want to or not, as it is very often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

### Meals included in the holiday:

Breakfast - daily

One dinner and one lunch

### Taking food into EU countries

Please note, you are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



# Destination

## Rhodes

Rhodes, the largest of Greece's Dodecanese islands, is known for its beach resorts, ancient ruins, and remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St. John during the Crusades. The city of Rhodes has an old town with striking features such as the medieval Street of the Knights and the castle Palace of the Grand Masters. Captured by the Ottomans and then held by the Italians, the palace and city is now a history museum. The island's interior is mountainous, sparsely inhabited and covered with forests of pine and cypress. Its rocks, limestone and schist, form a mountain backbone in the centre of the island with Akramytis in the south-west 823m, Atarvios, the highest, in the middle at 1,215m and Profitis Ilias to the north 798m.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Rhodes Old Town

Today Rhodes Town is very much divided in two, the modern 'new' town and the fascinating Medieval 'Old Town', whose history spans centuries, beginning in 408 B.C. when the three principal communities on the island joined forces to create a new City State. From that time on and until today the City has ruled the island and was rightfully recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988.

Rhodes, like so many places in Greece, has been invaded, conquered, and invaded again numerous times; the Romans, the Byzantines, the Knights of St John, the Ottomans and the Italians have all left their mark on the City, although the period of the Knights of St John is what really stands out today.

For more information please visit:

[https://www.rhodesguide.com/travelguide/rhodes\\_monuments.php?ssp=11](https://www.rhodesguide.com/travelguide/rhodes_monuments.php?ssp=11)

#### Knights Hospitaller of St John

The story of the Knights begins in the 11th century when a religious military order was founded in Jerusalem. Originally known as the Hospitallers, the order was made up of a celibate brotherhood of knights who served under a Grand Master elected for life.

In 1309, following the period of the Byzantines, the Knights captured Rhodes and established their

administrative centre in Rhodes Town. A fortified Byzantine settlement occupying 175,000 square meters had already been built on the site of the ancient city and the Knights expanded this to 420,000 square meters and protected it with three lines of defensive fortifications. This was also how they handed it over to the Ottomans after a long siege in 1522.

Some fantastic remnants of the Knights era remain in the city, not least the defensive walls that extend for 4 kilometres. 11 gates were built for entry into the city and probably one of the most well-used today is Liberty Gate, which is situated close to the Mandraki Harbour. On entering through this gate, you immediately feel the presence of the Knights of St John in the surrounding buildings and the cobbled stone pathways that lead in all directions. This part of the town is known as the Kollakio or Knights Quarter and you soon find yourself walking on the Street of the Knights, which remains virtually unchanged. Wandering these streets and alleyways one encounters all sorts of historic delights, not least remnants of the Knights but also mosques, churches, and impressive mansions.

The Street of the Knights ends at the Palace of the Grand Master, which served as the Knights' administrative centre. Much of the edifice was rebuilt by the Italians who, some say, made it even more impressive.

Another impressive building in the town is what is now the Archaeological Museum, that is housed in the former hospital of the Knights. It is hard to know what to admire most, the building itself, with its impressive two-story gallery and spacious inner courtyard, or the marvellous Hellenistic sculptures on display inside.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.visitrhodes.com/information/rhodes-island/knights>



## Lindos

Lindos is one of the most attractive villages on Rhodes. The pedestrianized streets are a maze of continuous whitewashed buildings, many with pretty, interior courtyards. Most of the houses have flat roofs, which gives the impression of the village flowing picturesquely and symmetrically down to the bay. It is overlooked by the historic Acropolis that sits on a hill just beyond and above the village and juts up from the sea, flanked by two natural harbours.

The surrounding region is believed to have been inhabited from ancient times, although archaeological evidence has so far only attested to use beginning in the 9th c. BC.

A monumental entranceway (propylon), installed around the same time, followed by an elegant Doric stoa, also adorned the site, while a theatre with twenty-six tiers of seats can be seen carved into the hill's western slope. Roman remains on the acropolis include the Ionic Stoa of Psythiros (2nd c. AD) and a Diocletian-era temple (late 3rd c. AD). The Knights Hospitaller strengthened the castle on the rock in the 15<sup>th</sup> C. with crenelated walls and four large towers.

For more information please visit:

[https://www.rhodesguide.com/travelguide/rhodes\\_monuments.php?ssp=8](https://www.rhodesguide.com/travelguide/rhodes_monuments.php?ssp=8)

## Ancient Kamiros

This quiet and remarkable site, 32 kms from Rhodes Town, on the foothills of Mount Akramytis, tells a tale of a rich and advanced civilization.

One of three large Doric cities, Kamiros united with Ialysos and Lindos in the 5th century B.C. The site is often compared to Pompeii although it was not buried by a volcanic eruption but rather simply abandoned and forgotten, its inhabitants leaving their hillside homes for the more luxurious life of the city centre.

In prehistoric times the Mylontian gods, who are said to have taught mankind milling and kneading, were worshipped here; a Mycenaean necropolis was excavated at Kalavarda, west of Kamiros. Findings from the Geometric period (8th century B.C.) testify to the existence of a temple dedicated to Athena on the Acropolis. It is known that the earthquake of 226 BC destroyed the Classical city. Kamiros' wealth was based on agriculture, oil, wine and figs. It was the first Rhodian city to cut its own coins, around the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

## Moni Filerimos

Moni Filerimos has a lovely setting amongst majestic cypresses and pines on the slopes of the picturesque hill where the acropolis of ancient Ialysos and the Temple of Athena once stood. The latter was transformed into a Christian temple in the 5th C. A.D. with only the baptistry remaining today. A newer church complex was built by the Knights of St John and this was later restored by the Italians who also paved the so-called "Way of the Cross". This road climbs to the top of the hill, where a huge cross rises on an observation deck, from where you can enjoy stunning panoramic views across the island.

## Symi

The island of Symi sits just a short distance north of Rhodes and, arriving there by boat, you understand immediately why Symi is described as one of the most picturesque islands with its tiers of colourful Venetian and Neo-classical houses rising gradually up the side of the horseshoe shaped harbour. The rest of the island is equally picturesque, with pretty coves, translucent water and pretty villages, but for impact it is the harbour that really does it. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the island had approximately 25,000 inhabitants, most of whom made a living from sea sponges and fishing. Today permanent inhabitants number only 3000 and tourism is their main activity.

## Tour Manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

## Grading

This tour has been graded as **Challenging**: On your feet all day, uneven terrain (e.g. cobbles).



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a rain jacket and small umbrella.

**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). This means, summer or winter, Greece is 2 hours ahead of the UK.

**Language** – Greek

**Religion** – Greek Orthodox

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports and other spots. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros other than bringing euros with you from the UK.

Banks are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

**Credit cards** – Greece remains very much a cash society, so credit cards are not always widely accepted, however, many more places are accepting these nowadays but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops that they accept credit cards, if you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments and you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before travel.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink although you should check at the hotel if the bathroom water is safe to drink as it could be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water is readily available to buy in the local shops and very reasonable priced.

**Shopping** - There are plenty of mini-markets in Rhodes for any basic supplies you might need. The mini-markets usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening.

**Stamps** - In most places you can purchase stamps at the same time you purchase postcards. This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

**Plumbing** - Unless there is information to the contrary please do not put toilet paper down the toilet. As you may know, this is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the waste pipes. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be regularly emptied by the hotel.

**Telephones/mobiles** – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that, when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

**Walking shoes** – as our days are spent in various terrains and can be a little rocky or uneven underfoot, we recommend that you bring sturdy shoes which have good gripping soles.



## Health

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a Doctor if necessary. There is normally a charge of about 60 Euros for calling out a doctor (or more, depending on the distance the doctor must travel) and there is also a charge to visit a Doctor.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**



## Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**

### Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are usually well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who, generally, will speak some English. Pharmacists will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



## Insurance

### Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

### Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

If you require medical assistance whilst abroad it is essential that you contact the emergency number of your insurance company to advise them of the situation. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of action whilst in resort.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7831 133079

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

**If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.**

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate in Rhodes,  
Pavlou Mela 3 P O Box 47 851 00  
Rhodes  
Greece

**Tel:** +30 22410 27247

**Fax:** +30 22410 22615

**Email:** [rhodes@british-consulate.gr](mailto:rhodes@british-consulate.gr)

Open to the public - by appointment only – Tuesday to Thursday, 09.00 – 13.00

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Friday, 08.00 to 15.00

Out of hours: In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. IT IS MEANT AS A GUIDE ONLY  
AND WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.