

WINTER MED RHODES STUDY VISIT AGENDA

Agenda

Tuesday 31st May 2022

19:00 Bus departure from Rodos Palace Hotel

Short study visit to **Medieval City of Rhodes**(UNESCO Heritage Centre):

The UNESCO-listed site known as the Medieval City of Rhodes is an absolute must-see destination when you vacation on our island. The Knights Hospitaller – officially the Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem – planned the fortified Gothic city when they ruled Rhodes from 1309 to 1523. Their purpose was to strengthen Rhodes to withstand sieges and other warfare threats, which were imminent at the time.

Today, the well preserved Medieval City of Rhodes counts as one of the finest examples of urban Gothic architecture in the world. The main points of interest when you visit it include:

- The Street of the Knights (officially Ippoton), lined up by seats (or “inns” – of note, Inn of Auvergne) of the Knights Hospitaller of the order’s tongues (branches) from Italy, France, Spain, and Provence. Ippoton stretches from the citadel to the port. It offers a plethora of photo ops and superb examples of Medieval architecture.
- The Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, locally known as the Kastello, the crown jewel on Ippoton Street, was the citadel of the Knights Hospitaller. It is a spectacular example of Gothic architecture, one of the best-preserved in Greece. The citadel dates from the 7th century, while the palace was completed in the 14th century. It boasts some 150 rooms, some of which are open to the public as part of the palace museum.
- The Archaeological Museum of Rhodes housed inside the former hospital of the Knights of Saint John relates the history of the city from the 9th century BC to Medieval times.

Most of the buildings erected by the Knights Hospitaller still stand, but the face of their Gothic city was somewhat altered during the Ottoman era when mosques and other buildings took replaced some of the older structures, especially in the Lower Town.

21:00 Dinner at Sissitio Restaurant, Sokratous 149 & Ippodamou str, <https://www.sissitio.gr/>

23:30 Bus departure from Medieval Town

Wednesday 1st June 2022

09:30 Bus departure fro Rodos Palace Hotel

Filerimos Mountain (case study of Religious Tourism) :

Also known as the Acropolis of Ancient Ialysos, it is famous as the site of a former Catholic monastery, which is no longer in use, and several other religious landmarks:

1. The Catholic Monastery of Filerimos is well preserved and quite the star attraction of the site. Erected by the Knights Hospitaller, destroyed by Ottoman Turks, and rebuilt by the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, the monastery no longer operates in its religious capacity. Visitors may enter the complex for a small fee.
2. The Church of Our Lady of Filerimos is inside a temple formerly dedicated to Athena Polias, converted into a basilica and rededicated dedicated to Virgin Mary (Panagià). Inside the church you can see a copy of the icon of Our Lady of Philermos, which originated in the Holy Land, then kept inside the temple until the arrival of the Knights Hospitaller, who moved it in the monastery. Today, the original icon is on display at the National Museum of Montenegro.
3. The path to the Cross, which is sometimes called Via Dolorosa or the Way to Cavalry (Golgotha), runs between cypresses and bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the Passion of Jesus Christ, all the way to a fabulous white-washed concrete cross of Filerimos.
4. Cross of Filerimos – made of concrete, it is a 16-meter monument overlooking the surrounding landscapes with views of Ialysos, Kremasti, Sgourou, and Rhodes City in the distance. Sometimes, visitors can climb inside of the cross to the arms of the monument for even more impressive views and photo ops.

There are other monuments besides these landmarks including the ruins of the ancient city of Ialysos.

Kallithea Springs (case study of Wedding Tourism):

About nine kilometres south of the City of Rhodes, Kallithea Springs count among the gems of the island.

The Ancient Greeks knew the area well, as early as the Dorian Hexapolis era. The Knights Hospitaller were familiar with the therapeutic properties of the waters too. But the springs became popular during the Italian occupation of Rhodes. When Mario Lago was Governor of the Italian Aegean Islands from 1922 to 1936, he took several initiatives to better the lifestyle of the Italians on Rhodes. In 1927 he ordered an analysis of the waters to determine their cleansing and therapeutic benefits.

Architect Petrio Lombardy begun planning a spa complex at this location later that year, and the inauguration festivities took place on July 1st, 1929. The spa features beautiful architectural elements, including a domed Rotonda Hall, patios, exotic terraces, and pebble mosaics. The entire complex is so elegant that it is often favoured as a wedding venue.

Kallithea Springs' natural setting is fortunate too: they are in an anchorage of the Kallithea Bea, in an area with rich vegetation that further enhances the spa experience.

Acropolis of Lindos (case study of Cultural Tourism):

One of the most visited ancient sites on Rhodes, the Acropolis of Lindos dominates the namesake village from a rocky hill on the coast of the Aegean Sea. It's an impressive sight above the picturesque village with whitewashed cubic homes that contrast with the aquamarine of the Bay of St. Paul and the cobalt blue of the sea. From the top of the Acropolis of Lindos, the surrounding views are equally beguiling.

There are donkey rides available for those who want to access the top of the hill without hiking. But the walk is rewarding too, as it takes you past the Rhodian trireme – the prow of an ancient ship carved in rock – uphill and through a superb Medieval Gate to enter the Acropolis.

The most important landmarks at the site include:

- The Castle of the Knights of St. John, which dates from 1317. The architecture of the fortress follows the natural shape of the cliff. Thus the structure has an imposing appearance – as if emerging from the rock.
- The Doric Temple of Athena Lindia is an amphiprostyle tetrastyle structure erected in the 4th century BC, where Alexander the Great himself once offered sacrifices to the beloved goddess of wisdom and war.
- A 4th-century Propylaea – a gateway to the sanctuary, with a monumental staircase and a stoa.
- Remains of a Hellenistic stoa.
- The Hellenistic staircase that leads to the main archaeological site.
- The Church of St. John – built sometime between the 12th and 13th centuries.
- The Ancient Theater, on the Southwest side of the hill, below the Temple of Athena Lindia. The circular orchestra and the hollow for the spectators were carved on the hillside. The theatre could accommodate 1800 spectators.

There's only one path to access the Acropolis of Lindos – a steep road ascending the summit since antiquity.

20:00 Dinner at Kalypso Lindos restaurant <https://kalypsolindos.com/>

22:30 Bus departure from Lindos