

Walking Package Holiday Dossier
Rhodes Greece

Guided Walks

£799.00 per person

For

2009

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Introduction

Rhodes Greece is closer to Asia Minor than it is to mainland Greece, The interior of the island is mountainous, sparsely inhabited and covered with forest pine, Attavirous being the highest at 1215mtrs (3986ft) stands out as the only mountain on Rhodes not to be covered whole or in part by trees, and can be easily identified as the only white mountain on the island.

Rhodes is the fourth largest of the Greek islands and the largest of the Dodecanese group of islands. It has unrivalled history. An invader knew Rhodes to be a strategically positioned island close to Egypt and Asia Minor and has been occupied by Minoans from Crete .The Minoans are thought to have established the first shrines at Lalyssos, Kamiros and Lindos. Persians, Romans, Arabs, Knights of St John, Ottoman Turks and Italians have all left their mark on Rhodes in one way or another.

The history of Greece and Rhodes is well documented so will concentrate in informing you about what you can see when walking on Rhodes. Our aim is to give you the opportunity to enjoy the variable walks but also give you the opportunity to experience the Greek way of life if you desire. Depending on the time of year we can arrange for you to spend some time with the locals picking your own olives and see how they are prepared for eating or for making olive oil, a really enjoyable experience I can ensure you. Or what could be better than picking your own fresh oranges from the trees around the villages of Malona and Massari; the best oranges in the World. I would argue my case with Mr Delmonte himself!

As you walk from the villages and into the countryside you will find yourself surrounded by fenced off gardens and small farms with fruit trees, vines and vegetables. These are owned and tended by individual families, the surplus from these farms are sold. Every Saturday in Rhodes Town there is a market where all of these products are sold by the local farmers, well worth a visit to see the extensive range of fruit and vegetables for sale. In the fertile areas of Rhodes there are very large farms and greenhouses, open fields of tomatoes, melons, runner beans etc. The climate of Rhodes allows for the possibility to have two harvests a year. Some of our walking routes ramble through these farms and you can smell the aroma of fresh produce.

Leaving the farms and gardens we venture into the open, variable countryside, that Rhodes offers. You could be walking in pine forests, olive groves, meadows, stony areas covered with herbs. Some of the mountainous areas on first appearance seem to be barren solid rock but even these have plants, small animals and of course goats. The goats are in abundance, some domestic and some wild.

There are wild deer on Rhodes but are difficult to encounter.

Lizards are quite common; they come in various sizes and colors as well as the snakes.

The snakes are rarely seen on our routes but you could be fortunate as some are very colorful. Some are venomous but are not deadly to humans. {For your peace of mind, all of our walking guides are trained to deal if an incident should occur.} There are plenty of interesting spiders and insects on the Island and different species can be seen at different times of the year.

A variety of birds live on the Island, the larger birds can be seen in the mountains.

Language

Greek is the main language on the island; some Greek people also speak English, German, and Italian. The more we leave the coast line and walk in the interior of the island only Greek is spoken, but the Greeks are so friendly and will talk to you in Greek regardless if you understand or not, learning a few phrases in Greek is always good.





The Walking Routes

The type of route you choose will be dependant on your interests and capabilities, all routes are pre-walked by our guides before we take any persons on them, they are then discussed to evaluate there grade, within one category say Forest Walks we might have up to 5 different walks to choose from, this allows us to pick the best route for you depending on the season, weather your requirements and ability. We are developing new walking routes all the time on Rhodes being the interior of the island is so sparsely inhabited some areas can only be found on foot and have been forgotten about by the locals due to infertile ground, but for us might provide a walking wonderland.

A Typical Day Walking

Transport will take you to the walking route start where you will meet your guide/s. We take a leisurely pace on 1-3 boot graded routes that is controlled by you, you will be asked if you are happy with the walking pace, its your holiday we want you to enjoy your time with us.. (If you have picked a high grade walk you will be expected to have walking experience, as some of the 4 boot graded routes will take over 6hrs constant walking not including breaks or taking photographs, so a level of fitness will be required.) We like to get a reasonably early start as the morning is the best time of the day for walking. Exact times of transport pickups and the walk starts will be given to you on the itinerary on your arrival at your accommodation in Rhodes.

Walking Conditions

Easy: Tarmac paths, roads.	
Moderate: Prepared walking areas, dirt tracks, forestry tracks.	
Difficult: Rough, uneven ground with some hill walking, some parts off the beaten track	
Very Difficult: Rough terrain, walking experienced required	

Dependant on your choice walking grade above they all will be from September to June, (we do winter walking holiday packages), we avoid the months of July and August as they are to hot for walking, underfoot is generally dry all year, winter walking is in temperatures of 10 – 15c can become very warm midday, but it soon cools after 3.00pm January – February, night

temperatures are about 5 – 10 c a jumper or a light coat is required when frequenting the local restaurant and taverners during the winter walking months.

Walking Guides and Leaders

The guides are all English speaking, some have moved to Rhodes and have become Greek Citizens and have come to know the local people and the island very well, others work between Rhodes and North Wales as the walking seasons predict, you can have a preparatory weekend with us in North Wales if you so wish, that will inform you of your requirements, walking grades to choose and give you a chance to meet our guides and leaders before you go over to Rhodes.

Ecological Considerations

We believe that we are one of the most ecological aware walking companies in Rhodes. We ask for your full consideration and co-operation concerning all ecological matters especially in the disposal of rubbish, what ever we take out on our walking routes we must return the rubbish and place in the bin for appropriate disposal. We ask persons to refrain from smoking on our walking routes, Rhodes is venerable to forest fires and Walking Rhodes Ltd is very aware of the ecological effect the destruction of trees has on the planet. It goes without saying no rubbish is to be burnt but brought back for the correct disposal. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let our walking leaders know and inform us at Walking Rhodes Ltd on your return. It is with yourselves, the tourists, the locals, and tour operators co-operation that we can ensure that our walking routes are as eco-friendly as possible.

Practical Information

Passport and visas

Citizens of EC countries require a valid passport to visit Greece, but do not need a visa.

Accommodation

Lindos Horizon can be seen on our website with pictures in the gallery, they start as twin rooms with on-suite and basic self catering facilities, there is a swimming pool and snackbar for relaxing after a walk, there are boot washing areas and washing machine facilities if required.

Food

Greek food is well known, generally the hot dishes are meaty and cooked with lashings of olive oil, all special diets and vegetarian meals can be catered for, (please inform us of your requirements when booking your walking holiday, allowing time for preparations to be made for you). Greek salad with feta cheese and more olive oil (and vinegar) are a must and liking for tomatoes does help. Breakfast will be varied from fruit, continental to cooked.

You will have a choice of various filled rolls fruit and biscuits etc. to place in your lunch box for the days walk.

On our return tea and cakes will be waiting for us, allowing us to retire for an hour or two before the evening meal will be ready.

The snackbar will be open all day, if you require drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) set at local rates.

Transport

Within the package holidays all transport is already paid, we shall organize transport to and from the walking routes, if you so wish we can arrange transport for an evening out in a local village for an evening meal and drinks in the tavernas.

Baggage

You are limited to one case 15-20 kilos depending on airline and one hand luggage, a laptop will count as one hand luggage. No liquids or sharp object such as nail files are allowed in your hand luggage, please ensure that your bags are clearly marked with your name, inside as well as outside in case the labels are detached.

Vaccinations and medical precautions

No vaccinations are necessary for Greece and health problems in Rhodes are very rare. The only medical precaution you wish to take is a small first aid kit to cater for blisters, headaches, coughs and colds etc. A high factor sun protection lotion and sunhat is essential, as sunburn can be severe on hot days, on the mountains where it is breezier and cooler, you do not realize you are getting burnt until you get back to your hotel. Water will be supplied at the hotel before we start, ensure you have plenty of water with you every day.

Currency

Greece uses Euro, the rate fluctuates and the rate can be found on www.xe.com
There are several ATM in Lindos and banks.

Electricity

220 volts AC, 50 Hz. As the socket outlets require continental plugs it is advisable to carry an adapter if you intend to bring any electrical items with British plugs.

Time

GMT + 2 hours

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones do work very well in Rhodes. If you have not used your mobile phone outside Britain before then we recommend you make the appropriate changes to reduce the cost of using your mobile phone in Rhodes. We ask you not to use your mobile phone

while walking on our routes as of courtesy to others, if you require to contact or be contacted during the walk we ask you to do it discretely. If any body requires to get in touch with you while you are in Rhodes then please use our Greek office number tel: 22440 31100 during office hours.

Included in the price

Flights and transport
Transfers to and from airport in Rhodes
Accommodation
Meals, breakfast, packed lunch, tea and cakes, evening meal.
Service of an English speaking walking guide.
One evening in local village transport and evening meal.

Not included in the price

Tips
Drinks and personal spending during walks and evenings.
Travel insurance

Flights

During the holiday season which is May to October there will be direct flights to Rhodes. From November to April flights go to Athens and then on another plane to Rhodes. If you so wish you may extend your holiday to have a couple of days in Athens to experience this old city.

Walking days only

If you wish to make your own way to Rhodes and join us for walking days only please see our website www.walking-rhodes.com/dailywalkingoffers

Clothing and Equipment

If you do happen to forget something we do have walking equipment hire facility. When walking you must not worry about how you look, comfort and protection against the sun are prime importance, it is very rare to have full rainy days in Rhodes but it does happen, have a light rain coat and rain trousers in case. (we have carried ours for 3 weeks and never took them out and that was in January), a number of thin layers are better than one thick one. We don't really get any cold conditions in Rhodes but just bear in mind what time of year you are coming over and it gets cool to cold in the evenings over the winter months.

You need to bring with you the following items:

Rucksack minimum 20ltrs

Walking Boots (must be worn and tried before proper use)

Thick socks - several pairs

Long walking trousers - must be summer type.

Gaiters for walking off track, to protect lower leg from short, thorny bushes.

Walking top, build up in layers, will be cool morning and evening.

Water proof jacket and trousers with no liners

Sun hat; remember about the back of your neck.

Sun cream, always use high factor, you will be exposed to a dry hot wind.

Water carrier, ideal type is the bladder type for drinking on the move.

Insect Repellent

We will have first aid equipment at all times but if you bring your own that's fine.

Sun glasses, there is a glare from the rocks and sun glasses are a must have, always buy a pair with UV protection