

# DESTINATION RHODES

A short visit in early June

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**This is a firm favourite with tourists due mainly to its historical significance. Day trips by boat offer numerous opportunities for water sports and visits to other parts of the island.**



# DESTINATION RHODES

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**Throne of Helios:**

## the History of Rhodes 9D Experience

We learnt about the islands history in a 3D presentation which told us that the Ottoman Turks conquered the island in 1523 and remained on the island up until 1912. Then the Italians took over the island until it was finally reunited with Greece in 1947. Both of these facts are no doubt the reason why it does not ooze the Mama Mia vibe associated with most Greek islands and why Italian cuisine featured alongside Greek dishes.

According to the Greek mythology, the god of the sun “Helios” had fallen in love with nymph Rhodes and he transformed her into the island. In order to honour Helios and to celebrate their victory over the ruler of Cyprus, the ancient Rhodians build the statue of “The Colossus of Rhodes” between 292 and 280 BC. The Colossus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, only stood for 56 years until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 226 BC. At the Best Western where we stayed a painting on the wall of our bedroom featured the head of Helios and it featured again many times around town



LOCATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE GIANT COLOSSUS

TODAYS DEERS STANDING ON THE COLUMNS



## Mandraki Harbour

Mandraki is the main harbour of Rhodes and here the Colossus of Rhodes was built. Today, the statues of two deers named “Elefos” and “Elafina” stand where once the feet of the colossus were placed.

In the main square at one end stands a fountain, the church of the Annunciation and the town clock. Facing seawards is the castle of Saint Nicholas - the patron saint of seamen. Today it is a lighthouse. Further on, the wide promenade continues round the harbour. It is filled with stands offering boat trips for leisure activities, water sports and visits to other parts of Rhodes and other Greek islands. This then continues round to three old stone windmills.

The promenade is flanked by a busy road and on the other side the main outstanding feature is the market. It features a magnificent entrance, round domes and an outdoor central courtyard where the old fish market once was. Today it is filled with rather tacky souvenir stores. In the colonnades on either side there are restaurants, but they’re not the best. However there was great food in the yacht club opposite.



VIEW S AROUND THE HARBOUR



## Old Town

The town's main attraction is the Old Town and like so many similar areas in many European countries it is pedestrianised. It is surrounded by 2.4 miles of medieval walls and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Rhodes has always been important due to its strategic location; hence its occupations by not only the Romans but by the Byzantines, as well as by the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem. As a result vestiges of these are to be found here. Some highlights include the Palace of the Grand Master, the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes, the Streets of the Knights, and Orfeos and Socratous Streets. In the later are many souvenir stalls.

VIEWS INSIDE OLD TOWN

BUSKERS





## Tour in a medieval sailing boat

Our pirate ship unfurled its sails and set a course around Rhodes harbour. Most boats offered day trips to places further field but this was the only one that offered an hours trip around the harbour. Apart from its galleon appearance and its pirate vibe we were not subjected to walking the plank or other pirate activity and as we sat on comfortable seats we were able to get a good view of its main historical features which complimented the city tour which we took the day before.



ON BOARD THE GALLEON

SEA VIEW OF FORTIFICATIONS

VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE MARKET





FORTIFICATIONS



VIEW TOWARDS TURKEY



VIEW SEAWARD



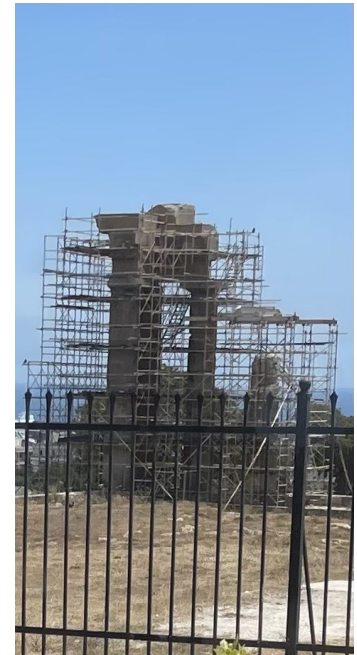
BEACH

### City Tour by bus

This tour travels alongside the medieval old town, the stunning Monte Smith Acropolis, the doric columns of the Temple of Apollo and along the coast line with views across the blue waters around the island. Turkey can clearly be seen and is only a short ride by boat

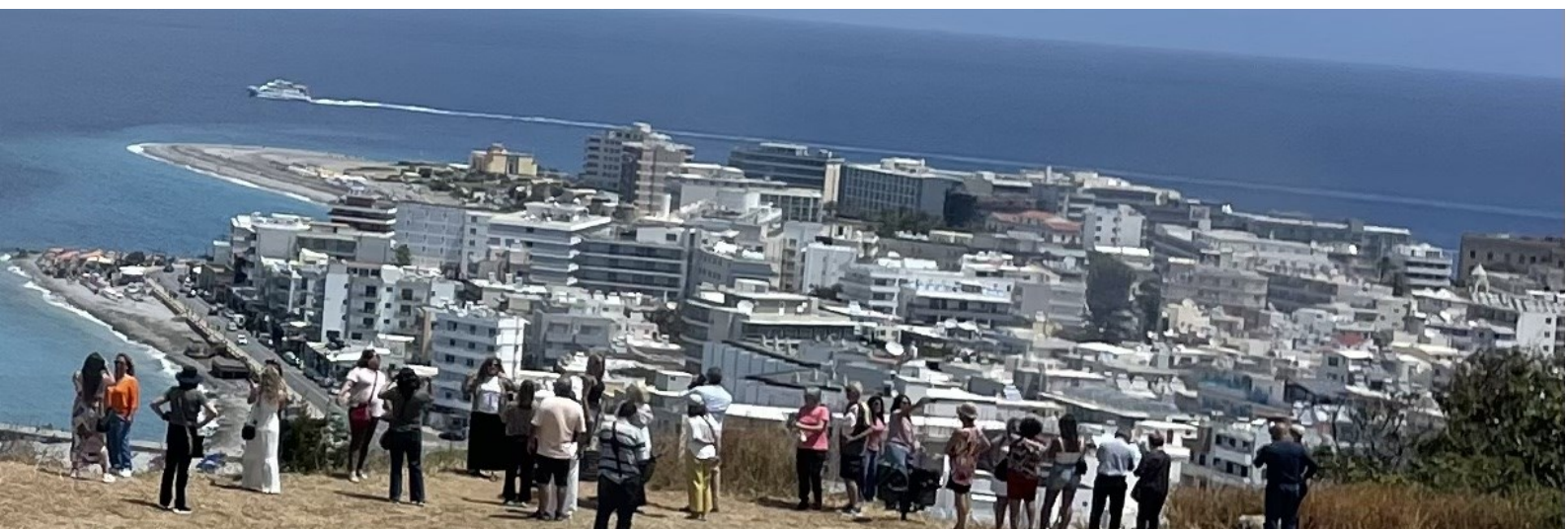


MARKET ENTRANCE



ACROPOLIS

STOP FOR A VIEW OF THE TOWN



## Dining and shopping

We stayed at the Best Western hotel which proved a great choice for a short break as it was well placed to visit all the attractions. Also a short walk from the hotel we discovered a narrow but picturesque street which was filled with great places to eat and good souvenir shops. It is a place we returned to again and again.

SHOTS FROM OUR FAVOURITE STREET

