



## THE TRIP

The author travelled with **Sunvil** ([sunvil.co.uk](http://sunvil.co.uk); 020 8568 4499), who offer a week in Rhodes (B&B) with 5 nights at the 2\* Paris Hotel in the heart of the Old Town and 2 nights at Limeri (Monolithos), including international flights and transfers; based on two sharing in mid-May 2022, for £967pp.



### Vital statistics

**Capital:** Rhodes Town

**Population:** About 115,000  
(of whom 50,000 are in Rhodes Town)

**Language:** Greek

**Time:** GMT+2

**International Dialling Code:** +30

**Visas and entry:** Rhodes is part of Greece and the EU, so UK visitors have visa-free access for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. At the time of press, visitors will need to fill in a passenger locator form (PLF) and prove full vaccination at least 14 days before travel, recent recovery from COVID-19 or a very recent negative test. Check for the latest details here: [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece/entry-requirements](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/greece/entry-requirements)

**Money:** Euro (€), currently €1.2 to the £1.



### When to go

The season in Rhodes runs from about Easter to the end of October, after which many hotels and restaurants close.

**July-August** Hot, dry, and crowded.

**April-June & Sept-Oct** Perfect for combining sightseeing with sun and sea. Cheaper than the summer too.

**Nov-March** Very quiet and whatever is open is much cheaper. Weather cooler and less reliable. A time to explore local Rhodes.



### Health & safety

General safety in Rhodes is similar to the UK. For the latest information on any booster jabs to consider and health advice, see [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk).

Measures against COVID-19 are generally a bit more stringent. At time of press, you may be required to show a COVID-19 pass as well as wearing a mask to enter indoor public spaces including museums and restaurants. Indoor areas are generally well-ventilated and some areas that cannot be ventilated may be closed. In bars and restaurants you are allowed to remove your mask once seated, or of course, you may prefer to eat outside, which, unless you are unlucky with the weather, is possible for at least three of

the four seasons. See the **FCDO** site (gov.uk) for the latest information.



### Getting there

Multiple airlines offer the four-hour flight to Rhodes from London and regional airports, including **British Airways**; prices from around £150. Rhodes Diagoras International Airport sits on the north-west coast, a 35-40-minute drive from Rhodes Town.

Taxis and car hire are readily available.

**Car is the easiest way to travel** if going beyond Rhodes Town and Lindos. The author had a car from Butterfly (https://butterfly-rentacar.eu). Distances are not large and main roads are excellent. Lindos is about an hour's drive from the capital, the Cape about 1hr45mins. There are also buses and tourist day trips from Rhodes Town.



### Cost of travel

Costs are generally lower than in the UK at any given level of comfort – and all levels are available from basic to luxury. Spring and autumn are cheaper than summer. You can eat extremely well without burning too much of a hole in your pocket, especially if you know that starters are often the size of main courses.



### Accommodation

There's plenty of choice and it is easy to avoid the big chain hotels that cluster in Rhodes New Town and along the coast. Simply pick an historic or village location where only small establishments fit onto the tiny alleys.

**Paris Hotel** (www.paris-hotel-rhodes.gr/en). Rooms are simple 2\* but the large garden courtyard is a wonderful oasis of bonsai ficus trees, complete with part-covered al fresco bar/restaurant. Its location in the heart of the medieval city is hard to beat. Owner Paris will collect you and luggage from the nearest Old Town gate. Doubles/twin B&B from about £80.

**Melenos**, Lindos (www.melenoslindos.com). A beautiful boutique hotel terraced into the hillside between the top of the village and the base of the acropolis. It boasts Ottoman-style décor with huge comfortable platform beds and sea views. Staff will collect you from the car park at the main road. Doubles B&B from £197.

**Limeri**, Monolithos (www.limeri.gr) An exceptionally good-value 10-room guesthouse in the village, walking distance from the castle. Excellent restaurant

servicing rustic local food and a bonanza breakfast. Very comfortable beds too and some rooms with modern wood-burning stoves for cooler weather. There's an open fire downstairs in winter when the hotel remains open at weekends. Doubles B&B from €69 (£59), €49 (£41) without breakfast.



### Food & drink

Rhodes is full of excellent local food at reasonable prices. Best to avoid the touts; really good places rarely need to drag you in.

**Auvergne Café & Wine Bar** (www.auvergnecafe.gr). At the bottom of the Street of the Knights, the original 15th-century home to the Knights of Auvergne comes complete with a cobbled courtyard shaded by a giant ficus tree. Serves wine from one of the largest lists in Greece, quality coffee and both traditional and international food. For an excellent-value light lunch try the fava-bean paste with soft red onion and crispy Rhodian pitta (€4.50/££4).

**To Marouli** (www.facebook.com/tomarouli). This unpretentious vegetarian-vegan restaurant in the heart of the Old Town serves modern takes on traditional dishes, including delicious grilled *manouri* cheese with poached pears and rocket (€8/£6.50), and a good selection of beers.

**Mavrikos**, Lindos (+30 2244 031232) If you want to push the boat out and try something a bit different, Mavrikos offers Michelin-style unusual twists on traditional recipes. I'd especially recommend the fennel cooked in white wine with feta paste (€13/£11) and a chat with co-owner Michalis Mavrikos if he isn't too busy.

**Meltemi**, Rhodes New Town (www.facebook.com/MeltemiRestaurant). At the start of the municipal beach that leads up to the northern tip of the island, with views across the sea to Turkey, this is a beach taverna with very good food – expect a varied menu, all the staples and large portions. The smoked cheese with grilled zucchini (€7.50/£6) is particularly delicious.



### Further reading & information

**The Blue Guide** is excellent for history but is not so up-to-date (last published in 1997).

**The Greek National Tourist Office** information on Rhodes can be found at www.visitgreece.gr/islands/dodecanese/rhodes.

In Rhodes, **the Tourist Information Office** just outside the Old Town (3 Averof Street) is very helpful.

## RHODES HIGHLIGHTS

### 1 The mysteries of the moat

Between the outer city walls of the Old Town of Rhodes dips the deep, dry moat. Walking around it offers an invader's eye view that makes it quite clear why this city stood secure for 200 years.

### 2 The Ottoman cemetery

Under-visited and overgrown. Where Ottoman cannons stood to fire on the Knights in 1522, there is now a derelict mosque, a little yellow villa once lived in by Lawrence Durrell and, half-hidden beneath untamed vegetation, a multitude of white-stone tombs, skilfully carved with turbans and fez hats, curlicues and calligraphy.


### 3 A swim beneath the fortifications

A local tip led us to a dip off a tiny patch of beach directly below the fortifications of the Old Town, close to Elaftherias Gate, where clear water lapped at the stony sand.

### 4 Faraklou Castle

Originally built by the Byzantines, this fort was the first to fall to the Knights in 1306. There are views along the coast and at the base of the cliff are two natural caves used to hide people and goods during the Second World War (bring a torch).

### 5 Munching melekouni in Monolithos

*Melekouni* is Rhodes' traditional energy bar – a mix of sesame seeds and thyme honey, sometimes with added orange or spices. It gives you such a boost that it was considered a form of doping at the Ancient Greek Olympics, with athletes banned from eating it. 

### W WANDERLUST RECOMMENDS

Greece: *Wanderlust* Travel Guide – <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/destinations/Greece/> There's plenty of video guides around of Rhodes Old Town on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)