

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips

### INSIDER TIP ▶ A night with the locals

When they want to hear good Greek music and dance with their friends, many Rhodians go to the small *Café Chantant* in the Old Town to listen to live traditional *rembétiko* music → p. 45

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Dog-headed saint

Modern Orthodox Christians usually find it embarrassing that their ancestors sometimes portrayed famous saints with a dog's head instead of a man's. That's why many local guides fail to mention the representation of *St Christopher* in *St Mary's Church* in *Lindos* → p. 59

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Beach alternatives

The crowds flock to the main beach at *Faliráki*. But just a stone's throw away, there are *four small rocky bays* just waiting for holidaymakers who want to sit back and relax without all the hustle and bustle → p. 77

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Romantic (k)nights with air conditioning

The *Cava d'Oro* in *Rhodes Town* offers comfortable, modern rooms in an over 700-year-old house by the city walls → p. 45

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Idyllic village

*Koskinoú* is a quiet place with hardly any tourism. Stately old houses line the narrow streets and a small museum depicts village life as it was in days gone by → p. 78

### INSIDER TIP ▶ A dip at the ends of the Earth

Strangers hardly ever venture out to the two *pebble beaches* at *Cape Fourni* below *Monólithos* (photo above) → p. 54

### INSIDER TIP ▶ First dive

If you're new to scuba diving, the *Vasilía* will take you to *Rhodes' dive sites* for a first taste of an oxygen mask in the undersea world 5–6 m (approx. 180 ft.) below the surface → p. 98

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Sweet delights

At the *Artemida House* near *Psinthos*, you can enjoy rural tranquility and savour excellent *Rhodian specialities*. The delicious dessert, made to a secret recipe and served at no extra cost, is reason enough for a visit → p. 72

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Eating "Germans"

In the taverna *En Plo* in *Stegná*, the rare brown rabbitfish is served. The Greeks call this fish *Germanoi*, so they find it particularly amusing to watch as German tourists eat this fish → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Surfin' Kremastí

In summer, the sea off *Kremastí* is whipped up by strong winds, making this an ideal place for *kite surfing* → p. 99

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Classy veggie burgers

In the remote mountain village of *Laérma*, the *Ingo* taverna serves up probably the best veggie burgers on the island → p. 65

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Day trip to Sými

Excursion boats take visitors daily to the tiny neighbouring island of *Sými*. The main town with its many old captain's houses is straight out of the pages of a glossy calendar (photo below) → p. 48

### INSIDER TIP ▶ A mountain village holiday

If you stay at *Hotel Thomás* in *Monólithos*, you will find yourself in a quiet mountain village. Sign up for cooking classes, take part in extensive wine tastings or rent a mountain bike at no extra cost → p. 54

### INSIDER TIP ▶ Classy souvenir

In *Kiotári* you can bring along your washed-up treasures from the beach and have them *set in silver* – a very special and unique souvenir → p. 64

### INSIDER TIP ▶ A stargazer's delight

At the *Hipparchos Observatory* with its star-garden and adjacent café, the owner enthusiastically leads his guests around the universe with good telescopes → p. 96



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● *Tour of the ramparts*

A stroll through the park-like *ramparts* in Rhodes Town will give you an idea of the colossal task facing the Ottoman invaders who lay siege to Rhodes in the 16th century. In contrast to the city walls, access is free and possible at all times → p. 39

### ● *Cycling through the forests*

If you stay at the Hotel *Élafos* on the mountain Profitis Ilias or just stop by, you can rent one of the mountain bikes standing next to the front door at the reception desk for free and head off into the thick forests of the island's second-highest mountain → p. 83

### ● *A lap of the modern stadium*

On Monte Smith you'll find the remains of an ancient temple, a theatre and a *stadium*, accessible day and night. Feel free to do a few laps on the running track, no one will stop you – and there's no admission charge or entry fee! → p. 37

### ● *Picture book of faith*

The church in the *Thári* Monastery near Láerma is decorated entirely with frescos. They tell stories from the Bible, which you can look at without paying for the privilege. With a bit of luck, you might even be invited for a mocha by the monks (photo)! → p. 66

### ● *Cinema – for free*

The *International Ecofilms Festival* takes place every year in the third week of June. The open-air cinema directly behind the Town Hall in the island's capital shows over 100 films from around the world free of charge → p. 104

### ● *Great perspectives – in every respect*

From the *Tsambika* Monastery, high up above the east coast, you can enjoy one of the finest Rhodes panoramas. Taking a free look at the guest book of the Virgin Mary will also give you a perspective on the motives of those locals who have made the pilgrimage up here → p. 83

● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

## ONLY ON RHODES

Unique experiences

### ● *Dancing under the stars*

Rhodians prefer to spend balmy summer evenings outdoors so the open-air discos are quite popular. One of the largest is the *Ampitheatre Boutique Club* near Lindos where guests dance under the stars with a magnificent view of the bay and the castle bathed in moonlight → p. 61

### ● *Picnic with a view*

At the chapel *Ágios Geórgios Kálamos* high above the Aegean Sea, you can sit in the shade under the trees at the tables for the parish fair and enjoy a picnic with a view across the sea to the neighbouring islands → p. 51

### ● *A visit to the synagogue*

Rounding off the multicultural mosaic that is Rhodes, the *synagogue* in Rhodes Town is worth a visit. Representatives of the small community, which was re-formed after the Holocaust, give you an insight into their history and faith → p. 40

### ● *Culinary highlight of the island*

Typical farmhouse specialities on Rhodes include yoghurt with honey and *soúma*, a spirit distilled from the remains of grapes after pressing. The best place to savour both is in the rustic mountain village of *Síana* (photo) → p. 55

### ● *A classic coffeehouse*

At the *Café Aktaeion* in the capital, judges and lawyers get together in the mornings while the elegant ladies of Rhodian society gather here in the afternoons. There's also a constant stream of people with time on their hands, both young and old → p. 41

### ● *Rustic village*

The mountain village of *Mesanagrós* paints a fine picture of the decline of the island villages in the pre-tourism days of the 20th century → p. 53

### ● *Feasting at Mama Sofia's*

Things that Rhodians love to eat and which tourists hardly ever find on their plates are on the menu here in this taverna in Rhodes Town. Scary-looking *foúskes*, for example (barnacles) or *simiaká* – shrimps, which are even tinier than the ones you know from home → p. 41



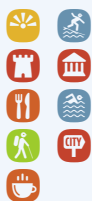
# ONLY IN



# DISCOVERY TOURS

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## RHODES AT A GLANCE – THE WHOLE ISLAND IN ONE DAY



**START:** ① Rhodes Town  
**END:** ① Rhodes Town

**Distance:**  
📏 236 km/147 miles

**COSTS:** entrance fees 6 euros per person  
**WHAT TO PACK:** swimming kit, sunscreen, flat shoes with non-slip soles for the visit to the castle and the excavations, I.D. for discounts (senior citizens/students)

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** pick up the keys for your rental car on the evening before around 9pm if the rental agency does not open until after 8am, and return them at 9pm the following day. Some renters allow you to return the car the next morning before they open at no extra charge.

13 hours  
Driving time  
4.5 hours

Every corner of the earth has its own special charm. If you want to explore all the many different facets of this region, head off the beaten track or get tips for the best stops, breathtaking views, hand-picked restaurants or the best local activities, then these customised discovery tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

This route takes you in an anticlockwise direction around the island. The advantage is that you can still get to Lindos in daylight even if you only want to hire a car for one day. Experience all the natural beauty of Rhodes and see the most important archaeological sites, romantic churches, a small fishing harbour and isolated villages. You'll still have time for a dip in the sea if you get on the road early enough.

**08:00am** Depart from ① Rhodes Town → p. 32 in the morning and head towards the airport. From the centre of Ialissós (Triánta) → p. 47, follow the signs up to

① Rhodes Town

13 km/8 mi