

The city outside the Walls





There is so much to see and experience in Rhodes, there are so many choices for visitors, that they could never lose interest. One could spend days walking in center of the City, which offers excellent examples of European Architecture of the early 20th century.

The **Post Office building**, was constructed during the first years of the Italian occupation by the Italian architect Florestano di Fausto. During the Italian occupation of the island it was used as the Post-Office (Palazzo delle Poste) and its function today remains the same.

The **Prefecture of the Dodecanese** building, formerly the Italian Governor's Palace, was built in 1927. It is a combination of different architectural styles and is reminiscent of the Doge's Palace in Venice.

The **Evangelismos Church** (Church of the Annunciation), the Town Hall and the National Theatre are a few more buildings that keep the memories of the island's Italian period alive.



A stroll around the **Mandraki**, the small marina with statues of the Rhodian deer at its entrance, is an experience not to be missed. Surrounding the marina, which hosts visiting sailboats and yachts, are the **traditional windmills** and the **Fort of Saint Nicholas**.

Magnificent indeed is the view of the city that visitors enjoy as they approach the island by boat or on one of the many luxury cruise ships that dock in Rhodes throughout the year. The multicultural character of Rhodes is also evident at the center the new city. Next to the Prefecture Building stands the



Murat Reis Mosque with its elegant minaret. In the square around the mosque the ruins of the ancient walls were discovered together with stone catapult balls marked with their weight.

Visitors can also enjoy the sun and the blue sea at the cosmopolitan **Elli beach** at the northern tip of Rhodes town. It is one of the longest beaches on the island dotted with multi-coloured umbrellas, many canteens and a diving platform called the "Trabolino".



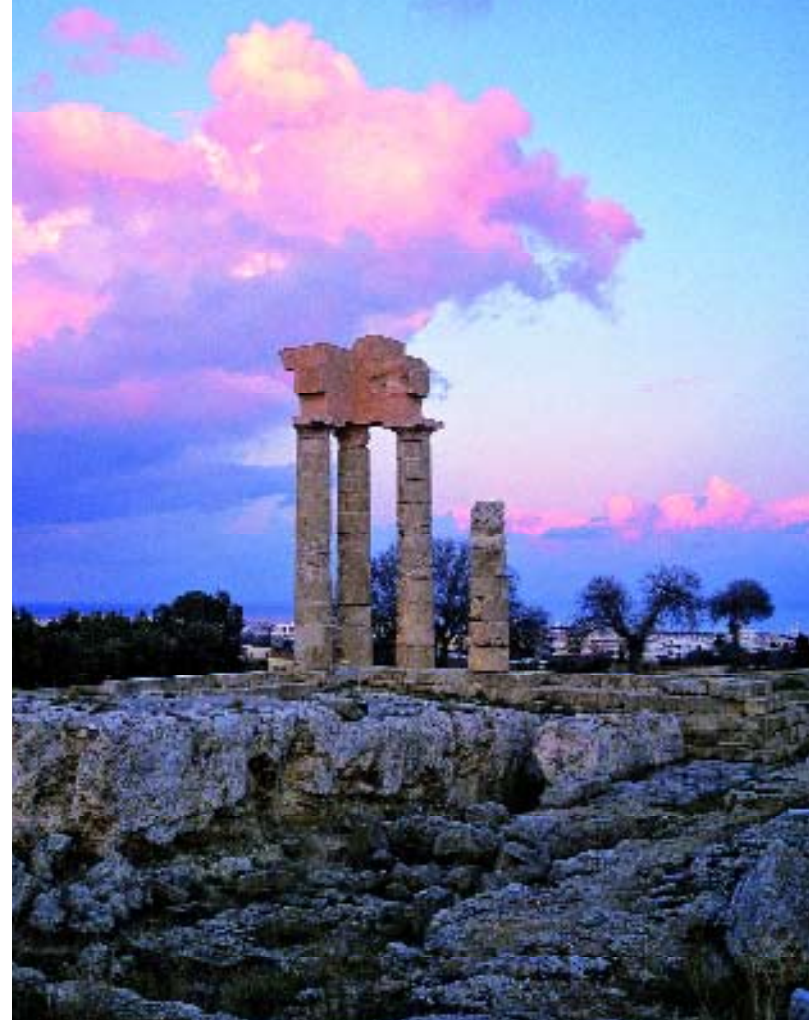
Modern hotels line the beach as well as the beautifully renovated, historic **Grande Albergo delle Rose** which operates today as a Casino and five-star boutique hotel.

A must is a visit to the **Aquarium** at the northernmost tip of Rhodes Island, a few steps from the city center. It is also one of the most important marine research centers in Greece. The original building was constructed in 1935 and is a blend of local and Art Déco architecture, combined with nautical elements. In the underground aquarium the visitor can see

many of the species living in the Aegean sea. The original interior of the Aquarium, which has been preserved, is decorated with porous rocks and natural seashells, in order to create the impression of an underwater cave.

Rodini Park is a paradise of meandering streams and paths amidst oleander bushes, cypress, maple and pine trees. Rodini is reputed to be the site of the famed School of Rhetoric where prominent Greeks and Romans, including Julius Caesar, Cato the Younger, Cicero, Pompey, Brutus, Cassius and Mark Antony studied.





Also in the park is a 3rd-century BC necropolis (cemetery) with tombs carved into the rock in the Doric-style as well as the Tomb of Ptolemy.

Saint Stefens Hill known as Monte Smith, after the English Admiral Smith who monitored the movements of French ships in the strait in Napoleonic times, marks the site of the Acropolis of ancient Rhodes. This monumental area formed one of the most important centres of worship, education and recreation for the citizens of ancient Rhodes.

At the top of the hill are the remains of Hellenistic temples, the most visible of which are the majestic columns of the Temple of Apollo. Below the temple is the Hellenistic stadium, built in the 3rd century BC, where the athletic events of the Aleia Games took place. Those were part of the major festival of the ancient Rhodians held in honor of the sun god, Helios. Next to this stadium once stood one of the two known Gymnasia of ancient Rhodes, where philosophy, grammar, rhetoric and music were taught.