

ΛΕΡΟΣ – LEROS ISLAND



In the northern part of Dodecanese lies the island of Leros, which was firstly inhabited in the 4th millennium that is the end of the Neolithic period. Since then many remnants of both the ancient and the newer civilizations have been found.

*The largest natural port of the Mediterranean is found in the significant town of Leros, **Lakki**.*

***Lakki** is also famous for its unique architecture, with masterly buildings.*

Upon arriving at the port of Lakki, the visitor can see the remarkable, **Film & Theatre** building, which was constructed according to the Italian architecture, but was destroyed during the 2nd World War and was recently renovated (in 2009).

Right behind the Film & Theatre building, one finds the old market place of the town with a characteristic clock tower, built during the Italian occupancy as well.



Leros due to its strategic geographical port in Lakki, had been a major Italian naval station of the eastern Mediterranean in the decade of 1930.



The Italians used to call Leros the “Aegean Malta” and they invested a great deal on it. They built an excellent naval station created advanced infrastructure and even attempted to drill the mountains.

It is said that Lakki used to be just a huge pit with abundant water which they decided to desiccate by planting numerous eucalyptus trees which thrive on water.

Continuing one’s voyage in the island, one can visit the war museum Tunnel in the area of Merikia which is near the central port in Lakki.

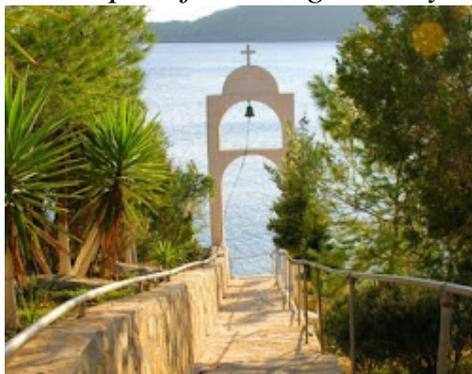
*Right under the Platanos quarter lies **Pandeli**. A small picturesque village with genuine characteristics.*



Old traditional homes, boats, fish taverns, yachts, all together compose a unique idyllic picture with the small island of St. Kyriaki in a blue background.

***Xerocampos** is a maritime small village just 7 Km away from the St. Marina, in the south part of the island.*

*There is an old castle (Paliocastro) or the **Castle of Lepides**, which is older than Virgin Mary Castle in St. Marina. It is build on top of the ruins of the Ancient Acropolis, which is dated in 2500 B.C. Nowadays, there is a chapel of the Virgin Mary.*



In Xerocampos there is also the chapel of Virgin Mary the “Kavouradena” which is actually hooked on the sea rocks.

***Gourna** is a large beach. Near by Gourna beach, is located the St. Isidore chapel of unique and exceptional natural beauty, right on top of a sea rock, literally in the middle of the sea.*

The visitor can enjoy a rare and magnificent sunset from there.



***Blefoutis, Partheni** lies in the northern part of the island. A small fishing village in between the sea and a very fertile valley, it is said that it took its name from the virgin Artemis (**Diana**: an ancient goddess) whose **sanctuary** was built there.*

*The nearby church of **St. Kioura** has excellent hagiographies, done by political banished artists, who used an unusual technique.*

Archeological Museum, Agia Marina



The small, but exquisite museum situated in a restored neo-classical building, dating back to 1882, displays a large, impressive collection of findings, some of them dating back to the Neolithic period as well as steles, coins, remains of mosaics and various potteries.

Folklore & Historical Museum “Manolis Isichos”, Alinda



An elegant old mansion, former summer house of Paris Belenis, compatriot and benefactor, is today the home of the Historical & Folklore Museum giving its visitors a good summery of the island’s history and its people. On the ground floor a surgery room from the period of 1930/1940 is on display. The second floor is entirely dedicated to the warship “Queen Olga” and its history.

The Castle of Leros-Virgin Mary's chapel.

The real jewel of the island is the Castle of Virgin Mary, which dominates over it and the breath taking view from up the hill, remains marked in the visitor's mind.

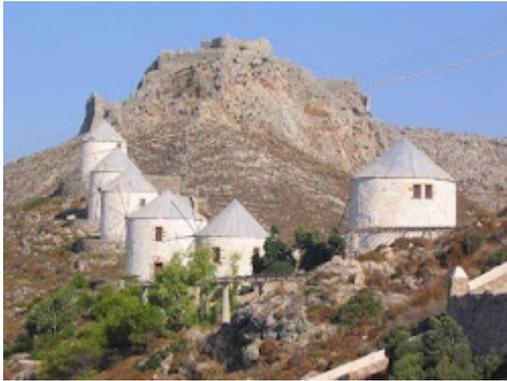
The medieval castle of Padelis or of Platanos, is located on the top of a hill in the eastern central part of the island and on the east of the main inhabiting area of St. Marina-Platanos, as well.

A location, which protects from the sea winds and of major importance in the sea ways of the area and as such it played a crucial role during its long historical course.

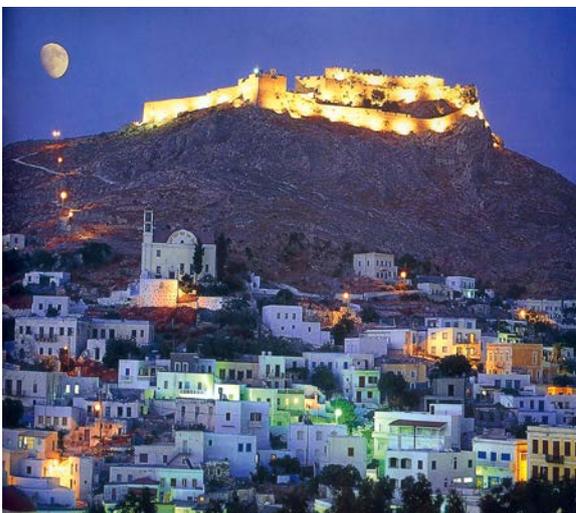
It is the most important medieval monument of the island and one of the most beautiful places in the Dodecanese. Built over the town of Platanos, stand grandiose and majestic.



Ecclesiastical Museum, Kastro



The museum is situated next to the church of the Holy Mother inside the walls of the Kastro. A very rich collection of rare manuscripts, sacred books, icons and various other religious relicts are arranged in a small, but imposing museum. In one of the rooms you will find a well equipped library.



Tunnel Museum, Merikia



A recently opened Museum situated in one of the uncountable tunnels, built and used by the Italians (Depots of Munitions etc.). The well equipped exhibition brings back all the memories of recent history, especially concerning the fierce battles during World War II. which are documented by a video presentation.

*There are also... Two private historical museums concerning the battle of Leros and the 2nd World War in general.
Private Museum "A. KANARI" at Platano, Tel. +30 22470 23145
Private Museum "I. PARAPONIARI" at Ag. Irimi, Lakki, Tel No. +30 22470 23158*

*LEROS INSTITUTE OF HISTORY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
e-mail: lerosbattle@gmail.com*

Traditional Festivals (or feasts)

Traditional festivals take place in the island of Leros, during the summer period, as well as religious celebrations.

*The most outstanding of all is the one of **Virgin Mary** on the **15th of August** of course.*

*On the **17th of July** one can enjoy, the celebration of **St. Marina** and at **the end of the month** the very successful festival which includes a presentation of old traditional ways in harvesting, in the area of **Gourna**. The **27th of August** there is a major religious celebration of the patron saint of **Xerocampos**, **St. Fanourios**, which is followed by a live presentation of how they used to produce wine in the old days.*

*Other special events include the “**wine**” festival at the end of August, a **Festival of the delicious traditional** cuisine of Leros in **Drymonas**, as well as the **Marine Athletic contests** and many **music nights at the beginning of August**.*

*In **September in Pandeli**, a very interesting happening is the **fisherman’s festival**.*