Rhodes Greece Port Guide

Lindos-Acropolis

Includes:
Maps of Medieval Old Town with 71 points of interest,
A Walking Tour of Old Town, Maps of Rhodes City with
29 points of interest, and a Tour of Lindos-Acropolis
Cruise ships and ferry boats dock at the northern tip of Rhodes (Ródos, Rydos) Island in the city of Rhodes. It's a 500 foot walk from the port security gate to Virgin Mary's Gate to enter Medieval Old Town.

You could spend a few hours or all day exploring the museums, monuments, historic sites, squares, churches, mosques, shops, cafes, restaurants, and more! Old town is not very large. It measures 2370 ft N-S and 3470 ft E-W. Wear comfortable shoes; many streets are cobblestone. There are some grades, but no steep hills. You don't need a guide to walk Old Town, but you may want a guide to point out the details and explain the history.

You may also want to walk outside the gate walls and explore sites just north of Old Town. Another way to see the fortress walls and harbor is the Little Red Train that circles Rhodes City outside of Old Town.

You'll need transportation to visit sites outside Rhodes. I've taken the ship's excursion bus to Lindos and Rhodes. In retrospect, I believe a taxi tour may be a better, and more personal way to explore areas outside of Rhodes City.

GPS Coordinates

Cruise ships and terminals are often difficult to find on a map. That's why I use GPS Coordinates for locations. The coordinates can be used with any Google or Microsoft Bing map format such as “road”, “satellite”, “birdseye”, “earth”, and “terrain” to see detailed views of the location at any map scale.

The coordinates can also be used in hand-held or vehicle GPS devices. Set your device to input data in the format of Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds shown as N ddd° mm' ss.ss", W ddd° mm' ss.ss”

You can copy and paste GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Bing maps. You can also type the coordinates into the map. You don't need to type the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds. Replace these symbols with “spaces” and type the letters, numbers, comma, and decimal points into the map.

Example: The Port Security Gate GPS coordinates = N 36°26'38.8", E 28°13'55.4"

Type n 36 26 38.8, e 28 13 55.4 into the Google Map search box. The map will find the location.

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CAVEAT

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Medieval Old Town

UNESCO Description of Medieval Old Town Rhodes

The fortified medieval old town of Rhodes has many great religious, civil and military monuments, churches, monasteries, mosques, baths, palaces, forts, gates and ramparts.

In 1309, Rhodes was occupied by the Knights Hospitallers. Fortifications were built surrounding the town with strong, 12 meter thick walls and a moat 21 meters wide. It was considered impregnable and the Knights exerted influence in the eastern Mediterranean basin at the end of the Middle Ages.

The Knights Hospitallers became the strongest military order in all Christendom. The order was organized into seven ‘Tongues’, each having its own seat. The inns of the Tongues of Italy, France, Spain and Provence lined both sides of the principal east-west axis, the famous Street of the Knights (also called Ippoton Street).

The original hospice was replaced by the Great Hospital, built between 1440 and 1489, on the south side of the Street of the Knights. Today the building is an archaeological museum. Other prominent buildings are the Grand Masters’ Palace and St John’s Church. St Mary’s Church is built against the wall at the eastern end of the Street of the Knights. The Knights transformed St Mary’s Church into a cathedral in the 15th century.

The fortified town was able to repel attacks in 1444 and 1480. The knights were unable to defend against a six-month siege by Suleyman II with a force of 100,000 men in 1522.

After 1523, most of the churches were converted into Islamic mosques, e.g., the Mosques of Soliman, Kavakli Mestchiti, Demirli Djami, Peial ed Din Djami, Abdul Djelil Djami, and Dolapli Mestchiti. Throughout the years, the number of palaces and charitable foundations multiplied in the south-south-east area: the Court of Commerce, the Archbishop’s Palace, the Hospice of St Catherine, and others.

Medieval Old Town was divided into three sections

Old Town is an outdoor museum allowing visitors to experience history, see, and appreciate different cultures. In addition to the historic buildings, there are many cafes and shops. The town is alive with activity.

1) The area north of Sokratous Street was restricted to the Knights. This area includes the Palace of the Grand Masters, the Hospital, churches and buildings used by the Knights.

2) The Hora, south of Sokratous Street, is where commoners lived. It's shown on the map as the “Ottoman Quarter”. It's a large area with churches, mosques, the Turkish baths, Turkish houses, cafes, shops, etc.

The Jewish Quarter is a small area to the southeast. It's primarily a residential area.

Download the Official Tourist Map of Old Town from  http://www.rhodestaxitours.com/map.html

This taxi tour website is outstanding!!! It's a treasure trove of tourist information. It has high resolution maps you can download. I've used these maps throughout this port guide.
NOTE: I use the map number designation e.g., number 1 is the Grand Master Palace. There are many different spellings for names. I usually use the spelling of the “official” tourist maps.

1 The Grand Masters Palace  N 36°26′43.4″, E 28°13′27″

The Palace is a very popular tourist site. The museum on the ground floor has two permanent exhibits on “The city of Rhodes”. The first exhibit covers the founding of Rhodes in 408 B.C. until the Roman Empire. The second covers the 4th century A.D. until the Ottoman occupation (1522). Maps and audiovisual material provide a strong image of the island's history from antiquity to the middle ages. Open Hours: 8:00-14:40 Tuesday-Sunday Ticket Price: adults: 6 euro
2 Inn of Provence  3 Kollakio Wall

4 Holy Trinity (Agia Triada) Church (Khan Zade Mescidi)  N 36°26′42.3″, E 28°13′32″
Originally, it was a small Catholic church established by the Knights of Saint John on Ippoton Street. The Ottomans changed it to a mosque. The fresco on the arch shows God holding his crucified son in His arms.

5 Ancient shipyards Roman tetrapylon  6 Inn of France  7 Inn of Italy

8 Library of the Historical Archæological Institute (14th century Hospital)

9 The ruins of Saint John’s of the Knights Catholic church  N 36°26′44.5″, E 28°13′37.6″
On December 27th 1522 A.D., the Knights handed the island’s command to the Ottomans. Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent prayed at St. John's Church which later became the Great Mosque of Rhodes, the most important Muslim temple. It was destroyed when lightning struck a barrel of gunpowder in the basement.

Museum of Modern Greek Art The Museum of Modern Greek Art
See http://www.rhodes.gr/userfiles/3d32225-c364-4819-aea4-00cf65c58887/brochure_museummodernart_en.pdf
Collections include paintings, engravings, sculptures, drawings and documents of historical value. The central idea of all these collections is to present the history of Greece through the eyes and the soul of Greek artists of the 20th century. There are two galleries in Medieval Old Town.

10 Museum of Modern Greek Art (Art Gallery)  N 36°26′45.8″, E 28°13′37.1″
Symi Square Location
Daily: 09.00-17.00 Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Ticket Price: adults: 3 euro covers both locations

30 Museum of Modern Greek Art (Art Gallery)  N 36°26′37.3″, E 28°13′28.2″
Sokratous St Location
Open Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 09:00-15:00 Wednesday: 16:00 - 22:00
Ticket Price: adults: 3 euro covers both locations

11 Armory of de Milly  12 Naillac Pier  13 Temple of Aphrodite  14 Hasan Bei Manor  15 Inn of Auvergen

16 St Mary’s Church (Panagia tou Kastrou) (Virgin Mary of the Castle)  N 36°26′42.3″, E 28°13′38.4″
It's the largest temple in Old Town dating back to the 11th century as Greek Orthodox Church. It was rebuilt as a Catholic Cathedral by the Knights in the 15th Century. Then it was turned into the Enderum Mosque (Kantouri). The building was eventually changed to a museum. Open daily, except Mon, 8.30–3.

Photo at left from Municipal Rhodes Brochure

70 Djem Manor

71 The Decorative Arts Collection  N 36°26′43.1″, E 28°13′37.5″
The collection includes costumes, embroidery, woodwork, metalwork and pottery objects. Among them are the specimens of pottery of Nice (16th-19th centuries), Armenian dishes from the Kutahya houses, jugs with decorations of monstrous figures, local pottery samples from the villages of Rhodes, plus 19th and 20th century European Origin ceramics, woodcuts and other objects.
Open Hours: Temporary Closed  Ticket Price: 2 euro
**17 Archaeological Museum of Rhodes (former Hospital of the Knights)**  
N 36°26′41.4″, E 28°13′37.4″  

The Archaeological Museum is a very popular tourist site. It's housed in the medieval building which served as the Hospital of the Knights of St. John. Exhibits include impressive archaeological findings from Rhodes and nearby islands. It's a two-story building with an open central area.

Open Hours: 8:00-14:40 Tuesday-Sunday  
Ticket Price: adults: 6 euro

**18 Diomede de Villaragut Manor**  
**19 Inn of Spain**  
**20 Ruins of Ag. Ionnis at Kollakio (Muslim School)**

**21 Agios Markos Church**  
**22 Mark de Montalembert Foundation**  
**23 Ag. Geogios rampart**

**24 Agios Georgios St George Monastery (Chourmali mosque)**  
N 36°26′38.6″, E 28°13′22.7″

The atrium dates back to the 5th - 6th century. During restoration, the entrance doorway was uncovered showing the Virgin Mary praying between two angels. This finding is displayed inside the church. Ottomans changed the monastery to a seminary (Medrese) named “Chourmali” and the temple into a mosque. Later it was a girl’s school by the Ottomans. In the 20th century, it was transformed into houses for poor families.

**25 Towers of the early Byzantine “castle”**

**26 Suleiman Mosque**  
N 36°26′38.6″, E 28°13′27.0″

It was built in the 16th century by Suleiman the Magnificent on a hill at the end of Sokratous street. The minaret is 34.5 meters high. The mosque received an honorary distinction from Europa Nostra in 2006.

![Clock Tower](image)

Clock Tower  
N 36°26′39.4″, E 28°13′25.7″

The clock tower is next to, and just north of, Suleiman Mosque. To climb the tower, you'll need to pay 5 Euros. You'll get free exercise climbing the wooden stairs and be rewarded with great views of Old Town. When you climb back down the stairs, you can redeem your ticket for a drink of your choice at the cafe.

**27 Muslim Library**

**31 Ag Apostoleon Church**  
**32 Ag. Constantinos & Helen Church**  
**42 Byzantine fortification works**

**43 The Sindrivan Mosque**  
N 36°26′37.7″, E 28°13′40.1″

This mosque was built in 1888 to replace a mosque destroyed in a fire. The new mosque was updated in 2004.

**44 Kastellania – Municipal Library**  
**65 Inn of England**  
**69 Medieval Moat**

**Streets and Squares**

**Ippoton is the Street of the Knights.**

It's a 1000 foot-long cobblestone street lined with the Inns that were used by the Knights. As you walk the street, take note of the detail on the buildings and the coats of arms of the knights representing the different countries. The former inns are used for government offices. There is no commercial activity on this street.

**Orfeos Street,** at the west end of Ippoton Street, has many souvenir shops, cafes, etc.

**Sokratous Street** is the main commercial street in Old Town. It's packed with shops and cafes from Suleiman Mosque at the west end to **Hippokratous Square**  
N 36°26′37.2″, E 28°13′42.0″  
the main, commercial square in Old Town. You'll find many cafes and restaurants in this square.
Street of the Knights (Ippoton Street)

Looking West, up the hill on Sokratous Street to the Clock Tower and Suleiman Mosque
Tourist Sites from Sokratous Street to the South of Old Town

NOTE: The left 2/3rd of this map is generally considered the Ottoman District. The right 1/3rd is the Jewish District.
28 Hamsa Bei Mosque  
29 Ag. Paraskevi Church

Sultan Mustafa Mosque and Turkish Baths are in Arionos Square

33 Sultan Mustafa Mosque  N 36°26′34.4″, E 28°13′30.7″
The mosque dates back to 1765. It's an impressive building with an octagonal fountain in the courtyard.

34 Municipal Baths “Geni Hamam”  N 36°26′33.4″, E 28°13′29.4″
These were the second baths the Ottomans built in Rhodes; hence, they're called Yeni Hamam (New Baths).

35 Ag. Artemios Church  
36 Gate of early Byzantine “castle”

37 Mehmet Aga Mosque  N 36°26′37.8″, E 28°13′34.3″
It's at an angle to Socratous street because it faces Mecca. The wooden minaret has a roofed balcony and a stone stairway. The view is exceptional from the top. The mosque was restored in 2004.

38 Ag. Spyridon Church  
39 Ruins of the Arch. Michael Church (Palo-Christan basilica)

40 Hellenstic fortification works

41 Ibrahim Pasha Mosque  N 36°26′34.1″, E 28°13′40.8″
This is one of the oldest mosques on the island of Rhodes. It dates back to 1541.

45 Admiralty (Orthodox Bishop's residence)

46 Panagia tou Bourgou (Virgin Mary of Burgos)  N 36°26′34.4″, E 28°13′50.9″
These are ruins of a cathedral that had three aisles and four columns in a design to form pointed arches. It dates back to the 14th century. It is an impressive structure and is occasionally used for musical events. This is the first stop I make when I enter Old Town from a cruise ship via Virgin Mary's Gate. I haven't figured out how to get tourists out of the way so I can photograph this impressive structure.
47 Agia Ekaterini guest house (Ilk Michrab) 48 Ruins of the church of Ag. Ekaterini
49 Agios Panteleimon

50 Ruins of the Pangia tis Nikis Church (Virgin Mary of Victory)
It's next to St Catherine's Gate. It was one of the most important Catholic monasteries on Rhodes island.

51 Moat of windmills  52 Municipal clinic  53 Citizen Service Centre

54 New Synagogue Synagogue Shalom  N 36°26′31.9″, E 28°13′49.4″
It’s on the corner of Dosiadou and Simmiou street. It’s the oldest synagogue in Greece and the only one of six that still officiates during the Jewish New Year and the Atonement Day. The interior follows the traditional Sephardic style. The “Teva” (altar) is in the center facing southeast towards Jerusalem. There’s a sign in the yard with an inscription “Kislev 5338” (1577 A.D.).

55 Ag Ekaterini Church (Ilk Mikrab)  N 36°26′27.4″, E 28°13′47.6″
It is located on the south part of the Jewish district inside the Medieval Town. It’s a three-aisled basilica built in the 14th century. The fresco phases suggest that it was initially a one room church and aisles were added. The church was turned into a mosque given the name Ilk Michrab (first praying cavity).

56 Ag. Marina Church

57 Agia Triada in the Jewish district (Holy Trinity) – Dolapli Mosque
It's in Leontos Rodiou square. The design is the shape of a cross with a dome. The frescoes date from the 15th-16th century. It was given the name Dolapli after its transformation to a mosque.

58 Ag. Ioannis Church  59 Ag. Theodori Church  60 Medieval windmill
61 Ag. Kyriaki Church  62 Archangel Michael Church

63 Retzep Pasha Mosque
It is located in Dorieos square. Built in 1588, it's an important Ottoman building. Persian ceramics can still be seen on the exterior. This mosque cannot be visited due to renovation work.

64 Ag. Fanourios Church
It's on Fanourious street. It dates back to the 13th century A.D. The design is the shape of a cross and the interior has wonderful frescos. It officiated as a mesgıt (small mosque) during the Ottoman occupation. In 1946 the church was inaugurated and dedicated to Agios Fanourios. This church officiates today. An icon was found depicting Agios Fanourios wearing a military uniform surrounded by scenes of his martyrdom. Agios Fanourios’ first miracle was the liberation of three Cretan priests from pirates while transferring a copy of the archetypal icon to Crete.

66 Ag. Athanasios Church  67 Church of Ag. Nikolaos-St. Bernard
68 Medieval Moat Theatre  69 Medieval Moat

Evreon Martiron Square of Jewish Martyrs  N 36°26′34.2″, E 28°13′47.4″
The “Square of the Martyred Jews” (known in Greek as “Martyron Evreon”), is located in the heart of the Jewish Quarter. The present park area of the square was originally an area of Jewish homes and small shops. The area was bombed during World War II and rebuilt as a small park and square. The present fountain ornamented with three seahorses replaced a previous fountain that was destroyed during World War II.
Walking Tour of the Jewish District

Trip Advisor has published an excellent review of the history of the Jewish community in Old Town Rhodes with a walking tour of the area. See [http://www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org/juderia](http://www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org/juderia)

The review on Trip Advisor includes a detailed street walking tour map with excellent descriptions and photos.

To help your orient this walking tour map of the Jewish District with the maps in this port guide, I have added names to the map as shown (at left).

I've added the names of the gates to Medieval Old Town and the location of Evreon Martiron Square.

I've also inserted a compass rose to show that south is at the top of the map. The map has been rotated 180°

The TripAdvisor Review includes a Panoramic View of the Kahal Shalom Synagogue.

Louis Davidson has provided an extraordinary photographic view of the synagogue. “Synagogues360”, at this weblink:

For additional details on the history of the Jewish Community in Rhodes Greece, see these websites
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/RhodesJews.html

Photos to Preview Your Tour of Medieval Old Town Rhodes
Download this excellent brochure for a walking tour of Old Town
Visit the http://RomeArtLover.Tripod.com website. The photos are outstanding and the narrative is instructive. Spend a few minutes reviewing the photos to get an idea of what to look for and photograph on your self-guided walking tour of Medieval Old Town.

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<th>Rhodes Old Town Photos with Descriptions</th>
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<td><a href="http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi1.html">http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi1.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortification walls, towers, bastions, rampart, moat</td>
<td><a href="http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi2.html">http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi2.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Italian architecture built after 1923</td>
<td><a href="http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi5.html">http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Rodi5.html</a></td>
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Planning Your Self-Guided, Walking Tour of Medieval Old Town
You'll need to know where cruise ships dock, where the twelve gates to the town are, where the ~ 70 points of interest are in the town, and review descriptions of the sites to select the areas you wish to visit.
The Cruise Ship Port Security Gate is at GPS = N 36°26'38.8", E 28°13'55.4"

There are twelve gates into the Medieval Old Town. NOTE: Most of the gates have multiple names.

<table>
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<th>Gates into Old Town</th>
<th>GPS Coordinates</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>St Catherine's Gate. Also called Mills Gate and “Puerta de la Mar” (door to the sea)</td>
<td>N 36°26′37.8″, E 28°13′55.6″</td>
<td>A small gate at the northeast end of the Jewish Quarter. It's across the street from the cruise port, behind a building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Virgin Mary's Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′36″, E 28°13′50.5″</td>
<td>500 feet from the Port Security Gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Marine Gate is also called St Catherine's Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′38.6″, E 28°13′42.1″</td>
<td>The beautiful “main” gate to the sea with fine details = a good photo opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Arnauld Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′41.2&quot;, E 28°13′39.6&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Arsenal Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′45.8&quot;, E 28°13′40.8&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>St Paul's Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′47.1&quot;, E 28°13′41.8&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Eleftherias (Liberty) Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′47.1&quot;, E 28°13′38.8&quot;</td>
<td>Near buses and taxis north of Old Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>d'Amboise Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′45.7&quot;, E 28°13′22&quot;</td>
<td>Good photo opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>St Anthony's &amp; Canon Gates</td>
<td>N 36°26′43.2&quot;, E 28°13′24&quot;</td>
<td>Two gates very close to one another. I show as one set of GPS coordinates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>St Athanasius' Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′25.4&quot;, E 28°13′26.8&quot;</td>
<td>Good photo opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>St John's Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′22.5&quot;, E 28°13′40.4&quot;</td>
<td>Good photo opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Akandia Gate</td>
<td>N 36°26′31.1&quot;, E 28°13′56&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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The walking route, shown as dashed yellow lines, is 2.2 miles and takes 43 minutes without stopping. You'll spend at least 40-60 minutes at each museum you visit. The issue is not walking time, it's how you choose to spend your time along the route. The possibilities are endless for a walking tour personalized for your interests. Most first time visitors spend their time in the northern section of Old Town where the Knights had lived.
Your walking tour begins at the Port Security Gate. Copy and paste N 36°26'38.8", E 28°13'55.4" coordinates into Google Maps. Drag the little yellow man onto the map to see street photos at the security gate. Google Street Level photos may be ~ 3 years old, but they are a slick way to explore an area.

Here's the Google street view looking back into the port.

As you can see in this photo, there are two cruise ships docked (on the left and right sides of the photo). There are also two ferry boats docked close to the port security gate.

Here's the Google street view looking out of the port at Medieval Old Town.

As you leave the port, you'll see these buildings on the other side of the street, in front of Old Town. St Catherine's Gate is behind the buildings as shown by the arrow.

If you want to tour the Jewish District, St Catherine's is is the closest gate. It's shown as number “11” on the walking tour of the Jewish District. See the map on page 10 of this guide.

If you are interested in touring the northern section of Old Town that had been occupied by the Knights, you'll probably want to enter Old Town at Virgin Mary's Gate or Marine Gate.

When you exit the port security gate, turn right and walk 140 meters along the harbor to Virgin Mary's Gate or walk 400 meters to the Marine Gate.
Here's the Google street view of Virgin Mary's Gate. TIP: Stop for photos of the harbor at the dolphin statue.

This is the Google view of the Marine Gate and Arnauld Gate.

You can walk along the harbor to enter Old Town at any of these gates. I prefer to use Virgin Mary's Gate, not only because it is close to the cruise ships, but it takes me along my preferred walking route.

A Walking Tour is shown as yellow dashed lines on the map on page 12 of this guide.

When you enter Virgin Mary's Gate Stop at 46 Panagia tou Bourgou (Virgin Mary of Burgos) N 36°26′34.4″, E 28°13′50.9″ for a photo (see page 8 of this port guide). Then walk through two of the most important squares in Old Town, the Jewish Martyr Square and Hippokratous Square. The next stop is 17 the Archaeological Museum, then 16 St Mary's Church (Panagia tou Kastrou) 36°26′42.3″, E 28°13′38.4″ At this point, you are at the east end of Ippoton St. Walk west to the 1 Palace of the Grand Masters. Then walk south on Orfeos Street to the Clock Tower and 26 Suleiman Mosque N 36°26′38.6″, E 28°13′27.0″

Walk south to Arionos Square to 33 Sultan Mustafa Mosque N 36°26′34.4″, E 28°13′30.7″ and 34 Municipal Baths “Geni Hamam” N 36°26′33.4″, E 28°13′29.4″

Continue south to exit at J St Athanasius' Gate N 36°26′25.4″, E 28°13′26.8″ to take photos. Walk along the road/path parallel to the walls, and re-enter Old Town at K St John's Gate N 36°26′22.5″, E 28°13′40.4″

When you re-enter Old Town, walk to 54 New Synagogue Shalom N 36°26′31.9″, E 28°13′49.4″
There are several photo opportunities at these two gates. In addition to the gates, you can photograph the walls, towers, moat, etc. The photos below are from an EEC sponsored “Sagittarius” study of the Island of Rhodes.

J  St Athanasius' Gate  N 36°26′25.4″, E 28°13′26.8″

K  St John's Gate  N 36°26′22.5″, E 28°13′40.4″

Medieval Old Town is described as having a few hundred streets and walkways. Most of them do not have posted street signs. A friend of mine carries a map with him and printed names of the places he wants to visit. He just points to the map and anyone can help him find the right direction.
Rhodes City Tourist Map  Download this map from the taxi tours website at http://www.rhodestaxitours.com/map.html

This map is so large that I had to divide it into two sections. The lower section of the map is on the next page.
Tourist Sites in Rhodes City

The Little Red Train Ride – The route is shown as dashed red lines on the map on pages 16-17.

Enjoy a fabulous sightseeing tour in Rhodes on the Municipal Road Train. The route travels through Rhodes city along the fortifications of the Medieval City, the Temple of Apollo, the Ancient Stadium and the New Town Center.

The train does NOT make any stops to allow passengers to get on/off. It just circles the city. This is a great ride for people who want to see the sights outside of the Old Town walls without walking. I have not taken the train, but it's probably a good photo opportunity. The early morning trains are reported to be less crowded.

It's a 45 minute ride that departs every hour between 10:00 and 17:00 daily during high season. The adult price is 7 Euros. The train departs from Café Aktaiion-Marina Mandraki. GPS = N 36°26'55.8", E 28°13'30.9"

It's a 1 km, 13 minute walk along the harbor from the Port Security Gate to the Train. To map the route, open Google Maps and enter the GPS coordinates for the Train as N 36°26'55.8", E 28°13'30.9" and the Port Security Gate as GPS = N 36°26'38.8", E 28°13'55.4". Click on the walking man icon.

16 Modern Art Museum Nestoridion Melathron  N 36°27'15.7", E 28°13'14.3"
On page 4 of this port guide, I have described the modern Art Museums with specific details on the two buildings in Old Town shown as items 10 and 30 on the Old Town map. This art museum is part of that complex. The ticket you purchase at any of the museums for 3 Euros is good for all three of the museums. This museum is open Wednesday 15:00-21:00, Tuesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday 09:00-14:00

Description of Markets by the Municipality of Rhodes

21 New Market  N 36°26'52.6", E 28°13'32.9"
In the center of Rhodes, the visitor enjoys shopping in a small but very substantial market that could well be compared to a high quality mall, spread out in one level, by the sea. With extremely pleasant walk in our market, where the flavors of the sea are mixed magically with jasmine and night flower, one discovers prestigious international brand products (hand made jewellery silver and gold, luxury clothing, footwear, cosmetics, household items).

It is noteworthy that our market has 40 years tradition in luxury items with strong brand names, while fashionable coffee shops provide relaxation during the day and night. We should also refer to the products of pottery, one of the oldest art forms of the origin of Aegean islands, are found in souvenirs shops as also the handmade leather sandals made by the artisans on the island.

Open Air Markets in the city of Rhodes are open four times a week:

- Every Wednesday at St Dimitrios (Cemetery Area)
- Every Thursday at Vyronos Street (Diagoras Stadium Area)
- Every Friday at Konstantinou Ydreou Street (Analipsi Area)
- Every Saturday at St Dimitrios (Cemetery Area)

There are bus stands and taxi stands in Rhodes City just north of Medieval Old Town

For information on Buses see http://www.rhodes.gr/en/ipolimas/touristikosodigos/transportation/syginonies/

D.E.S "RODA" has the advantage of the Urban area (city of Rhodes), the suburban areas (Koskinou- Faliraki- Ixia-Filerimos Ialisos- Kremasti- Pastida- Maritsa- Paradisi) and the interurban regions of the Western Side of the island of Rhodes (Damatria- Theologos- Soroni- Dimilia- Eleousa- Archipoli- Platania- Apollona- Fanes- Kalavarda- Ancient Kamiros-Mantriko- Kritinia- Salakos- Embona - Agios Isidoros- Sianna- Monolithos).

“Monte Smith” is named after the British Admiral Sidnet Smith, who set his observation post on the hill in 1802 to watch Napoleon’s fleet.

The green and beautifully laid out archaeological park contains:

- The Hellenistic stadium of Diagoras, built in the 3rd century BC for Athletic Games in a festival of the Ancient Rhodians held in honor of the god Ilios, the Sun. The rebuilt Stadium has a length of 200 m. and is 34 m. wide.
- Next to the Stadium is a reconstructed, small marble theater, operating today as in the ancient times. It is also believed that the Theater was part of the Oratory School of Aischines.
- Huge Doric Columns (photo at left) on a platform are the remains of the Temple of Apollo. This is an excellent site to watch the sunset.

Admission to the archaeological park is free.
Tourist Sites Outside the City of Rhodes

Rhodes Island has many, historic sites, monuments, ancient ruins, castles, churches, beaches, resort hotels, etc.

Rhodes (Ródos, Rydos) Island is the Largest of the Dodecanese Islands

Download this map from the taxi tours website at [http://www.rhodestaxitours.com/map.html](http://www.rhodestaxitours.com/map.html)
Rhodes (Diagoras) Airport (RHO)  
GPS = N 36°24'08.9", E 28°05'30.5"


If you are using the airport, a pre-arranged taxi is recommended to avoid the long lines waiting for cabs.

### Taxi Price List Rhodes (Rodos) Island  

The Ministry of Tourism lists typical 2014 taxi fares. Prices are subject to change.

- The standard surcharge is 2.00 €.
- Starting of Taximeters 1.13 €
- Waiting Fare per Hour 10.36 €. For waiting time more than 20 minutes you can make an agreement.
- From the Port there is extra charge 1.02 €.
- From and to the Airport there is extra charge 2.50€.
- Baggage weighting over 10 Kg. cost 0.37 €.
- Double Fare is charged between 00:00-05.00 Hrs. (1, 13€ per Km).
- For making an appointment it costs 5.00 €.

See [www.rhodes-taxi.gr](http://www.rhodes-taxi.gr)  

You can calculate fares and book taxis online using the two websites listed above.

Radio Taxi Telephone Numbers in Rhodes Town is 22410 69800 and out of Rhodes Town 22410-69600. Taxis are dark blue with white colored roofs and a “TAXI” sign on the roof.

### Travel Options to Tour the Island of Rhodes are the Same as Touring Corfu Greece

The islands of Rhodes and Corfu Greece are about the same size and the issues of touring are the same. In both cases, cruise ships dock near Old Town so you can explore that area on a self-guided walking tour. However, there are many tourist sites scattered throughout the island such as beautiful beaches, churches, castles, small villages, archaeological sites, museums, etc. You'll need transportation to visit those sites.

I've found taxis to be the best way to tour Corfu Greece using Corfu Taxi company. See my Corfu Greece Port Guide for a comparison of my car rental in Corfu vs. my Corfu Taxi tour.

Hence, it makes sense to me that Rhodes Taxi Tours [http://www.rhodestaxitours.com](http://www.rhodestaxitours.com) might be a great way to explore Rhodes. As I have noted throughout this port guide, I'm impressed with their website maps and the descriptions of their tours. This company is also highly rated in Trip Advisor reviews. On my next visit to Rhodes, I'll probably schedule a taxi tour.

### Taxi Tours vs. the Ship's Excursion Bus

Taxi tours are expensive, but you get what you pay for.

- Taxi tours focus on my interests. Bus tours follow a rigid schedule.
- A taxi driver/guide works for me. The guide on a bus works for tips. The guide may get a “kick back” from shop owners where the bus stops and has incentive to stay at that shop. On my ship's excursion to Lindos-Acropolis, the bus stopped longer at the ceramics factory than at Lindos-Acropolis!!
- On a taxi tour, everyone has a window seat and the driver will stop for us to take photos. You can't get good photos from a moving bus.
- Buses are restricted on where they can park. If we are visiting a church on top of a hill, the bus parks at the bottom of the hill and we have to walk up/down the hill. On a taxi tour, the taxi drops us off next to the church and waits for us. We save time and energy on unnecessary walking.
- Taxi tours are more time efficient than the ship's tour bus. Bus tours waste 10-15 minutes for people to get on/off the bus and often waste time waiting for people who are late getting back to the bus. A toilet stop on a bus tour can take 30 minutes!!
Lindos-Acropolis

The Greece Ministry of Tourism reports Lindos-Acropolis is the second or third most popular archaeological site in Greece. It is located 48 km south of Rhodes City on the east side of the island.

All the ship's tour buses stop at the ceramic factory en route Lindos-Acropolis. The ceramic factory is an interesting place to visit. The hand-made products are beautiful. I liked stopping there but I did not appreciate spending so much time there. We spent more time at the ceramics factory than at Lindos-Acropolis so we had to rush through the Lindos Village up/down the hill to get back to the bus on time..

Use these GPS coordinates to locate the sites on Google or Bing maps

- **Cruise Ship Port Security Gate**: N 36°26'38.8", E 28°13'55.4''
- **Dakas Michael Keramic Factory**: N 36°13'14.0", E 28°06'46.7''
- **Lindos/Acropolis Bus Parking Lot**: N 36°05'30.1", E 28°04'52.5''

**Photos of the Ceramics Factory - Dakas Michael Keramic Factory**
There are demonstrations on the methods of making and painting ceramics.

The products are gorgeous and there is a very, very wide selection.

These people create ceramics, they are not cabinet makers. Their skills to make shelving could be improved. See the photo at left.
Why visit Lindos-Acropolis?  A picture is worth a thousand words.

**Lindos** has the classic white buildings with very narrow, winding, pedestrian pathways lined with shops, cafes, and restaurants. It's beautiful!

**Acropolis**
According to tradition the temple of Athena on the acropolis was founded by Danaus, who came to the island with his 50 daughters to escape the rage of the goddess Hera. Follow the same ancient path that the ancient Rhodians took. When you reach the acropolis you will see a 280 BC relief of a Rhodian Trireme (ancient Greek warship) carved into the rock, an indication of the naval power of ancient Rhodes. On the bow of the Trireme stood a statue of General Agesander. Did you know that the first naval code, the famous “Rhodian Naval Code”, a code of international law and one of the most important legal documents in the world was written here in Rhodes? We may rule the world but the Rhodian Code rules the seas!

(Ministry of Tourism)
Walking Route to Acropolis (map below)

Lindos Parking Lot  N 36°05'30.1", E 28°04'52.5"  Main Square  N 36°05'32.0", E 28°05'06.5"  Acropolis  N 36°05'31.3", E 28°05'19.1"

There's a store that sells snacks, water, etc. across the street from the parking lot. Buses park at the lot. Taxis drop passengers off at the Main Square. It's a 450 meter (1475 feet) walk from the parking lot, down a hill, to the Main Square. There is nothing to see along this walk. The road ends at the main square. There are a couple of good photo opportunities at the square and there are public toilets and a few shops.

From the main square, there are a few walking routes to Acropolis. I follow the yellow dashed lines which is a shorter route. I've shown the Church of the Assumption for reference. It has a bright red roof and there's a bell tower next to it. As the walking route (yellow dashed line) reaches the end of Lindos, there are many steep stairs to climb the mountain. After the steps, this route enters a tree-lined path along the face of the mountain. There are women selling needlework and souvenirs along this path.

The blue dashed lines show another walking route. You can walk either route.

Lindos has a maze of winding streets. Most of the tourists will be walking one of the paths to Acropolis. Just follow the crowd. If you get lost, it's fun to explore all the shops. The village is clean and the shops, cafes, restaurants, bars, etc. are colorful and inviting.
As an alternative to walking, you can ride a donkey for 5 Euros each way from the Main Square to Acropolis entrance. The path taken by the donkeys is parallel to the blue dashed line on the map. The donkeys only walk a short distance in the main part of the village.

Men walk with groups of donkeys to keep them going. The streets are cleaned often, so there are no concerns of odors or stepping on donkey poop in Lindos.

The donkeys seem to be well cared for, gentle animals. They are not very large. I have not been on the donkey ride, but I don't see any reason why you should be concerned about riding one of these gentle animals.

If you have problems walking up slopes or climbing stairs, it's unlikely you'll enjoy walking up the mountain. Consider riding a donkey.

**Walking up the mountain and to the top of Acropolis**

Wear shoes that are comfortable and suitable for walking on old stone stairs and rocks.

- Pathways are very narrow and crowded with tourists.
- At the top of Acropolis, it's sunny with no shade and it can be hot. Some tourists carry large umbrellas which makes it even more crowded on the narrow pathways.
- The route I walk up to Acropolis has steep stairs with NO handrails.
- When you get to the entrance to Acropolis, there are a lot more stairs with NO handrails.
- Once you enter Acropolis, you'll find more stairs and there are some areas where you will be walking on rocks that can be slippery because of the dust.

When you get to the entrance to Acropolis, you don't have to take the stairs up, into the fortified area. Many people are content staying under the shade of the trees enjoying the views of Lindos Bay Beach *(photo below)*.
There are also some important archaeological findings at the foot of the fortified area. View the 280 BC relief of a Rhodian Trireme (ancient Greek warship) carved into the rock. On the bow of stood a statue of General Agesander (photos below).

The stern of the warship, (triemolia) which preserves traces of red pigment, is rendered in detail.
The Ministry of Tourism lists a 6 Euro fee to enter Acropolis. I don't recall where that fee was collected.
If you choose to enter Acropolis, climb the stairs.

Another set of stairs at the top of the Acropolis
Walking within the fortified walls. These dust covered rocks can be slippery.

The massive structure of Acropolis is impressive and well restored.
Core of the sanctuary of Athena Lindia was the temple to the goddess, built on the highest point of the rock of the acropolis.

Worship of Athena possibly replaced an earlier cult of an unknown deity, in the cave opening directly under the temple. The cave continued to be a place of worship in later times, as the chapel of the Virgin Spiliotissa.

The architectural remains belong to a temple built in the late 4th c. BC, after the destruction of the earlier temple by fire, in 392 BC. The temple is in the Doric order, *amphiprostyle* and of approximate dimensions 22 X 8 m. It comprises a *pronaos*, a *cella* and an *opisthodomos*. Preserved in situ are the *crepis* in the *opisthodomos*, a large part of the west wall and a small part of the east one.

In the *cella* there was a low parapet, behind which stood the table for offerings and the statue of the goddess. Visible in the walls are grooves to receive wooden supports and nail holes for holding the revetments that covered the temple interior.
The View is Worth the Climb

St Paul Bay
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

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