

Leros island

A small island of Dodecanese, Leros is located between Patmos and Kalymnos. In fact, holidays in Leros can be easily combined with trips to Patmos, Kalymnos and Lipsi. According to mythology, Leros island was where goddess Artemis would go for hunting, as it had a rich population in deer. The long history of Leros Greece is depicted in the many sights around the island, such as the Medieval Castle and the interesting museums. Alinda and Agia Marina are the most tourist places on the island, while a drive around the island will bring visitors to relaxing, crystal beaches. Over the last years, the island is developing as a diving destination due to the many ancient shipwrecks that have been found in the surrounding sea.

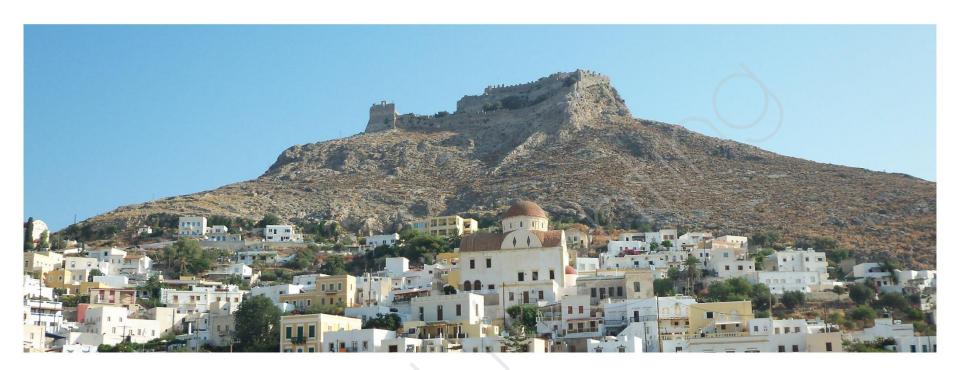




Lakki

Lakki Village Leros: Lakki is a beautiful settlement and the main port of Leros. As one of the largest ports of the Mediterranean, Lakki hosts a plethora of modern installations and service units for yachts. It is located 4 km south of the island's capital. The village consists of beautiful neoclassical buildings, fine examples of Italian architecture located right by the sea. These unique collection of historic buildings overlooking the port, match perfectly with the rest of the traditional whitewashed houses and preserve the cultural heritage of the village. The wide streets of Lakki are covered with pine trees and offer an easy access to the other villages of Leros. The village is an excellent choice for your holiday vacation since it is quite developed including accommodations, restaurants and bars. Numerous churches can be seen around the village as well as an impressive War Museum.





Medieval Castle

The Castle of Pandeli is a strong Medieval fortress overlooking the capital of Leros. It is also known as the Castle of our Lady, which means the Castle of Virgin Mary. Over the years, this Byzantine fortress, that survives well till today, has become the trademark of the island. The Castle gives a great view to the above mountainous landscape, the sea and the villages of Leros island. The Castle of Pandeli was probably built in the 10th century on the site if an ancient acropolis and, in the end of the 11th century, it was donated from the Byzantine Emperor Alexius I to the Monastery of Agios Ioannis Theologos.



During the Frankish times, the Castle was reintorced by the Knights of Saint John and was used to protect the island and its inhabitants from invasions. In the centuries that followed, the Castle served as a look out post for the Turkish, Italian and German conquerors of the island. As a result, it suffered a lot of damage. Today, three circuit walls of the castle are preserved and a church of our Lady stands on the west side of the castle. The church has a magnificent icon and fine wall paintings can be admired. To go to the Castle, you have to climb up a rough road or 400 steps from Pandeli.



War museum

Opened in 2005, the Leros War Museum is situated in Lakki and constitutes a testament to the weapons of mass destruction and loss of human life in the Second World War. Leros was regarded as a corridor of the Mediterranean and was first under the fascist regime of Italy for 31 year, during which the Italians had established strategic naval bases on the island. During the Second World War, Leros was heavily bombed by the British Royal Air Force and later on, it suffered heavy aerial bombardment and assaults from German troops. The War Museum is housed in an old tunnel that was built by the Italians during the Second World War. It hosts a fine collection of exhibits, including guns, bombs, helmets, uniforms as well as documentation and other audio visual material relating to the battle of Leros. The museum is open to visitors in the morning.





Aspronisi



Aspronisi is a stunning little island near Leros. Deep, crystal clear waters, makes it a great place to swim.



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