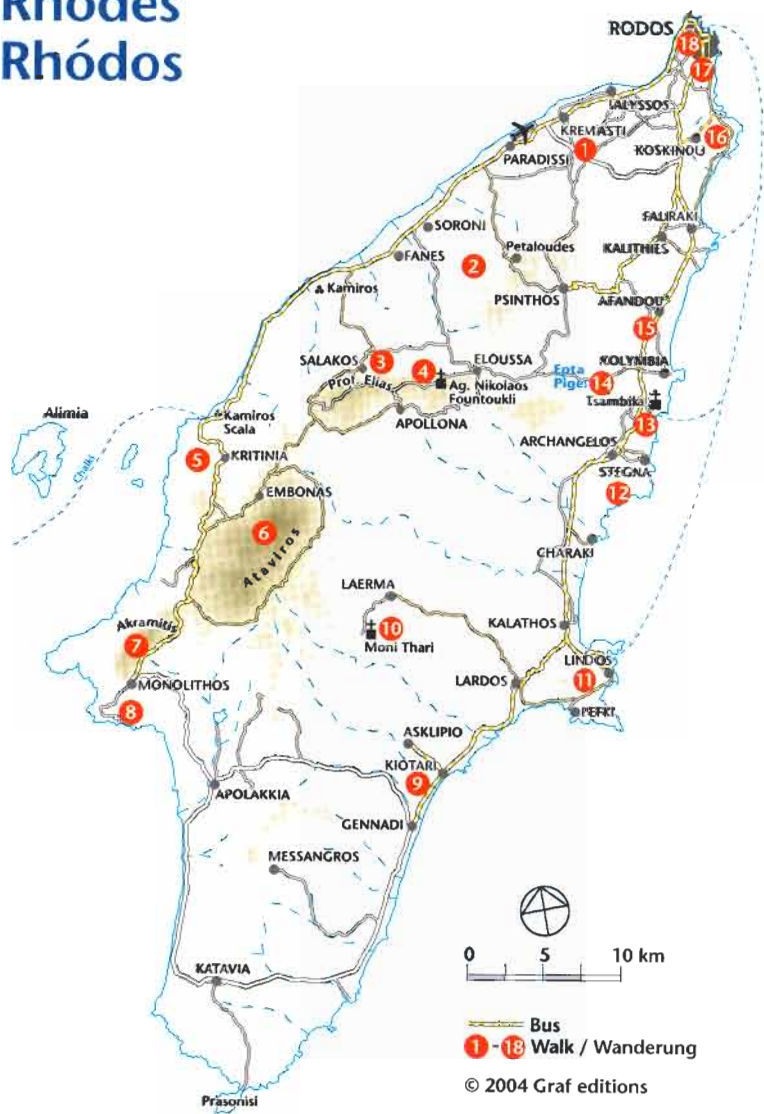


Ρόδος Rhodes Rhódos



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Even in Roman times there was active tourism on these age-old islands, pampered by the sun and brimming with culture. Refined Roman families sent their sons to the rhetoric school of Poseidonios on the "Rose Island".

Today Rhodes, with over a million visitors, is the most touristic island in the Aegean apart from Crete. This tourism, however, is concentrated on the beaches in the north.

After visiting the picturesque medieval old town, a world culture heritage site, the connoisseur of nature and landscape quickly moves on to the middle of the island.

Tourism hasn't established itself everywhere here yet. You can wander through pristine woods and mountains and discover chapels with important frescoes here and there. Yet there is no need to give up beaches.

Due to its great supplies of water, the island is green and fruitful.

A relief map of the island shows a mountainous spine parallel to the coast in the western part. It is dominated by the 1215 metre-high Atáviros, the highest mountain in the Dodecanese. To the east and south of it, wooded hillsides spread out. Far to the south the landscape becomes flat and less spectacular. Here scrub dominates the vegetation.

A rental car is the easiest means of getting to various walks. Buses only are of help to the wanderer on the east side of the island, where Lindos, a lovely town, is a good base for walkers.

In the western part it is best to spend the night in the unspoilt mountain villages. There are only bus connections to here in the afternoon.

The best time for walking is from mid-April through the end of June, when the countryside is still green. From September to mid-October is also recommendable.

Sufficient wandering gear includes a backpack for a day, shoes with good soles, long trousers or zipper trousers, a mobile phone possibly, a whistle, binoculars, a small flashlight and picnic equipment. The walks have been taken out of the book "Rhodes, Karpathos, Kos & Southern Dodecanese" from the book series "Walking the Greek Islands" (Graf Editions).

No responsibility can be taken for accidents along the walking routes suggested or for possible civil law demands by landowners.

1 Filérimos, the Conqueror's Hill

The crusaders as well as the Turks began their conquest of the island at Filérimos. Today you can still find some old churches (photo) and have a wonderful view of the northern part of Rhodes. From there you walk down to the sea through pine forests.

- AWT 0.00 Near the gigantic oak tree at the parking area, walk between the kiosk and the fence along an avenue of cypress trees which soon turns into steps leading downhill. These are very overgrown but still lead safely to an **unfinished building**, above which you walk to the left and continue in this direction. You wander through an overgrown, seemingly bewitched garden to come to steps and then the **street**.
0.05 On the other side of the street there is a dirt road which you should walk along downhill. This used to be the old street and will lead you past an old Turkish fountain five minutes later. Then a **concrete supporting wall** follows on the right, and the old street makes a right curve behind it. In this curve, before the end of the street, a **path with steps** turns off to the left. Meander downhill along it. You reach the street again by walking to the right at a clearing with picnic tables (left).
0.15 Walk downhill along the street for *three minutes* until you come to a **parking area** on the valley side. On the left edge you will see markings leading to another path through the woods, which ends down at a **water basin** at the street. Continue along the sidewalk to reach the **street to Rhodes in Trianda**. If you keep walking straight on, you will reach the wide **beach**.
0.30
0.35
0.55
1.05



2 Like a Butterfly...

Of course, you can't fly across the hills as lightly as a butterfly. For the 15 km over mountains and through valleys, mainly on dirt roads, you need five to six hours and some condition. There is little shade and no springs.

If you want to walk through only the most beautiful part, the shady butterfly valley of Petaloúdes, you can shorten the stretch and do a three-hour circular tour.

- AWT 0.00 If you arrive by bus, you may have to walk back along the street to the **museum**. At the lower entrance, our nicely laid out path begins its way up into the park ☐. Sumptuous green surrounds the often numerous visitors who, from mid-June to September, come looking for the butterfly *panaxia quadripunctario*, the bright red-spotted Harlequin, which is attracted by the resin of the sweet-gum tree (amber tree). It only flies during the night, however; during the day its body looks like it has brown-yellow stripes. After about ten minutes you pass a street between two ponds. Further up, the **path divides** for a short stretch. From here on there are fewer visitors. Cross over a road diagonally to the right to reach the **upper entrance** to the park and, above it, the **monastery of Panagia Kalopetra** ☒. For spiritual edification there is a magnificent iconostasis from the 19th century in the church and for your physical well-being a snack bar in front of the church. Above the monastery, look for a path leading downhill on the right behind the parking area, brush the street briefly
- 0.15
0.25



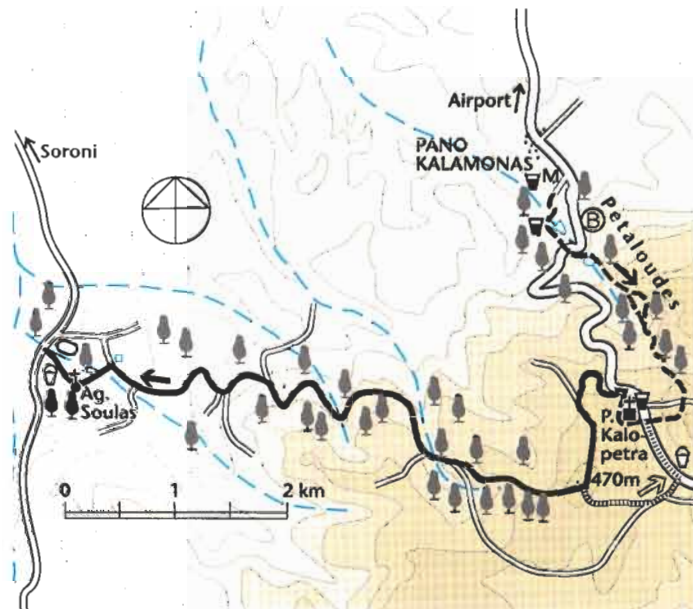


- in two curves to the right and then work your way uphill along the **sandy path** which turns to the left at the top. Even further up, it meets a broad gash to prevent fire, which you walk up very steeply to the left. Many a person will think of giving up smoking now. The lovely view to the right, to Profitis Elías ③ and to Atáviros ⑥, is a bit of a comfort. The path splits up at the 470 m **peak**.

0.50 **Short Cut:** If you walk straight ahead downhill and turn off to the left eight minutes later, you will arrive at the street. Follow it to the left, and you will reach the monastery 25 minutes later and then the shady butterfly valley.

- A broad street leads to the right, first to the south past two **squared cement stones** (right). The lovely forest path ③ later leads downhill past a goat pen (left) and on to a **fork**.
- 1.00 Bear right here and then right again three minutes later. Now the wide forest path leads slowly downhill – you can switch on the automatic pilot. Sweet-brier roses and thyme are scattered among the pines and thickets. In spring you can scoop up water from a **streambed**. From here on the surroundings become more pleasant and shadier; meadows invite you to picnic.
- 1.55 At the big **fork**, wander on to the left / horizontally. Pay no attention to the **two turn-offs to the left** which come later, one after the other, but walk uphill to the right. When the path goes downhill again, walk straight on downhill at the **broad turn-off to the left** and, shortly afterwards before the **cement water reservoir**, turn downhill to the left to the chapel of **Agios Soúlas** ④.

All sorts of structures have been set up around the chapel:



sports fields, a driving-practice area, picnic tables – and the race track for the yearly donkey race, which takes place on June 30th. Half of the island's population gathers in the quiet valley that day.

From here it takes almost an hour to walk to **Soroní** along the street. Only the first part of the stretch is very lovely, so you should think about hitching a ride. There are buses from Soroní.

3 Alpine Chalets on Mount Elias

This four-hour mountain walk leads from Salákos about 500 m steeply but wonderfully uphill past two abandoned inns from the time of the former Italian administration and to the peak of Profitis Elias. Salákos has good bus connections. It is, however, worth thinking about spending the night there and enjoying the delightful atmosphere of dinner next to the babbling fountain. The local colour makes you forget that you are on a touristic island.

- AWT At the village square in Salákos go along the slightly rising street to a right curve with a little bus stop and turn left at the sign “footpath” onto a cement road. After walking along it for 100 m, turn up to the right uphill onto a
- 0.00
- 0.05 **tractor track** (sign). *In front of a wayside shrine* turn left and, in spring, walk upwards through a rich green landscape. The zigzag path is slightly shaded by kermes oaks and offers the wanderer a splendour of blossoms – peonies, violets and even orchids ☐. Despite the many dashes of colour from the flowers, remember to pay attention to the dotted red path markings. Once you have the steep
- 0.35 part of the **ascent behind you**, you will see some antennas and walk on a flat level through a pine forest. In an opening up to the right between the trees the St. Michael Chapel can be seen. The detour of a few metres to get there is worth it because it is a lovely spot for a picnic. Otherwise, continue on to the wide path, where you turn to the left immediately onto a marked footpath. This leads to two dilapidated houses (left) and from there to
- 0.50 the right on up to the two **hotels** ☐.

These inns, named after the heraldic animals of Rhodes, the stag and the hind (elafas and elafína), were built in 1926 during the time of the Italian administration. The governor of the Dodecanese, the “Italian possessions in the Aegean”, spent the hot season here, when the heat was too oppressive down in the town. After the war they were used as hotels, but the constructions have been slumbering like Sleeping Beauty property since 1990, waiting for an investor’s kiss.

On the other side of the street a rustical café greets exhausted walkers and loud Jeep drivers.

50 m to the right of the café a path with steps leads up-



- wards, on past the deserted governor’s residence (left) to the formerly Catholic chapel. Behind this several footpaths lead through the wildly romantic mountain landscape on up to the **peak**, where it is easy for anyone to find the right stone to sit down on to rest. The peak with the antennas on the opposite side belongs to the military; Apollónas spreads out in the high plateau below. By good visibility the Italian governor probably came up here, too, and convinced himself with his binoculars that his islands were still all there.
- 1.05 To descend, choose a path towards the antennas which first leads in the direction of the next peak, then downhill and in front of the approach road to the antennas left again to the **hotels**.

- 1.25 **Alternative:** The path described below is known only to a few locals. Although a short section of it is filled up and it is barely recognisable in some places, there are coloured markings along it. You must climb over harmless rocks a couple of times, but there is no problem with the general orientation.

If you want to avoid this, return down on the same path you followed to come up.

- 1.25 Directly in front of the **hotels** a dirt road leads downhill between the ruins of the small squad’s quarters to the abandoned **power supply buildings**. Don’t worry: you haven’t been able to get electric shocks here for a long time.

- 1.30 Beneath these there is a spring called *Perivoli*. A monopáti begins at the well house and leads downhill on the left of the metal water pipes. At first the path is clearly recognisable but gets lost near a little moss-covered **stone house**.
- 1.35

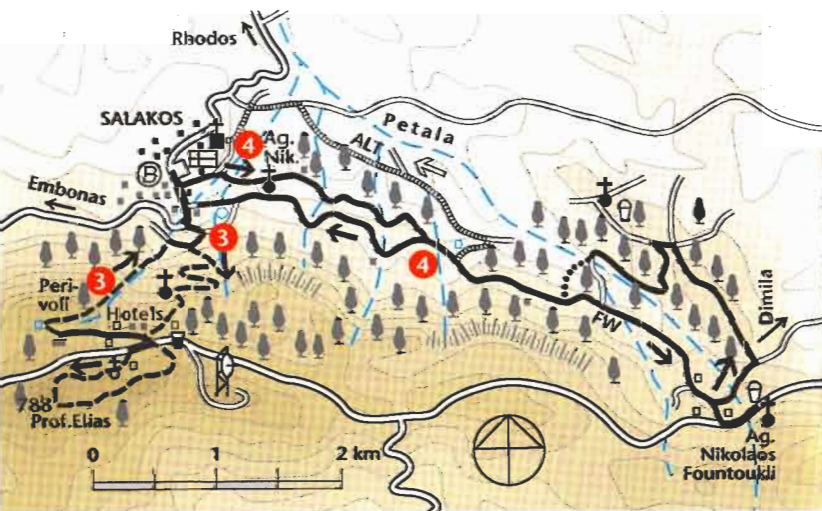
- From here on you continue without a path, first somewhat to the left; then you approach the stream bed again and go left about 30 to 40 m parallel above it. The water pipe is also on the right. Before a field of rubble you **cross over the stream bed** and later find the old path leading downwards again. As an alternative, you can go down directly next to the water pipe. In a flatter section after a clearing you will find a path to the left leading through a small forest of kermes oaks. Then you can see the houses of Salákos. The path ends in front of a mesh fence designed to keep out wild goats. If you go 10 m to the right of this, cross over the water pipe, open and shut the wires of the fence, then you reach the tractor track you used on the way up. Walk along to the right, on past the wayside shrine and then to the left to the main street in Salákos.
- 1.45
- 2.00
- 2.15


4 A Wealth of Pictures in Fountoúkli

The chapel Ayios Nikoláos Fountoúkli is one of the main cultural sights on Rhodes. This five-hour walking tour leads you there from Salákos, along paths which are easy to find and through a shady forest as well as old olive groves. The hilly terrain can, however, be strenuous. Along the way there is a fountain, but there are no tavernas.

► See map on previous page

- AWT Starting at the tranquil **Platía in Salákos**, walk up the main street for about 200 m until you reach a lovely fountain (right) and then continue downhill along a wide cement path across from the fountain. Passing the cemetery (with an interesting church!) and a **cement wall** on the left, you come to the shady valley □. Jump over two streams here, and then, as the path continues uphill, you can see the islands of Chálki and Alímia to the left. At the top of the hill, turn off to the right and then later at the water meter to the left, to get to the (first) **Nicholas Chapel**. From here you go on downhill to the left to reach the upper edge of the fields on the Pétala plains. After a house (left) you pass by a gate made of chicken wire, pass giant pines, cross over a water ditch and reach a wide **glade with olive trees** (left). After another water ditch, you walk uphill to a wide **sandy track** and continue to the left there. This oversized sandy track also serves as a fire-corridor.
- 0.00
- 0.05
- 0.15
- 0.30
- 0.35
- At a fork continue uphill to the right along the wide track and pass by a broad grove of olive trees. At the end of the




- 0.55 grove there are **goat stalls**. After this, the way continues on downhill. The driver of the bulldozer seems to have lost control over his vehicle completely here. He flattened everything to a breadth of 30 metres. At the **turn-off** to the left down into the valley, go on **straight** towards the antenna on the mountain. After a sparse olive garden you come to the ruins of a house, then to the street, where
- 1.10 you go left to the **chapel Ayios Nikoláos Fountoúkli** .
- 1.35 *This cruciform-domed church has four apses and was established around 1500 by a high official in memory of his three children who had died of the plague. The family is represented at eye level in the apse across from the altar: the parents with the model of the church, the children praying in the Garden of Eden. Christ is blessing them. Next to him are his mother and John the Baptist. All the walls are completely covered with frescoes. Among them, Christ's baptism, Lazarus rising from the dead and the escape to Egypt are pictured. 25 saints looking down from the dome regard the tired wanderer with pity. There used to be a cloister on the terrace area.*
- You return to the olive grove on the same path at first, but at the **second site of ruins** you take the dirt path downhill to the right and later at the **turn-off** you go uphill to the left. After the ascent you can see the sea on both sides. Salákos, your goal is still quite far away!
- 1.40 First you walk on flat terrain along the crest, then steeply downhill to where the **paths cross**. Here you walk downhill to the left and one minute later turn off sharply to the left! Narcotic scents from the pines accompany you on your way down to the **valley floor**, where frogs bustle about in the water holes. The wide path through the woods crosses the stream bed in a sharp left curve. Right at this spot, follow the course of the stream to the right without a path for a short while, then go uphill to the left to return to the wide **sandy track** from the way there.
- 1.45 Now you continue uphill to the right, past the goat stalls, then down and left at the fork.
- 2.00 The turn-off to the right which you came by on the way here (= AWT 0.35) will soon appear. You should go downhill to the left here, past a typical Greek **sheep pen** (left) and then past the Nicholas Chapel again (right) to the strangely ludicrous area for festivals. At the water basin, a dirt path leads down to the right to **Salákos**.
- 2.10
- 2.15
- 3.00
- 3.20

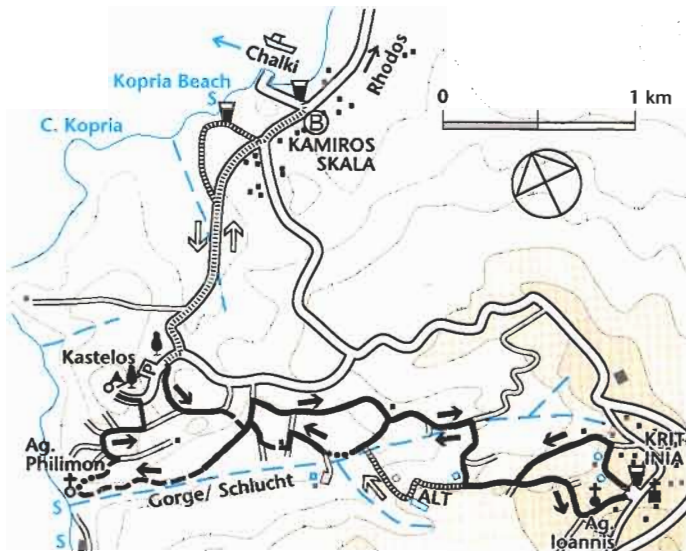
5 The Citadel on the Sea

On this easy-to-find four-hour circular walking tour, you pass through a fertile valley, rest at a shady village square, go for a swim in the sea and experience the sunset from the lovely vantage point of the ruins of a crusade citadel.

A shorter two-and-a-half-hour tour leaves out the ascent to the village of Kritiniá.

- AWT The walk begins beneath the citadel of Kritiniá. If you come by **bus**, you must calculate an additional 25 minutes from Kámiros-Skala on the street to get there as well as 25 more minutes to return.
- 0.00 From the **lower parking lot** (with snack area) of the **Kastélos Kritiniá** go back down the approach road and turn right onto a narrow dirt road after a few steps. The citadel, which is situated above you to the right, can be saved for viewing the sunset. At the end of the road, turn left onto a wider **dirt road** and head straight on through a hollow with fields and arable land. You can soon see the goal up in the hills, the village of Kritiniá, and above it the 1215 m-high Atáviros, the highest mountain on Rhodes.
- 0.07 The dirt road makes a **curve to the left** , and here you turn to the right onto a 5 m-wide strip similar to a cultivated field. At the end of the "field", you can see a foot path leading downwards and accompanied by winding irrigation hoses. At the bottom it meets a **sandy road**, which you follow uphill to the left.
- 0.15
- 0.20





Short Cut: Later you will return to this place (= AWT 1.40). This is where you could now turn down to the right to the potato field and thus take the "small tour".

Turn left at the first fork, then right at the following one, before you walk along the foot of the slope rising to the left. Tomatoes, potatoes and many other vegetables are planted on this plain. At the fork, turn left. A **farmhouse** is above the path, surrounded by glorious chaos. At the next fork, keep to the left. To the right you are approaching the reedy stream bed, which you will cross over on a cement pipe at the next **fork** to the right.

0.25 While you work your way steeply uphill, you have a wonderful view of the citadel and Chálki behind it.

0.30 Pay no regard to the turn to the left, and you will come to a **water basin** (right). Continue on to the left. When the paths cross near a boulder (right), continue straight on. The path then continues in a wide arc to the right until it meets up with another path. Turn left here onto the path dug into the ground and leading uphill until you reach a chapel.



The **chapel Ayios Ioánnis Pródromos** is located like a jewel, set between two cypress trees. Over the years the flagstone roof has become covered with a thick layer of paint. Inside there are impressive frescoes from the time it was built, in the 13th or 14th century. Salome's Dance before Herod and the Beheading of John the Baptist are outstanding.

- 1.00 Following a cement path, you soon arrive at the shady village square, the piatsa of **Kritiniá**, for a well-earned rest. After looking around this village, which was founded by the Cretans, and also having seen the remarkable church, walk down the cement path along the left side of the piatsa facing the valley. Pass the water basin (left) and continue straight on towards the valley in a wide arc to the left. At times the path is almost flat and leads between the terraced fields, ending back at the crossing of the paths near the boulder, where you now wander on downhill the right to the **water basin**.

1.15 **Alternative:** If you turn left here, in a few minutes you will come to an oblong water basin from which a very old, round **grain mill** is operated. From here, however, you must return to the valley without a path.

- The path leads away from the water basin back down to the valley and turns to the left at the reeds. At the "chaos farmer's" walk down to the left this time. When the dirt path ends, continue to the right across a field to another dirt path and follow it through green gardens and fields until it forks at a fence. Turn left and you will come to a **tool storage area**. Turn to the right after this at a small house. At the end of the dirt path, a footpath connects to another dirt path, which you should follow to the right.

1.40 At the fork, turn to the left and you will arrive back at the spot where you **came downhill** earlier (= ATW 0.20).

This time you go downhill to the left into an intensively used fertile valley. The path ends to the right of a potato field. Of course, you will discover the continuation of the **path** ② immediately, as it leads on up to the right now. It meanders wonderfully above a rugged gorge and through all the spices belonging to the Greek cuisine: thyme, sage, marjoram and many more. It ends at the **sea** in a flat coastal area where the ruins of the early Christian Philimon basilica ③ have been exposed. If you want to take a swim, there is a beach with fine sand further to the south.

Directly above the excavations a steep path marked by cairns leads to flat land from which you walk on further towards the castle. Walk to the left on the **road**, leaving out four or five left turns, continuing on beneath the castle ④, which presents itself from its wildly romantic side here. After passing it on the side, turn left, continue uphill along a road and you will arrive at a street on the left leading to the **castle**.

2.05 *The **Kastélos Kritiniá** is the best preserved castle of the order of Saint John on Rhodes. The castle-keep, St. George's chapel and the shield wall are in good condition. The coats of arms of the Grand Masters of the Order, who had the castle constructed beginning in 1472, are set in the outer walls. The view across the sea to Chálki is especially enchanting towards evening.*

2.15 If you must return to **Kámiros-Skala** on foot, take the way down to the parking area (along a small forest path) and then along the street further downhill to the left. Perhaps you will still have the time and energy for a little visit to Johnny's lovely fish taverna above Kopriá Beach. It is, of course, also recommended to the drivers as well.

6 An Alpine Tour to Mount Atáviros

This tour should only be taken by somewhat experienced mountain wanderers. The rather steep climb through treeless fields of boulders ① demands good physical condition, but there aren't any dizzying heights to make you feel giddy. The difference in altitude is about 800 m. There are no cisterns, so you should be well equipped - also with protection from the wind and a pair of long pants. You should plan six hours for the tour and choose a good day since the danger of fog should not be underestimated.

- AWT On the left side of the street leading west in Émbonas
- 0.00 there is a **wine tasting room** which you should rather pass by at the moment. After the curve, take the road in front of the **storage area** uphill to the left through the vineyard terraces. This is where the *Villaré* grows, the best white wine on Rhodes. The road narrows down to a path which meets up with another path. On this new path you should walk to the right and then to the left right away. Below a stone wall ②, turn steeply uphill to the left, through chunks of boulders. Cairns show you the way. There is a hut in the vineyard on the right. Shortly after this, climb over a fence using a **ladder** and walk along to the right above the fence to another ladder and then from there continue uphill. After the last red markings, battle your way upwards through the field of boulders or climb up through the rocks on the right. Further up, dead electric wires serve as a security line in the rubble. You will be
- 0.25 happy to reach the **edge of the cliff** at the upper end of
- 1.10



1.30 the field of boulders. Turn to the right here and go uphill between the rocks ☐ to the **peak** with the measurement column globular telecommunication construction. This is the highest point in the Dodecanese at 1215 m – hopefully with a good view! People say you can see to Crete on a clear day. Every few years there is even snow here.

1.35 To the south you can see the base of an old **temple to Zeus** on the next hill and can reach it quickly without a path. There are not even pillars left, although this is actually to be expected in Greece.

Shortly before the sea, you discover an old foot path down to the street. Behind the hills there are wind rotors.

1.50 Continue downhill to the **street** in zigzag lines and then out of the hollow diagonally uphill to the right on the other side of the street but over to the side a bit. Then you cross over the street again and wander leisurely over the hill and amiably downhill. It is a lovely old wandering path, with the signs of the times in the background. A dirt track has been built below this path, and you can get down to it without a path at the best spot. After a few curves along this **dirt track**, you come to a plateau further down, and you see the **ruins of houses** (right) ☐, 100 m in front of the electric wires.

2.20

2.25



Alternative: The following description is of an old foot path which hardly anyone, even the locals, knows about any more. For the first 25 minutes it is quite hard to find in the Phrygana and the boulders. It continues down as a rocky path and is easier to find.

The alternative is to use the wide dirt track down to the street (AWT 3.20), then to try to get a ride in a car or to walk along the street for 4–5 km to reach Émbonas.

2.25 After the **ruins** walk in the slight hollow at first. There are some new (!) orange markings. Then continue about 50 m left of the ditch and hop over the rocks. You can see Émbonas.

2.45 Later the ditch on the right is full of **pin**es. From here on, you continue levelly at first and then downhill to the right – with a mountain ridge to your left – through the pines. Now there are more parts of the old path which **cross through the gorge** in a curve to the right. The valley bed is to the left now, and a wildly romantic mountain path begins. It leads downhill and almost reaches the bottom of the gorge three minutes later. From here it continues almost levelly again across slabs of rock. Then it leads slightly downhill to the left towards a rock wall which is hollowed out at the bottom. At the **caves**, shuffle downhill to the left through the large rocks. Where the two gorges meet there is a **watering place for livestock**. You pass through a gate here, walk downhill to the left at the fork to reach the **street** and continue along it to the right. If you can't find a helpful driver, at least you have the opportunity to try the grapes in fall as you meander along the street to Émbonas.

2.55

★

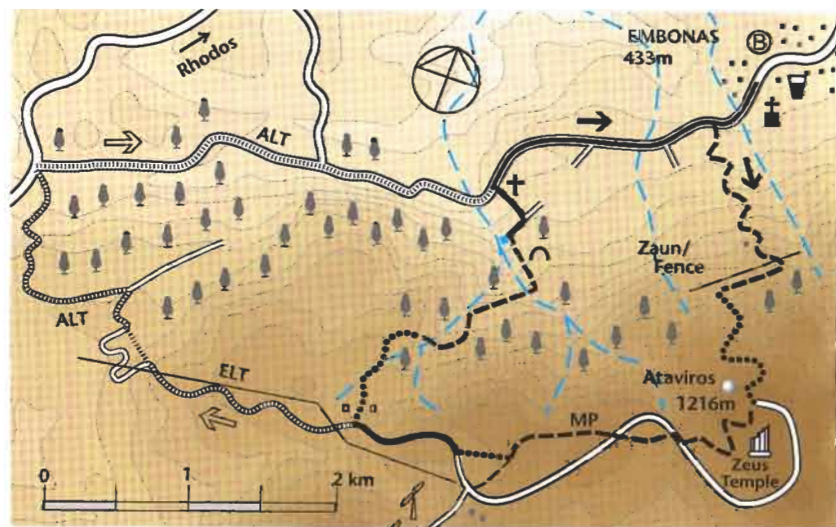
3.10

3.15

3.20

3.40

Why not try out the *Villaré* in the wine-tasting room while you are at it?



7 Mountain Meadows beneath the Akramítis

A shady path leads up to the Akramítis massif and crosses through beautiful park-like meadows. You can wander on past the chapel of Saint John up to the peak. After a somewhat steep descent, you return to the street near Siána. No functioning cisterns can be found during the three to four hours of walking. At four places you must pay careful attention to the turn-offs!!

- AWT First look at the clock at the **taverna** “Christos Corner”, then walk up the street and 10 minutes later you will notice a **parking area** on the right side of the street. Across from it yellow cairns (piled stones) [1] mark the way up the slope. In the woods turn left after 50 m at the cairn and then walk up the easily seen path. Another cairn later marks the **turn-off** up to the right [2].
- !! The walk continues upwards, at first with a bit of effort, then later very pleasantly between the pines, with a lovely view of the broad Apolakkía Bay. At the **end of the ascent**, wander down through the pine woods and then on the right of a ravine to a wonderful **glade** [3], where all of Greece’s flowers bloom in spring, between age-old pines and cedars, ruins and decaying trees – a romantic painter like William Turner would probably have reached quickly for his sketch pad.
- ★ You ascend a few metres through violet sage blooms and cross over a stone wall which used to surround a field. From the other side of the wall it is only 200 paces until a

- 1.00 phalanx of cairns direct the wanderer uphill to the right and not straight on along the wider goat path. When you have passed the cliff, a wide meadow stretches out in front of you, in which, to the left and barely perceptible, there is the chapel **Ayios Ioannis**. The structure is plain except for the lovely frescoes in the old apse. Even just its situation in this abandoned area makes seeing it an experience.

Alternative: The rest of the way on down to Siána is uneven and bumpy. You could also consider returning the same way you came through the lovely meadows. On the other side of the meadow a reddish-coloured path leads slowly up to an open mountain pasture with a pine





1.11 grove above it ☐. There is a quaint **cairn** to the right of the path, directly in front of a tree trunk.

!! *Alternative:* It is only 10 minutes straight ahead to the observation station for forest fires near the **peak of the Akramítis** (823 m). By clear weather the view is very worthwhile. A path also leads into the valley from there.

1.11 If you turn right at the cairn, you will find a goat path over the hill and can walk downhill slowly from there, without a path, staying to the left until you reach a wide,

1.20 **red footpath**, which you follow downhill. Soon there are

1.25 **ruins** 100 m to the right between pines. The path becomes steeper but shadier. Far down below you turn left at

1.45 a cairn on a boulder to reach the **street**.

It is 30 minutes on foot down to **Monólithos**; hitch-hiking is only 5 minutes.

It takes eight minutes uphill to reach **Siána**, with its narrow lanes and nice little tavernas. The village is famous for honey, yoghurt and especially Zúmo- a kind of grappa.

8 Monólithos

On this five-hour walking tour you circle at a respectful distance round the crusade citadel enthroned on a steep cliff. There are several possibilities for taking a swim and then a terrific sunset at the end. The length of the tour is, however, 7 km, so you might want to take a short cut in the middle.

AWT 0.00 You should take some water for your walk at the lovely **village fountain** in **Monólithos** since there is no possibility along the way to get refreshments. Then, keeping to the left, meander downhill along the street above the gar-

dens and turn to the right at the last houses ☐ onto a cement path which is soon flanked on the left with natural walls of loess. It leads through terraces of olive trees and straight down to the valley floor. Here you turn right

0.09 onto the **country road** and follow it uphill after a bridge.

!! At the fork, go to the left – don't miss the somewhat

0.15 overgrown **dirt road** leading *downhill to the left* after an olive grove – now nothing can go wrong for the moment.

At the end of the road, walk to the right past the grape vines and then take a half-right between two fields of grain to the right edge of the forest, where you un-

0.20 knot and refasten the **gate**. You will find a sufficient number of

0.35 red dots in the sparse pine forest to reach the **edge of the forest** soon. Charred tree trunks from the fire in 1999 stand in front of the sea. Since it is easy to lose your way in the next part of the walk, you are recommended to take the bright rocky peninsula on the right of the broad



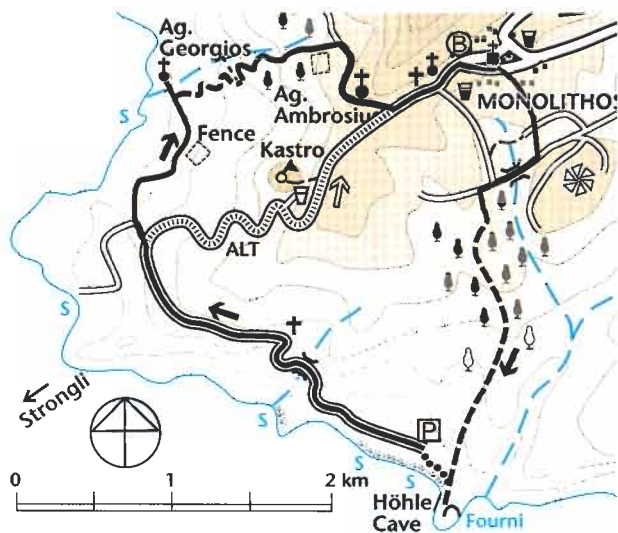
- 1.00 mountain ridge ② as your goal. The **sandy beach of Fourni** lies to the right at the end of the way.

There are several caves on the peninsula's steep east sandstone coast. Some of these are said to be over 1000 years old. Beneath the stony remains of the light tower on the point, there is a cruciform cave church in which a grave was found

The wide beach is not visited frequently. At the end of the wider part, the way continues between pines along the asphalt street until you arrive at the next (smaller) beach.

- 1.10 Now the way becomes fairly strenuous as you go on uphill along the street. At the top, to the left of the street, there is a rock formation in the shape of a dragon, like the one slain by Saint George. It marks the **sandy path** leading downhill to the left behind it.
- 1.35 **Short Cut:** Follow the asphalt street up to Monólithos. Continue along the sandy path to the left, from which a turn-off leads down to the left to a bay with the island of Strongli (= the round one).

Your straight path offers beautiful views of Cape Armenistís and, behind that, the island of Chálki, as you walk down along it. After a curve to the right you can look



- up to Mount Akramítis, to the small white chapel halfway up (where you will still go today!) and to the rocky monolith with the citadel, whose walls seem to grow out of the cliff. 80 m after a **vineyard** (on the right) you can begin looking for the way up further ③ and wander on to the chapel of **Ayios Georgios**.
- 2.00
- 2.05

The interior is decorated in a rustic manner; the dragon killer rides along the wall to the right. In front there is a shady spot for a picnic, with a bell made from a grenade shell – divine. And down below, a mini-bay!

- Along the way back, you must be very careful not to miss the **turn-off** ③ to the left with the cairns, which comes just 4 minutes later. An old, somewhat decayed path meanders uphill, turns to the right, then leads on upwards, crosses a fence twice and ends at the beginning of a **dirt road**. This leads along flat ground to the left and then up through pines to a **glade** with olives and grape wines. From there continue on uphill to the right to a flat, wide dirt track and then to the right again, past the Ambrosius Chapel to the asphalt street.
- 2.09 !!
- 2.25
- 2.40

*The romantically inclined now walk downhill to the right for 12 minutes to the **Monólithos citadel** ④ and enjoy the famous **panorama at sunset**.*

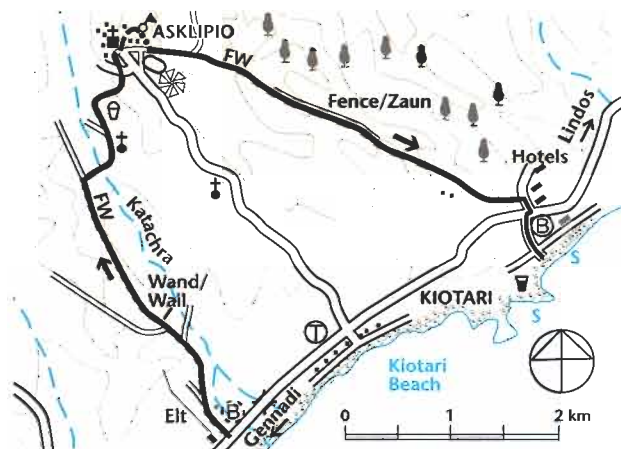
Always a place of asylum and a fortress, a citadel of the Order of Saint John stood here beginning in 1476. Only the remains of the wall are left over. The chapel of Saint Panteléimon was added on later.

- The others can turn off to the left to end the day in the taverna "**Panorama**". Each decision has its advantages.
- 3.05

9 Asklipío

Untouched by tourism, the village of Asklipío enchants the visitor with its white houses and narrow lanes. The wonderful frescoes in the church of Mary's Passing Away are absolute jewels. This three-hour walk leads there along pebble paths, offers a broad panorama view of the sea on the way back and ends at a lovely sandy beach. You must get off the bus from Rhodes/Lindos shortly before Gennádi!

- AWT Shortly after the big beach hotels of Kiotári, there is a petrol station on the right. 200 m later a bridge follows, and then, after another 200 m, you must ask the bus driver to stop. A sandy path leads away from the street here and into the interior of the island, past an **electric transforming station** and accompanied by power lines. You pass by a deteriorating **water pump** (right) and keep to the right at a fork but then turn left at the next. Then the path continues slightly uphill, with the massive cement wall of a gravel-pit to the right. At the next **fork**, turn to the right onto the plains of the Katáchra River. On the other side 0.15 you can see the village of Asklipío on the slope. The **turn-off** to the right leads through the dry stream bed, then to the left and later uphill. Continue below a chapel and on past a fountain, and soon, after a curve, you are greeted by the broadly sprawling white village ☐. Beneath the village, you pass by gardens, cross the asphalt street and walk uphill along the narrow, twisting lanes to Asklipío. After walking beneath the bell tower, you come to the famous chapel Kímissi tis Theotókou.
- 0.00
- 0.07
- 0.15
- 0.35
- 1.00



The chapel is dedicated to Mary's Ascension to Heaven or Passing Away and has the most beautiful frescoes on Rhodes. The original chapel from 1060 had the shape of a Latin cross and was later expanded with side aisles. The central area was painted in the 17th century. In the middle of the nave you see the genesis, the creation of the world. In the right transept the Revelation of Saint John, in the left transept pictures from the life of Christ.

- 1.10 First walk along the lane to the right of the cafe "Platia", then look for the way up to the **castle ruins** ☒. Much from the Order of Saint John is there: the gate, a cistern, battlements. There is a beautiful view over land and sea. From up on top, aim for the sports field, which you can reach without a path, walking between olive trees. The sandy sports field should stay to your right beneath the road. At the next **fork**, turn downhill to the right and stay on the wider path at the subsequent turn-offs. The fence to the left serves to keep the wild forest goats away from the fields. Walk on towards the sea in wide, gentle curves.
- 1.15
- 1.40 The **clay pigeon shooting range** remains on your right, as you walk along a **street** leading downhill to the right to reach the **bus stop** in front of the Hotel "Rhodos Maris". You can find a spot in the sand on the beach. The wanderer needn't pay attention to the animators' shouts of encouragement accompanying the sports activities. Instead, you can laze on the beach until the bus arrives.
- 2.00
- 2.05



10 Moní Tharí

Anyone who wants to wander through the Greek forests at some time should take this three to four-hour tour. You walk to the famous St. Michael's Cloister in Tharí along roads which aren't too steep and then return to Laérma in a wide loop. You will only find water in Tharí.

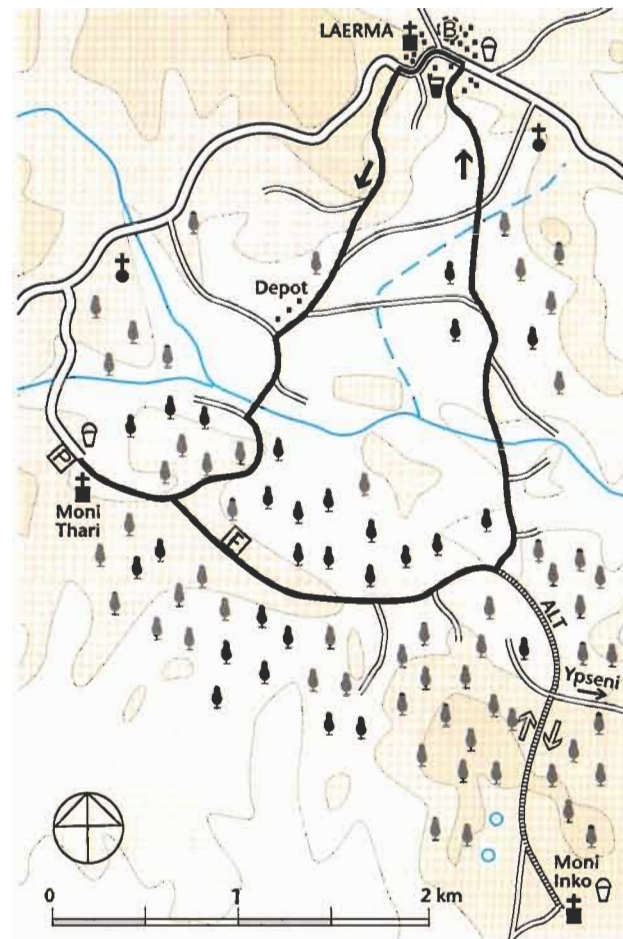
The only bus connection to Laérma is in the afternoon, so you should plan either to spend the night (see below) or to go from Lárdos by taxi or by hitching a ride.

- AWT After the **Church of Laérma** (right), you pass by the restaurant "Igkos" (left) on the slightly ascending street, then turn off the street to the left 200 m later after a right curve and walk along a dirt road leading downhill and lined with pine and olive trees. At the **fork**, continue straight on downhill and down below in the flat area, 0.11 turn to the **right**. Meander light-footed, passing by the 0.15 **turn-off** (to the left), and you will come to a military depot (right) shortly. At the fork, bear to the left downhill 0.25 and then directly afterwards to the right and on through a **stream bed**, which can carry water until May. 0.30 At the following fork, go uphill to the left and then 0.50 through the wooded hillside to the **cloister of Tharí** ☒.

This cloister, dedicated to the archangel Michael, is a forging tool for the Orthodox Church. The 15–20 monks living here will come far in the church hierarchy – so it is said. The cloister also sends forth missionaries.

Visitors can view the old, completely painted church,

whose oldest, 600-year-old frescoes are in the altar area. Saint Michael can be seen several times, with his sword in the right hand and a child in the left. He is fighting against the powers of darkness with his sword and accompanies mankind's souls, symbolically represented by the child, into eternity. One special portrayal is the representation of Christ sitting.





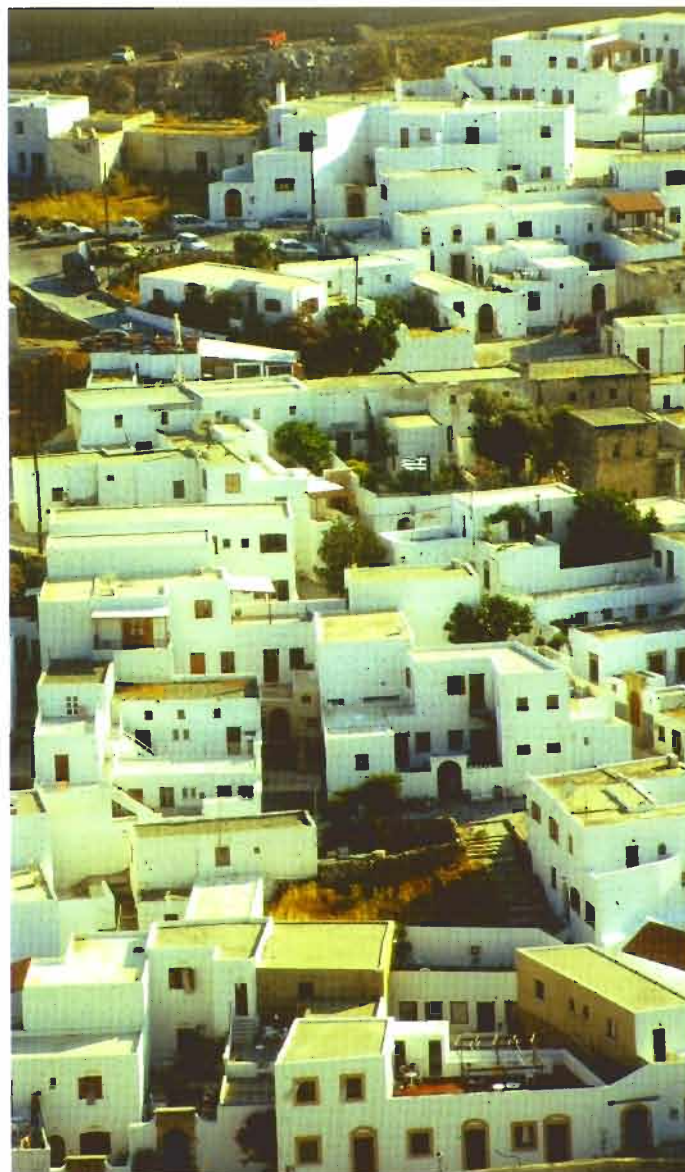
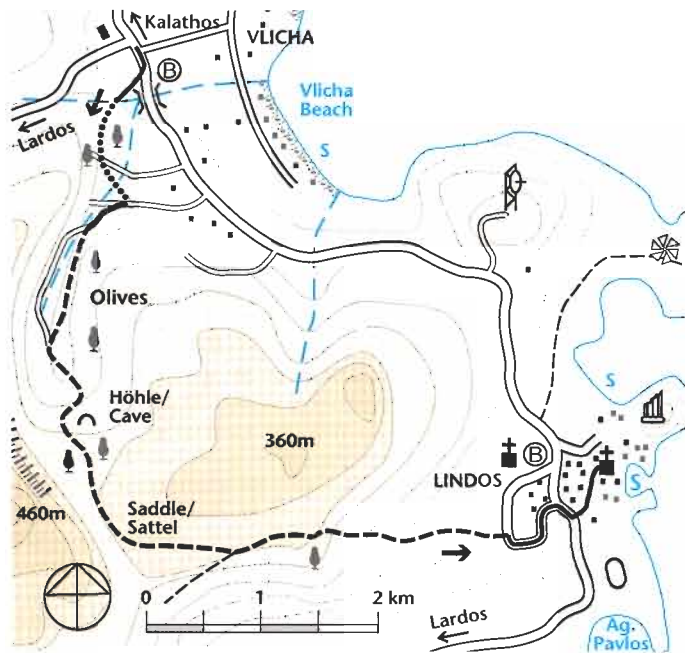
- Return briefly along the way you came, and then continue on uphill to the right at the fork above the cloister church. On the left of the ridge, you can see Atávros, the highest mountain on Rhodes (1215 m) [2]. The dirt path was cleared to make a lane for fire protection, and soon
- 1.05 you come to a fire **observation station** along the way. In 1987 and 1992 there were devastating forest fires here.
- 1.15 At the **crossing of the paths** [3], follow the sign “Inko” straight on. The delightful smell of pine trees makes your hike much easier. Pay no regard to a turn-off to the right,
- 1.35 but instead take the **turn-off to the left** which follows.
- Alternative:* If you are still full of energy, you can continue straight on for a quarter of an hour to **Cloister Inko** with its church to Saint George [4]. The way there leads on further along the wide fire lane. The chapel has old furnishings, but the exterior renovation is extremely obvious. There is a cistern.
- 1.35 After the **turn-off to the left**, you come to a narrower forest path leading downhill. Pay no attention to two turn-offs to the right. Just enjoy the walk down to the valley along this wonderful path through the pines. The village of Laérma is located at the edge of the woods.
- 1.55 Walk or wade through the **dry stream bed** or the stream again. You will pass by lovely Greek farmland before you
- 2.30 can order a good Greek salad in **Laérma**.


11 Línodos

This walking tour is the loveliest way to get to Línodos, except for taking a boat trip. You walk amidst olive trees and oaks along well-marked goat tracks. You cross over a mountain ridge and arrive, without great exertion, in Línodos after two and a half to three hours. There is no place to get water along the approximately eight kilometres.

- AWT The bus station is located above Vlichá before the fork in
- 0.00 **the road**. From there it is about 200 m along the street to Línodos until you come to a bridge, but before it turn right onto a dirt road which leads downhill amidst olive trees to a dry stream bed. On the other side of the stream, continue uphill to the right without a path through terraces of olive trees towards the rock wall. Later, on the flat land, walk to the left across a dirt way and through a dry stream bed again, until you come to a **road**. After a gate, it arrives at an impressive gully [1] [2] lined with pines. Before the road leads to the right through the dry bed, take a **path** straight ahead marked by cairns – leaving the dry stream bed on the right and the road behind it. The path comes to a wide hollow where there is an olive grove on the left and a cave can be seen straight ahead on the slope. You
- 0.15 cannot enter this **cave** since it is used as a siesta spot by a large herd of goats. Anyway, the classics expert knows that a Cyclops sometimes resides in Greek caves.
- 0.30 Above the cave, you continue going uphill slightly through sharp rocks, between which inquisitive “stone men”, the cairns, look out curiously [3]. Kermes oaks pro-
- 0.40





- vide shade for the path, which meanders somewhat to the right along the bottom of the mountain. Once you have come to the **ridge**, you head downhill. At the end of the high plateau which comes next, you can see the sea again. Further down, the path leads to the left along a hardly visible path which is accompanied by a dry wall. The lovely view across the sea and up to a chapel on a peak should not draw your attention away from the cairns! They lead to an **elevation** from which the ancient acropolis of Lindos can finally be seen. The huddled old little houses in the hollow are still not visible. A fitting, shady rest area awaits you on the right.
- The rest can be told quickly. Pay no attention to the new buildings on the left and look forward to the lovely hilly lanes in Lindos .
- 0.50
- 1.20
- 1.50

► **Swimming:** If you want to swim first, walk along the main street another 5 min. to the bay of the apostle Paul.

12 Crusader Castles

During this lovely four-hour walk along the coast-line, you have the opportunity to visit the ruins of two crusader castles. In between, there is magnificent coastal scenery and several sandy beaches. However, the well-marked path demands a bit of physical fitness

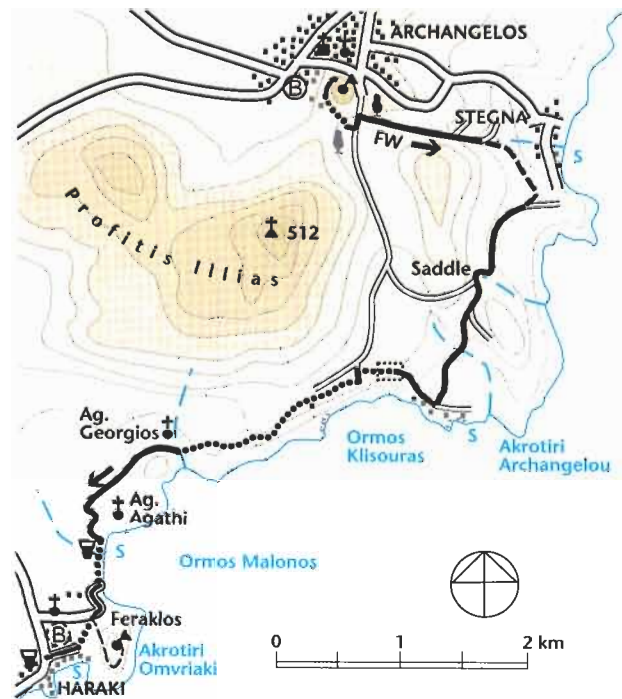
- AWT The point of departure is the castle above the village of Archángelos. The defensive bulwark has been restored, but there is nothing remaining from the interior.
- 0.00 Beneath the castle, on the side towards the city, walk along the cement road away from the steps toward the south, with the city on your right hand side. It is like an oasis surrounded by barren countryside. Before the few houses on the ridge, look for a way on the left through the rocks. From the other side of the small ridge [1], a rather wide path leads down to the olive trees and into the valley. Behind this grove, go along a dirt road to a wider sandy track and walk along it to the left. Three minutes later, change your direction in a sharp angle to the right and walk through the charming farming countryside towards the sea. At a fork, go to the right and then shortly afterwards to the right again at the cairns onto a narrow footpath. Soon you will see the holiday village of Stegná, which has developed quite a bit in the last few years – you can hear this through the animators' loudspeakers.
- 0.25 !! The path goes downhill in an arc between the rocks above Stegná. Wander to the right along the plateau, towards the south [2]. A dirt path to the right of the fences
- 0.40

leads to a rocky path which can be seen from afar and mounts to a ridge.

0.55 From there, continue downhill to the left along the wider dirt road to the water and turn right at a fork. Bizarre caves in the boulders on the left are used as a shelter by the goats. After passing between several simple holiday

1.15 houses, you arrive at the Bay of Klisoúras. Behind the fenced-in houses, take the track to the west, and you will arrive at a long rectangle cut into the rocks: an ancient quarry, as you can still see by the steps. The stones for Líndos, which is located opposite this area, were probably hewn here.

On the other narrow side of the rectangle, a red dot directs you into a beautiful rocky landscape [3]. Walk left along the dirt road you come to later until you reach the old olive tree and then find the continuation of the foot





- 1.40 path after 20 m. A **little house** made of quarry stones stands alone on the plateau. Far below, decorated with flags and crosses, there is a wonderful beach under the cliff, and a steep path before you get to the little house leads down to it. Your path continues on the right of the cliff, and a steep path before you get to the little house leads down to it. Your path continues on the right of the cliff, and a steep path before you get to the little house leads down to it.
- 1.50 **little house**. You can avoid a somewhat **steep area** by going above it to the right (red dots). Then the landscape plays another trump. In the summer you can do a slalom run between the rocks and thistles, which are as tall as a man. If you look back, you can see a gigantic rock gate which makes you think of Salvador Dalí [4]. To the right, you can see the chapel to Saint George. The wanderer is crammed through a **double fence** and then continues
- 2.05 along a dirt path around a stone hill to the **sandy bay of Agáthi** with its lively beach, refreshment establishments and chapel (have you found it?). The bay is surrounded by ruins of castles and other structures. You must briefly share the dirt track with cars and motor bikes until you come to the sign to the castle.

The castle of Féraolos, once built on top of an ancient acropolis, was torn away from Byzantium by the Order of Saint John in 1306 and was their first and most powerful citadel on Rhodes.

It wasn't until after a long Turkish siege that it was captured in 1523, after the fall of the city of Rhodes. Little remains except for the embattlements.

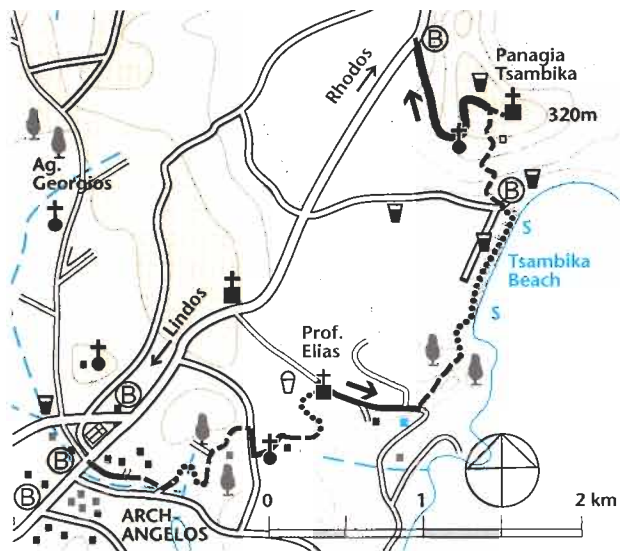
- The ascent is steep, and, if the ruins of one castle a day are enough for you, you can easily find your way through the meadows and on past an archaeological area (left) to
- 2.35 **Charáki**. Here you can see what can be made out of a "romantic little fishing village on a protected bay".

13 The Cloister of Tsambíka

This cloister, located on a peak 340 m high, is the destination for many pilgrims and the climax of today's walk. First you can swim at the most beautiful beach on Rhodes – Tsambíka Beach. The walk is not strenuous except for the ascent through the rocky terrain to the cloister. You can get refreshments at the beach as well as near the cloister. The starting point is the second largest city on the island, Archángelos, which can easily be reached by bus.

- AWT The street to Stégna leads eastwards from the main street in Archángelos, next to a cemented stream bed. On the other (northern) side of the stream bed there is a **taxi stand**. From there, go along the street towards the sea, on the left of the dry bed. Three minutes later go straight ahead and leave the street, walking directly along the stream bed. Then take the **road uphill to the left** to several pens. To the right, the mountain of the prophet Elijah arises and, in front of it, the crusader castle's long wall.
- 0.10 From the pens, walk **through a valley** in an arc to the right and look for a dirt path off to the left on the next low hill. At the subsequent fork in the little forest, bear to the right and, at a collection of indescribable variety representing a Greek farm pen, continue uphill to the **asphalt street**. Go downhill to the right along this street for a short while and then uphill to the left at a small private chapel. Now you can see today's destination on a steep mountain: the cloister of Tsambíka. Behind the garden surrounding a large house, turn to the right and walk,

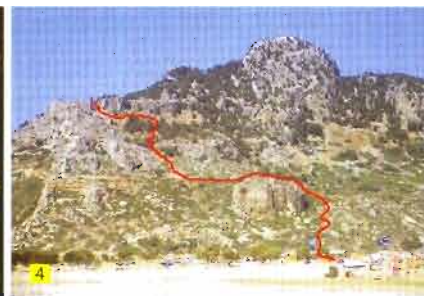




possibly through a chicken fence, on the left of the fence straight on downhill towards the sea. From here there is a magnificent panorama view of the cloister on the cliff and the sandy bay located in front of it [1].

- Further down, walking without a path and keeping to the left through the hollow filled with olive trees and then going uphill, you reach the small **cloister of Profitis Elias** in a garden. It is, however, usually closed, so meander downhill along the dirt path next to the cloister wall and then bear left at the fork. Further down, don't take the left turn-off next to the olive garden but continue straight on towards the sea for a short while before you turn to the left several metres before some **small rocks**. Your way continues directly on the right edge of the olive grove - not in the Phrygana. A foot path leads from the lower corner of the grove through a sparse pine forest [2] to a slope with fine sand [3]. Swing downhill in an elegant slalom to the **sandy beach of Tsambika**. Take the sand out of your shoes, change your clothes, have a break!

As you continue walking along the beach, you can decide whether you want to make the rest of the day easier and just hike to the bus stop. If not, look for the water pipes



- 1.15 on the left of the **shop at the bus stop**. They run diagonally uphill to the left along the ground [4]. Follow them a few metres, then, before the pens, turn upwards to the right at a right angle. Cairns are awaiting you! A mighty boulder is located to the left of the steep path.
- 1.25 At the top you come to a **flatter stretch** and walk to the left across the cliff almost levelly. Then you turn steeply uphill to the right again, with a steep boulder on your left. Climb uphill in wide curves to a spot on the left where you have to cross over a boulder. If you have a great fear of heights, you must keep looking towards the right for five metres – but everyone manages. As a reward, you have a magnificent picnic spot right away. Down below is the beach and its little restaurants, which have staked out their claims.
- ✓ 1.50 After a sparse pine forest, you reach **ruins** (right) and steps leading uphill to the left to the **parking lot**. You will share the remaining 297 steps with panting car drivers
- 2.05 until you reach the **cloister of Tsambika**, the cloister of Our Dearly Beloved Virgin.

The guest is met by a small courtyard. There are some accommodations for women who wish to bear children: a night on the mountain is said to have helped even in difficult cases. That's why a lot of photographs of healthy little children can be seen on the left wall of the chapel.

Saint Charámboles looks very old in comparison.

The **walk down** the steps leads to the restaurant with its wonderful terrace, where you can sit as if you were in a quiet Alpine meadow and look down upon the gigantic hotels in Kolímbia. You can smile hopefully at a car driver here or else walk down along the street for 15 minutes

- 2.30 and hop onto the bus on the **main street**.

14 A Thrill at the Eptá Pigés

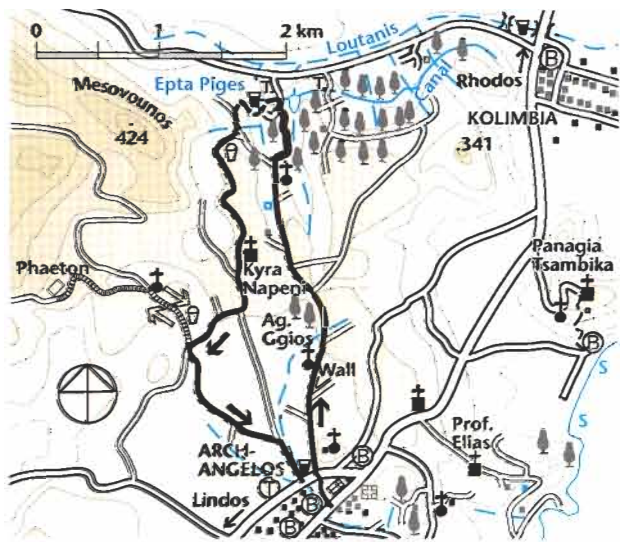
First you walk through agricultural countryside to the seven springs – Eptá Pigés in Greek –, which are an attraction especially for the locals. You return to Archángelos on dirt roads.

- AWT About 20 metres north of the cement streambed at the northern bus stop in Archángelos, walk westwards – **opposite the taxi stop** – along “Odos Stadiou”, then bear right at the next fork, continue straight on at the turn-off to the right and cross over the **by-pass road**.
- 0.00
- 0.10 Follow a small street straight on, with the dry bed on your left. Disregard a path to the left across the dry bed, but turn to the left 100 m later at a pointed **garden wall** (blue arrow). The old **chapel of Saint George** is in the fields on the left.
- 0.15
- 0.20 Bear left uphill at the next fork, under pines and then later through lemon and olive plantations. **Before a garden gate**, turn to the left and then walk downhill onto broad plains five minutes later. Stay on the cement path on the right directly afterwards! After a **chapel** ☐, follow the **narrow turn-off to the right** into the valley and turn to the left there. Along a wider dirt road, with a gully on the right, you reach a little street and walk downhill to the right along it for a few metres until you come to a round walled object. If you look in, you will hear a bubbling noise – and voices. It is the ventilation shaft for the water tunnel.
- 0.35
- 0.50
- 1.10 Walk left over the hill to the **Eptá Pigés**, which lie carefully numbered behind the shady garden restaurant.



Peacocks walking freely around give this place an exotic touch. Under the springs, there is the beginning of a narrow tunnel ② which leads the water to the right through the mountain. Walking through the narrow shaft is an exciting experience. If it is too narrow for you, simply walk over the hill to arrive at the small, romantic reservoir. If you keep following the water channel, you can cross through a second tunnel. The installation was set up by the Italians to direct water to Kolimbia.

- For the walk pack, cross the **bridge in the garden restaurant** and follow the footpath to the left. Continue uphill to the right in the thick pine forest to reach an **olive tree terrace**. Continue to the right above it. At the end of the grove, walk uphill to another olive grove on the left and then go to the left along the fence. Later you cross through the grove and come to a dirt road, which you should follow to the left. After about two minutes, past a small creek, turn to the right onto a narrow path leading directly to a wide hill. At its foot, turn to the right. A **fountain** is on the left. Make a left curve around the hill. There is an expanse of plains with terraces of olive trees on the right. If you stay directly at the foot of the hill, you will find a large stone on the left of the path and, 40 m after it, a path leading uphill ③. At the top you come to a dirt road next to a shed. On the right between the trees, you can see the red tiled dome of a church, the next goal. The dirt road leads directly along the left of the slope, through a dry streambed and then on to the small, newly build **monastery of Kyra Napeni** ④.
- 1.15
- 1.25
- !!
- 1.45
- From here you continue straight on and then later bear left at the fork. Wide olive groves extend across the coun-



tryside. The path leads downhill again now and soon offers a first view of Archángelos. Shortly afterwards, leave the dirt road to the right before a fence. Continue under olive trees along a narrower dirt road and bear left downhill at a fork, walking along a cement channel. You meet up with a wider dirt road in front of a steel gate.

- 2.00 **Alternative:** If you still have energy, walk to the right here and then to the left at the fork near a tiny chapel. 15 minutes later you reach a walled-in area where ponies are kept. This is called “Phaeton” after Alexander the Great’s horse. Ponies have lived on Rhódos for a long time and have been bred here with the support of the University of Athens since recent times.
- 2.00 In front of the **steel gate** the path leads slightly downhill and then to the left at the fork immediately following it.
- 2.45 Continue walking downhill to reach Archángelos.

15 The Countryside around the Panagías Paramithiás Monastery

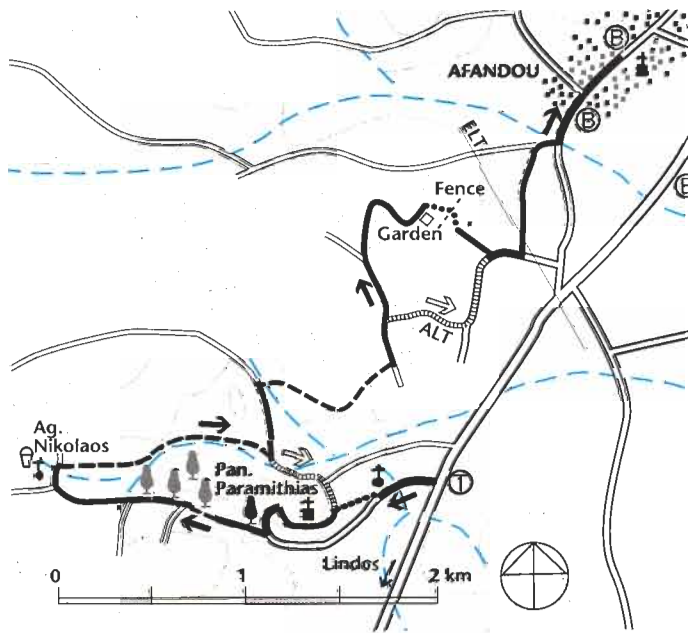
The Panagías Paramithiás monastery is enthroned on a hill near the street from Rhodes to Lindos. You will meander through the rolling countryside for three to four hours. The somewhat strenuous walks, mainly along dirt roads, offer wide views. The walk ends in Afándou.

- AWT Have the bus driver drop you off about 2.5 km to the south of Afándou, at the **turn-off to the monastery** – exactly across from a petrol station. Walk along a narrow side-street to a chapel (right) and then wander to the right along beaten paths through a meadow with olive trees to reach the monastery □. Keep left on a dirt road beneath the monastery and walk through a gate to reach the Panagías Paramithiás monastery.
- 0.00
- 0.15

Several monks live in the relatively new monastery. The central area with a small chapel is surrounded by buildings with cells and is dominated by an Italian-looking campanile.

- Now walk downhill along the street and to the right in a left curve along a dirt road in the valley. Signs announce three churches. In the beginning, you walk uphill, pass a house and then walk through lovely, rolling countryside again. Disregard two turn-offs to the left. Soon you are above a **hollow** and discover a small, tile-covered chapel between trees on the other side. You soon reach the bottom of the valley and walk up to the chapel Ayios Ni-
- 0.35
- 0.45





koláos ☒. It is only 20 years old, with modest fittings.

Beneath the chapel, leave the path you have taken so far to the right, towards the middle of the valley. After several metres, you pass by a dry streambed. From there, walk uphill for about 30 m and then to the right into a meadow with olive trees. Cross the meadow along the tractor tracks and then cross over a cemented **ford** beyond it. Stay in the dry streambed for several minutes and then walk uphill for a few metres to another meadow, on the left above the streambed. At the following fork, you can see the monastery again, above on the right. Walk left here.

0.55

Short cut: If you walk straight on and right at the next forte, you will come back to the meadow with the olive trees below the monastery. From here you can reach the mainstreet again.

A sparse group of pines lines the dirt road, which leads uphill on the left above a ravine with thick vegetation. Before a fence, turn to the right and wander through the

meadow with olive trees once again. You can still see the monastery.

- 1.15 Along a rather steep path you come to the **chain of hills** with a view of the sea. Turn left to come to the next fork, where you can see Afándou with its thickly huddled white houses.

Alternative: The shorter and easier path leads downhill to the right from here and then to the left along the street.

Uphill to the left you come to a mountain ridge from which you have a view of the entire island. At a fork, wander uphill to the right and then downhill to the right

- 1.35 again at the peak to a fenced-in **garden**.

The dirt road ends here. Across from the garden, in the direction of Afándou, a goat track leads downhill – it is slippery and should be walked on carefully.

Down below you come to a garden of olive trees embedded in the rock and fenced in at the top. **Climb over the fence**, the best place is directly at the rocks, and walk over the terraces to reach the valley. From there, a path leads to the street, which you should walk along downhill to the left. It is used by garbage trucks and looks accordingly. At

- 1.45 the **sign** "Refuse disposal prohibited", you can leave the asphalt street to the left and cross power lines and between small gardens to reach the modest village of **Afándou**. Wait for the bus in a shady cafe along the street at the village platía.

- 1.50
2.05

Maps of Rhodes

Because of military security considerations there are no accurate walking maps obtainable. Good road maps of a scale of 1:100.000 can be purchased from ReiseKnowHow, tc Travel maps, freytag & berndt, Road Editions.

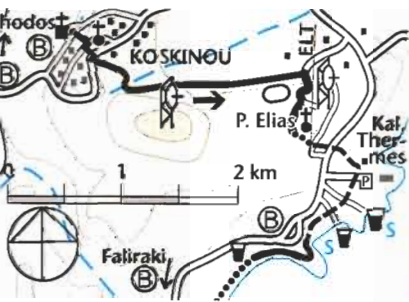
Beginning in 2005 there will be a new map from Anavasi, with data for walkers.

16 The Hot Springs at Kalithéa

First enjoy a broad panoramic view of the island along this easy three to four-hour walk and then visit the hot springs at Kalithéa and bizarre rocky bays with nice beach restaurants.

- AWT In the village of Koskinoú, take the lane on the left of the mini-market opposite the fountain on the **main square** and keep walking in this direction until you come to a wider street, which you walk along to the right uphill for 150 m. At "Odos Ag. Eirinis", turn to the left, and you will soon to the chapel of the same name. A few metres after it, you turn to the right and walk uphill along the by-pass road. 120 m further, walk downhill to the left along the narrow **road** that leads around a ravine and then downhill along the mountainside. At the **fork in the road**, bear uphill to the right. At the top, the **chapel of Profitis Elías** awaits you with lovely icons and a magnificent panorama view. Overcome the slope of the cliff without a path, the best way is several metres on the right of the power line, and look for a dirt road leading down to the **main street** and then a foot path on the other side down to the **hot springs at Kalithéa (photo)**.

- 0.10
0.30
0.40
0.50
1.00
1.20
- In 1929 the Italian masters of the island built a structure inspired by the orient around the hot springs. At that time it was an attraction for international society, but then some of the buildings fell into decay. They are now being restored.* Meander southwards along the rocky coast under shady pines. Two **bays among the cliffs** await you! If you prefer sand, you will enjoy the long **sandy beach at Faliráki**.



17 The Peacocks at Rodíni Park

It is loveliest here in spring when the vegetation has a sumptuous, almost tropical effect. An Easter picnic in the park is a must for most locals. In summer the coolness of the ravine offers a pleasant place to gather new strength.

On foot from the old town, you need half an hour along the much frequented road to Líndos. For this reason, the bus from Néa Agorá or a taxi is recommended.

You begin this one-hour walk at the park's entrance on the street to Líndos, and it's best to walk across the bridge with the aqueduct first and then go uphill on the left. The part is set up around a deep sandstone ravine.

The stream running through the ravine is dammed up again and again and spanned by picturesque wooden bridges. At the end of the park, cross over the stream and return on the other side of it. You have a choice of several parallel paths.

Above the hollow there is a building with a terrace where several peacocks love to hang out. Their shrieks can be heard from afar. There is also a game preserve here.

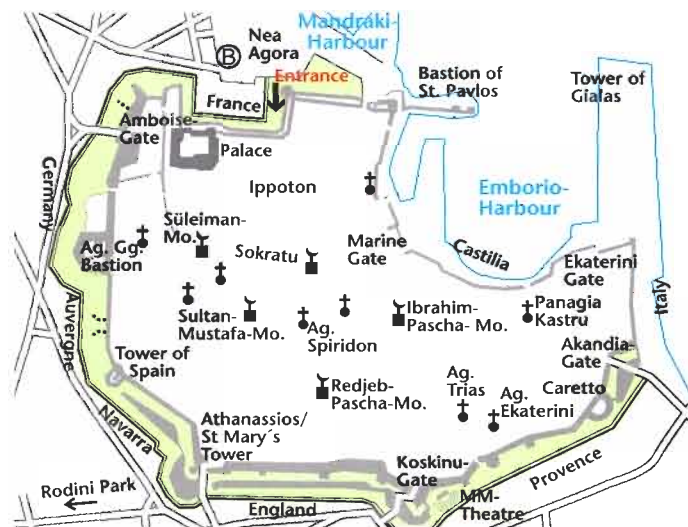
Before you reach the upper end of the park, you can stay above the ravine and come to the **cliff graves**, which the locals call "kufió vuonó", meaning "hollow mountain", in just a few minutes. The most famous is named the Ptolemy Grave and has a five-metre high façade of relief pillars hewn into the rock. The entrance is barred by grating, but you can look into the cave through it.

18 Along the Medieval Moat in Rhodes

This one-and-a-half-hour walk of 4 km is laden with history and encompasses the old city of Rhodes. This once most powerful citadel of Christianity has been restored in recent years.

In 1309 Rhodes was conquered by the Order of Saint John, which had to withdraw from the Holy Land. In the beginning, the Byzantine walls existing in the city were hardly fortified. D'Aubusson, the grand master of the order, had all the fortifications renovated after 1480 in order to fulfil the requirements of the newly prevailing artillery. In 1522, 100,000 Turks besieged the city, which was bitterly defended by only 7,500 knights of the order and Greek fighters for five months. When the situation became hopeless, the conqueror, Suleiman the Magnificent, allowed them an honourable retreat.

Our walk around the immense fortification walls begins at the taxi stand in Mandraki Harbour, opposite the New Market. There is a great gate and then **Entrance A**. From the ramparts, with recently planted greenery, you can soon see the Grand Master's palace crowned with pinnacles. It was its own castle within the city ☐. What you see today is, however, the work of Italian architects who reconstructed the palace in the 1930s. After the turn to the left, you see flat outworks in the moat to take the attackers under crossfire. The outer fortification walls on the right were built smoothly to prevent the enemy from



having any cover during the attack or retreat. There used to be a drawbridge at the last section, the Amboise Gate. This section of the wall was defended by German knights. Different “tongues” or nations were responsible for each defensive section. Later you come to the pentagon-shaped Bastion of St. George. In the following section of the Auvergne there are two ramps coming up from below from which the defenders could surprise the besiegers. Behind the Tower of Spain there are gigantic outworks called “terre-plein” separating the moat into two parts and offering other possibilities of fighting the opponent from all sides. After three quarters of an hour, you will walk under a bridge near the Athanassios Tower. The English knights also had a “terre-plein” in their section, and it was connected with the Koskinou Tower. The Melina Merkouri Theatre is located in the section the Provence had. The Tower of Italy (Caretto) corresponded to the latest fortification techniques of that time: thick and round ☐. After it you come to water and then turn left. The Ekaterini Gate is hidden behind several travel agencies. The loveliest gate, the Marine Gate, and the harbour itself were defended by the kingdom of Castile. Then there are two more gates which were added later before you come to the Ayios Pavlos Bastion, which protected the harbour on the land side.

Abbreviations, Key

	hiking route on a road or dirt track
	hiking route on a street
	hiking route on a path
	hiking route without a path
	alternative route, short-cut
	street
	dirt road, sandy track
	monopáti, mule track
	walking direction/alternative
	dry streambed (at times), hollow
	antenna
	bus stop / - seasonal
	parking area
	petrol station
	helicopter landing pad
	cemetery
	wayside shrine, monument
	sports field
	cave
	medieval castle, dwelling tower / ruins
	ancient ruins, statue
	houses/ruins
	monastery, large church/ruins
	chapel/summit chapel/ruins
	taverna/ - open seasonally
	windmill, ruins
	fountain, well, spring, reservoir, cistern
	swimming possible

In the text:	AWT	Actual walking time
	!!	pay attention to turn-off!
	↙	possible feelings of vertigo
	OW	time for walking one way
	★	the author's 18 favourite spots



Crusader castles, rocky mountains, olive groves, lonely chapels, rustic tavernas, pinewoods ... there is plenty to discover on Rhodes.

This booklet describes the loveliest old walking trails. With detailed maps and photos of outstanding points for better orientation. And lots of useful knowledge about the "Island of the sun."



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