

About the history and the monuments of our country and our island.



**Meeting in Rhodes
2-8/10/2016**

Local history.

About our island, Rhodes.

Classical period

- The island was inhabited as early as the late Neolithic period (4000 B.C.).
- In 408 B.C. the three major cities of the island - Ialysos, Kamiros and Lindos - founded the city of Rhodes. The three centuries that followed were the golden age of Rhodes.
- In the same period, Rhodes produced excellent artistic work. The most celebrated of all was the Colossus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, made between 304 and 293 B.C. by the Lyndian sculptor Hares. The construction of the Colossus took 12 years and was finished in 282 BC. For years, the statue, representing their sun god Helios, stood at the harbour entrance, until a strong earthquake hit Rhodes about 226 BC. The city was badly damaged, and the Colossus was demolished.



Roman period

Byzantine period

Roman Period

The independence of the city came to an end in 164 B.C. when Rhodes became a Province of the Roman Empire. But even as late as the 1st century A.D. Rhodes preserved much of its splendor and developed into one of the greatest centres of learning, science and the arts.

Byzantine Period

During the early Christian period (330-650 A.D.) Rhodes belonged to the eastern part of the christianised Roman Empire, which is known in history as the Byzantine Empire.



Knights' Period

- In 1309 the island was sold to the Order of the Knights Hospitaliers of Saint John of Jerusalem
- During the Knights' era the fortifications were extended, modernized and continuously reinforced. A hospital, a palace and several churches were among the many public buildings constructed at that time, offering interesting examples of Gothic and Renaissance architecture



Ottoman Period

- In 1522 the Ottoman Turks conquered the city after a second long siege. New buildings were constructed: mosques, public baths and mansions for the new patrons. The Greeks were forced to abandon the fortified city and move to new suburbs outside its walls.
- In the Ottoman era Rhodes lost its international character. The city maintained its main economic function as a market for the agricultural products of the interior of the island and the surrounding small islands.



Italian Period

- Italian troops took over the island and the rest of the Dodecanese in 1912 and in 1923 Italy established a colony Isole Italiane del Egeo.
- The Italians undertook extensive infrastructure works (roads, electricity, port, etc.) and radically transformed the town of Rhodes, which was supplied with a new urban plan, building regulations and many new public and private buildings.



Modern Period

- After World War II, in 1947, Rhodes, together with the other islands of the Dodecanese, was reunited with Greece
- In 1988, the old town of Rhodes was designated as a World Heritage City by UNESCO.

