



21. RHODES

Best for: Travelling back in time

When the writer Lawrence Durrell arrived in Rhodes after World War II, he found an island devastated by centuries of crusaders and invaders. Like the fallen Colossus, it was 'a Rhodes dispersed into a million fragments, waiting to be built up again.' Since then, Rhodes has reinvented itself as one of Greece's top travel destinations. The big draw is the medieval citadel in Rhodes Town: stroll along the battlements and you'll spy Byzantine churches, Roman ruins, synagogues and minarets. In the maze of alleys, seek out Marco Polo, a 15th-century guest-house decorated like a pasha's harem, with an enchanting restaurant in the garden.

Upmarket hotels are clustered around Lindos, its magnificent acropolis surrounded by slate cliffs and emerald coves. Go for the views - and the sublime octopus ragout at Mavrikos restaurant.

As you head south, high-rise resorts give way to stretches of golden sand, such as Glystra, Tsambika, and Fourni. Inland, you'll find alpine forests (Mount Attavyros), hilltop castles (Monolithos), faded frescoes (Agios Nikolaos Foundoukli) and ancient ruins (Kamiros).



halves.

Where to stay in Rhodes: Adults-only [Casa Cook](#) is a chic little number that breaks all the rules about package holidays (you'd never know it was created by Thomas Cook). The [Marco Polo](#) is a 15th-century mansion decorated like a pasha's harem, with an enchanting garden restaurant. Also in Rhodes Old Town, [Kokkini Porta Rossa](#) is an intimate guesthouse in a 14th-century building stuffed with museum-grade antiques. Ottoman-style suites at [Melenos Lindos](#) have hand-painted ceilings and carved platform beds.

CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES