

Greece - Leros

Leros is one of the lesser known Dodecanese islands situated between Samos and Kalimnos. The island can be reached by the daily high speed ferry from Samos or Kos in under two hours and from Rhodes in less than four hours. There is also a daily boat and air service from Athens.

The island is 20km long and 7 Km's wide. Winding roads link the villages and main beaches of the island. The beaches on Leros are not spectacular but there are many pretty small coves with intermittent sand and pebbles with crystal clear water and very few tourists. In fact Leros is undoubtedly one of the least commercial of all the Greek islands. This is not the island for those in search of nightlife but for those looking for a restful holiday. It is ideal for those who love the sea, enjoy walking and bicycling and good local food and freshly caught fish from these still rich waters.

The island has five main villages each with its own character and charm. Agios Marina is the main traditional port, it is busy and picturesque and is linked to the hilltop town of Platanos with its traditional windmills. On the other side of the hill is the pretty village of Pandelli with its long beach.

The other main villages are Lakki, the former capital under Italian rule from 1914 to 1944, the town still has much interesting and rather grand architecture from the fascist era; the perfect little fishing village of Partheni with its waterside restaurants to the North and the Southern tip of the island the sleepy village of Xerocampos, a beach, three tavernas, a little fishing harbour and a good Southern anchorage against the prevailing Summer winds.