



Theater at Kos

Kos

Architecture of hotels, villas and pensions has characteristics of neo-styles and secession. Facades and ornaments on the buildings show the Mediterranean spirit.

LOCATION AND CLIMATE

The island of Kos is the third largest in archipelago Dodecanese in the Aegean Sea ("Dodecanese" in Greek means "twelve islands"), close to the coasts of Asia Minor. It is situated north west of Rhodes and south east of continental Greece. In regard to size, Kos is the third largest after Rhodes and Karpathos.

Mild Mediterranean climate brings to the island of Kos a lot of sunny days throughout the year. Due to its position the water temperature remains quite high during many months which allow the visitors swim in it even in the low season.

HISTORY AND SIGHTS

Like many other locations in the Mediterranean, the island of Kos had a turbulent history. The first settlement was founded in 366 BC and flourished because of its closeness to Asia Minor. Hippocrates, the father of medicine was born here in fourth century BC. Alexander the Great conquered it after a devastating earthquake in sixth century BC. After that it Ptolemy II of Egypt reigned and the place was thriving again. Then followed the Romans and the Byzantines. In 1522 the Turks occupied the island and ruled for four hundred years. In 1912, Italian forces replaced the Turks and held the island until 1943 when



Camel beach in Kos



Hippocrates Fountain Kos

it was overtaken by Germans. It was liberated by the United Kingdom in WWII and regained by Greece in 1947.

The various different civilizations and empires all left pieces of themselves behind. One of the most popular attractions is the old plane tree under which Hipocrates used to teach his pupils, and the nearby Neratzia Fortress, built by the Knights of St. John whose aim was to defend the island from the Ottomans (15th century).

The monument Asklepeion is located about 3 km from the town and long ago it was dedicated to the god of healing Asklepios. Hippocratic philosophy that became the foundation of western medicine was practiced here.

In the neighbourhood of Kos there are numerous small villages and you will definitely have a good time if you decide to take a care and discover them. You will find several ancient and medieval settlements embellished with old churches.

KOS TODAY

In Kos today, tourism is taken very seriously. It is a modern town with excellent holiday apartments, hotels, bars, and night clubs. The tourist organisations in the island also organize various interesting excursions. You can eat here in the town's taverns and restaurants offering Greek and international cuisine. The centre of "life" is in Kos, but there are dining places everywhere on the island and on the several beaches. If you come here don't miss to try the "Red Cheese", a local specialty - cheese baked with red wine. The island of Kos is very popular and people here cater to the needs of their visitors. There are numerous shops where you can buy virtually anything you need – souvenirs, jewellery, garments and books.



HOW TO ARRIVE?

By plane

If you arrive by plane you will land down on the international airport "Hippocrates" which is located nearby the village of Antimahia, located 26 kilometres south-west of the town Kos. There are regular flights from the Athens International Airport and to and from nearby Rhodes Island.

During seasons there are charter flights from many European cities.

By ferry

There are many ferries navigating the Aegean Sea by which you can reach the Kos Islands. Some of them operate on daily basis, such as the connection between Kos, Rhodes and Athens, as well as the between other Dodecanese islands. From Kos you can travel by a ferry to Mykonos, Syros and Thessaloniki. During season there is a daily ferry between Kos and Bodrum, located in Turkey.

By hydrofoil

During seasons hydrofoils link Kos and Rhodes and all the major islands of the Dodecanese. There are daily hydrofoils between Samos, Ikaría and Fourni (in the north-eastern Aegean).

ISLAND TRANSPORTATION

Buses

The main bus station is located in Kos Town, on Kleopatras Street. Ten daily buses drive to the village of Tigaki, six to Kefalos via the beaches of Paradise, Agios Stefanos and Kamari, five to Mastihari, five to Pyli and three to Zia.

From the bus stop located on Akti Kountouriotou, in Kos Town, regular buses are serving the Asclepion, Lampi and Agios Fokas.

Cars and motorbikes

If you wish to rent a car or motorbike, there are numerous rental offices. It is also possible to rent a bike

Taxis

If you need a fast transportation around the island, you can get a cab from many locations scattered around the town and in surrounding villages.