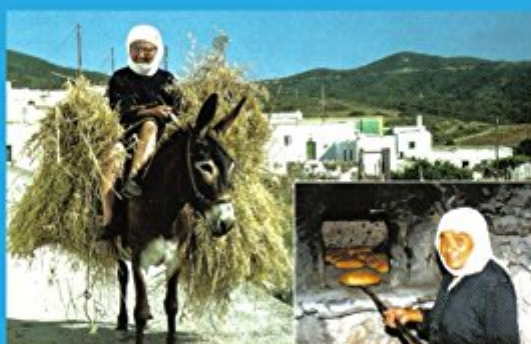


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Traditional Village Life Of Rhodes Island: Charm Of A Bygone Era And Post-War Migrant Experience

ANDREW PAPAS



Traditional Village Life Of Rhodes Island

Charm OF A Bygone Era And
Post-War Migrant Experience



Synopsis

Rhodes Island, famous worldwide, for the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and, for the World Heritage listed, 14th century, medieval Old Town of the Crusader Knights. Its historic sites and many sightseeing delights include the Acropolis of Lindos, the Acropolis of Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo, ancient Ialysos, ancient Kamiros, the Governor's Palace, the walled, medieval Old Town, the Palace of the Grand Masters and the Archeological Museum. Other wonderful attractions include Rhodes Town, Mandraki Harbor, Faliraki with the largest Water Park in Europe, Kalithea, Trianda, Ixia, Paradissi, Valley of the Butterflies, Seven Springs (Epta Piges) and, its forty three villages. Ferry over to neighboring islands like Kos, Symi, Patmos and Kalymnos, swim in sandy and pebbled beaches or snorkel, yacht, kayak or windsurf in bays and coves that surround the island. You can walk or mountain climb in tranquil settings amongst its hills and valleys, find rugged landscapes, hilltop monasteries and traditional villages with their white-washed homes. One thing I know about the traditional village life of Southern Rhodes is that there were so many things to love. A way of life of how it was in the past. Traditional village life in all its variety and vitality. A way of life with its traditional values and strong family systems - its people living the simple, self-sufficient way of life and being happy with it. It is the epitome of traditional values based on God, the family and traditions that have been handed down through the centuries. While traditional village life remains an important part of Rhodes valuable heritage, tourism and entry into the European Union in 1981 has had a huge impact on the traditional agricultural economy. The rural depopulation of Southern Rhodes is evident throughout the region. Nestled amongst rugged landscapes and historic sites, its residents are blessed to be living the simple, self-sufficient life, close to nature and God in every possible way. You can wind through its rural backroads to discover an uncrowded, unspoiled natural environment surrounded by the quiet of nature. Its quiet rural roads lead to pretty little rural villages, to fields of golden wheat and barley, olive groves, watermelon and honeydew melon patches, grazing goats and to panoramic valleys with hilltop monasteries. And, you can find an uncrowded beach to swim or just sit down outside a traditional village kafeneio and enjoy the tranquility of village life over a cup of Greek coffee. Village life and rural values reflect the old-fashioned charm of a bygone era in all its variety and vitality. Its assets include wholesome living in a natural, unspoiled and more relaxed, tranquil environment where time seems to stand still. Village life is full of culture, friendly people and visual delights. Picturesque, little rural villages, quiet country roads and a panoramic landscape filled with farms, livestock and wildlife. Rural values set the moral, social and spiritual climate. The people of Southern Rhodes live in tune with their rural values and traditional way of life. Everyone knows each

other, children are free to roam and play and the aged feel secure in a more healthy and relaxed lifestyle, at peace with one's soul and their fellow human being. These traditional villages were, goat-herding and farming communities growing various grain crops, they have olive groves, watermelon and honey-dew melon patches and fruit and, vegetables. From the fields you will find the best seasonal fruit and vegetables and enjoy new season watermelon and honeydew melons. Fresh eggs come from the chicken coop, thyme honey comes direct from the beehives and, the comforting aroma of freshly baked bread is made the traditional way in an outside, beehive shaped oven.

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