



ERASMUS +

DEEP EUROPEAN CUL-TOUR

WARSAW

25-29 OCTOBER

GREEK PRESENTATION



**MEDIEVAL TOWNS AND
VILLAGES
IN GREECE**

Greece has a long history, which comes from the ancient times, but concerns also the Byzantine and Medieval Times. If you are a fan of history and you want to see something different than archaeological sites of the antiquity, these are the best places to visit, which will impress you with their medieval beauty.

RHODES

The Medieval Town of Rhodes is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe, and thereat, Unesco inscribed it on its World Heritage List. During the Byzantine Period, Rhodes was an important trading post between Alexandria and Istanbul. In the 7th century A.D., the Arabs captured Rhodes, and the Knights Period started in the 14th and continued until the 16th century. Walking around the Old Town of Rhodes is a unique experience of medieval beauty and multicultural character between the East and West.

A photograph of the Castle of the Knights in Rhodes, featuring stone towers and battlements under a clear blue sky. The castle is constructed from light-colored stone and has several towers with crenellated tops. A large tree with green leaves is visible on the right side of the image. The text "CASTLE OF KNIGHTS" and "RHODES" is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, serif font.

CASTLE OF KNIGHTS
RHODES

MYSTRAS

Mystras is a fortified town in Laconia, on Mountain Taygetos. It was the capital of the Byzantine Despotate of the Morea and experienced a period of prosperity and cultural flowering. The city was abandoned in 1832, leaving only the breathtaking medieval ruins in a beautiful landscape. These ruins, including the palace, the fortress, the churches and the monasteries, was inscribed in 1989 in the List of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO.

MYSTRAS



KORONI & METHONI
MESSINIAS

In a close distance to Pylos in Messinia, you can visit two castle-towns, Koroni and Methoni in Messinia, where you will experience the Medieval aura of the area. The Venetian Castle of each town by the sea, the traditional character and the authenticity of these small towns make you adore them and understand how Medieval Times looked like in Greece.

Venetian castle of Methoni





Monemvasia comes directly from the Medieval Era. The Old Town and the Castle have been built in a huge rock with magnificent view of the sea. The Castle is among the main sightseeing spots in Monemvasia, and the walk in the pebbled streets will impress you.



MONEMVASIA



MANI

Mani, the middle peninsula of Peloponnese, is a treasure of Byzantine churches, castles and towers. Mani is a complex of villages in Messinia and Lakonia, and among the most impressive villages by the sea, are considered Gerolimenas, Limeni and Areopolis Mani. Stone-built houses, narrow streets, traditional shops, local products and the clearest sea-waters in whole Peloponnese make these places popular in summer as well as in winter. Very impressive, like coming directly from the Medieval Times, is the mountainous village of Vathia, which stands imposingly on the top of a hill with its abandoned towers overlooking Cape Tainaron and Aegean Sea.



MANI

PATMIOS

The well-preserved main town of Patmos is an architectural jewel of traditional white-washed houses and medieval churches, and it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The narrow pebbled streets and the Monastery of Saint Jown on the top of the hill, which looks like a fortress, make you believe like having travelled back in time

Agios Ioannis



RETHYMNO CRETE

FRAGOKASTELO

DROSOULITES

LEGEND

The term Drosoulites refers to a long procession of visions, seen by residents around Frangokastello castle in Sfakia region of Crete (Greece). The phenomenon is rumored to be visible every year, on the anniversary of the Battle of Frangokastello or even in early June near a small village in southern Crete named Frangokastello.



The visions, as described by witnesses, consist of a group of human-like shadows dressed in black, walking or riding, armed with weapons, moving from the monastery of Agios Charalambos and advancing towards the old fort, Frangokastello, a 14th-century Venetian fortification. Legend has it that this group of people are Greek fighters that died during the Battle of Frangokastello (17 May 1828) and since then they appear as supernatural beings in the area.

**BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN
HELLENIC WORLD**

Athens is worldwide known for its ancient history that gave birth to the western civilisation. However, Athens has a long and rich history, which consists not only of the antiquity but also of the medieval times.

Thessaloniki was, for much of the existence of the Byzantine Empire, its second largest city. Evidence of this history can still be seen in the 15 Paleochristian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Thessaloniki was a multicultural city that a prosperous yet tumultuous history from the Roman era to the Ottoman era.

The monuments surviving from over one thousand years of history of the Byzantine city are representative of Byzantine culture and art over the centuries. These can particularly be seen in the Byzantine churches of Thessaloniki, which also contain remarkable mosaics and frescoes from Late Antiquity to the Late Byzantine Era.

Immediately after the capture of Thessaloniki by the Turks in 1430, the Byzantine city quickly acquired the personality of an Islamic center of the Ottoman Empire through the construction of large public and religious buildings. Thessaloniki had a multiracial character, however, which became even more pronounced after 1492, when a large number of Jews settled in the city.

BYZANTINE CHURCHES

HAGIA SOPHIA





PANAGIA ACHEIROPOIETOS

**MESTA
VILLAGE
CHIOS
ISLAND**

Mesta was built during the byzantine era, later though, the Genoese have had improved it's fortification, to deal with the upraising numbers of pirate raids. The settlement is characterized by it's closed quadrilateral shape and it's labyrinth type of arrangement. Houses at the outer edges of Mesta, served the role of defence walls and that's why those specifically do not have windows installed into the sides that "look" towards the outer part of the settlement. At the edges of the village existed and are saved up until today, small circular towers.

During the "Kathara Deftera" (first day of the greek orthodox fasting and also last day of the carnival exhibitions) revives in Mesta village, but also in many other villages of Chios, the traditional custom of Agas. On that specific date, there is being reenacted a peculiar law court, that has the validation to "judge" potentially everyone visiting the village's square on that day, with a fine!!!

That way, locals are making fun, regarding the way Ottomans served justice during their reign on the village. The custom is supported by many special happenings and events with traditional music and dances. Mesta residents show their beautiful sense of humour and in the same time, their wonderful hospitality, treating visitors with local souma drinks and other delicacies.



**MIESTA
CHIOS**

A blue sky with scattered white and orange-tinted clouds. The text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION" is centered in a bold, black, serif font.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION