



Karpathos is the second largest and southernmost island in the Greek archipelago Dodecanese (Twelve Islands), located east in the Aegean Sea. Karpathos is 50 km. long and 11 km. at the widest point and is about 300 km². The highest mountain is Kali Limni (1215 m.).

The island has about 5500 inhabitants. Approximately 3000 live in the capital Pigadia or Karpathos.

Aperi is located in the mountains 320 m above sea level. Until 1892 it was the administration center.

Approx. 60% of Karpathos' inhabitants emigrated to the U.S. after World War II. This led to a strong decay of the island's properties. In the 80s, many of Greek-Americans returned back home and the island's economy accelerated. As the recovery in the economy gave the island airport and hotels, came the tourists. The traditional island backpackers are few in Karpathos because of the island's remote location.

We traveled with Apollo and we stayed in Karpathos town, Pigadia. The hotel is called Zephyros Village.



The day after we arrived, we signed up for an island round trip.
Here we are waiting for the bus.

At the courtyard at the hotel where we were waiting for the bus.



A bit into the island come to a few small towns. The first one is called [Aperi](#). It was the capital and administrative center when there was piracy in the Mediterranean until the end of the 1800s.



Otherwise there is scattered settlements on the outskirts of the small towns.



A church down in the town.



The road is in the hillside above the town.



Views down to Aperi.



The gang goes out of the bus to take pictures of the city below.



Here we driving along. We look down to Pigadia.

The next town is called [Volada](#).



Here we are arriving to [Othos](#).

The main road runs through the center of town. The road is narrow and winding, and it is well made by the driver to manage to slip through with the bus. We did not stop in these towns.



Almost at the top.

A small church.
There is only about 300 inhabitants in Othos.



Approximately at the highest point on the road. We look south towards the airport.



A little farther on we get a glimpse of [Piles](#). We are going to make a stop there.



The Apollo guide is telling us about Piles. After the bus is parked, we go up some long stairs to a monument of an influential women in Piles.



A traditional wind mill stands in the hillside.



There is an agricultural museum here, but it was not open so late in the season.



A part of the museum.



Impressing ram's horn.



Kjell has «found» a cat.



The wind mill seen from another angle.



The windmill again.



Nice flowering.



The street runs in many curves down with gently descending stairs.

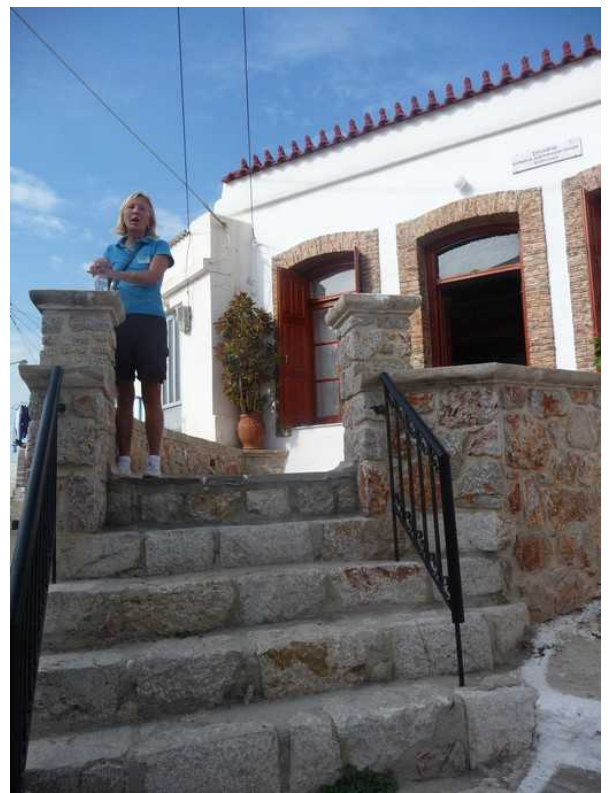


There are many plants outside the houses.



It's nice decorations outside here too, but a little maintenance of plaster and windows, doors and frames is highly needed.

The Apollo guide takes us to a shop that local women produce goods for.



The goods are displayed on tables and shelves.



An embroidered picture on the wall.



It was a little different that was for sale, including marmalade and light in all varieties.



Kjell is not very interested, so he goes outside and wait after having had a quick look.



Afterward we proceed toward the church that we see in the middle of the picture.



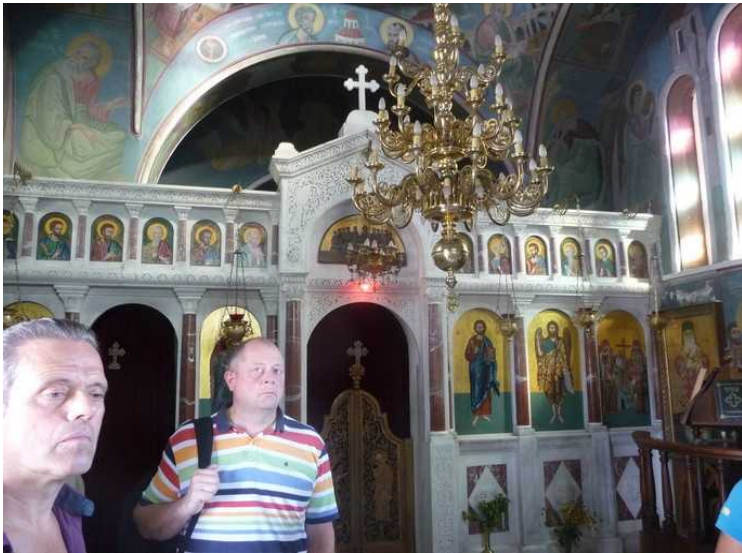
In this town much is in blue and white.



The Apollo guide is telling about the church.



This is the Virgin Mary Church, a Greek Orthodox church. It celebrates the memory of the Virgin Mary being taken up into heaven when her earthly life ended. This is celebrated on the 15th August.



Inside the church.



Wall paintings inside the church.



Under the church there is a water source. The women who drink this water is guaranteed to become pregnant. There was no one in the party who would taste the water.



On the wall by the spring there are some fine mosaic images.



The church seen from another angle.



There grows some special flowering plants here.



A house next to the church.



Cacti.



Here we come to the west coast, we drive north in the direction of [Mesochori](#).



Looking south.



Looking north.



Looking down to Mesochori.



The way down. The bus had to stop at the white house at the bottom. There is no car road further down in the city.



From there, as the bus stops, we can look down at a church.



Here we are looking down onto a large open space.



Here we come almost to the church. This is the main church called Our Lady's Nativity.



On the way to church the party stopped at this restaurant and we got some minutes to relax.



We buy a beer and sat down outside at this table.



The sign of the restaurant with the coast north in the background.



A small church on the cliff's edge.



Over on the neighboring cafe sits a bunch of guys discussing loudly.



The way further down to the church.



Under this church, too, is a spring, and there is made openings in the wall where the water flows all the time.



Besides, there is a lot of stones that have been used as washboards in the laundry.



Here, the water is led in a channel out into the fields, and there it is used for irrigation



The church tower.



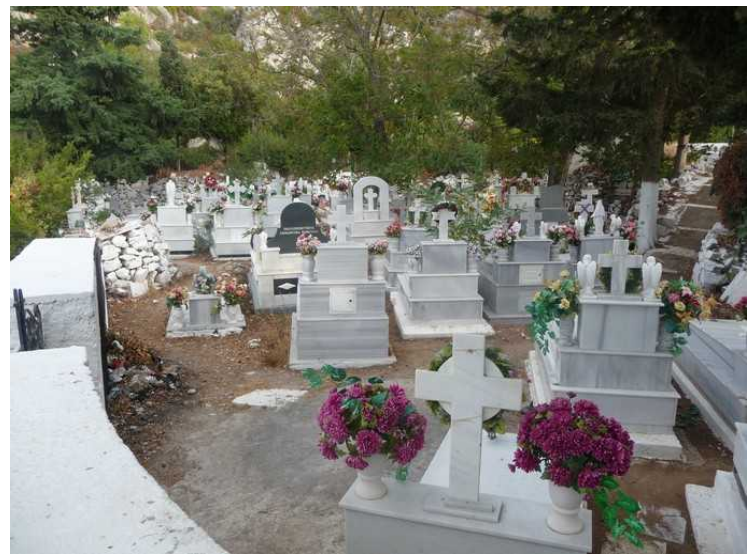
Right beside, there is also a assembly hall with a large open space outside.



There are some steep cliffs above the town.



Flowering cactus.



A grave site beyond the church.



Some have great memory stones.



Another glance of the north coast and the small church.



We go back again past the space outside the assembly hall.



We pass another great courtyard.



There grows lots of olive trees and fruit trees in the area.



Orange trees.



Pomegranate.



Here we come to the big open space that we saw when we got out of the bus.



From this space we look back towards the city.



There is a tiny church here too.



Yet another glance of the north west coast.



A monument to commemorate the fallen of the Second World War.



Now we are on our way out of the place again, and when we see another small church.



Cats are lying on the wall in the evening sun.



Just before we are back to the bus. This is an olive oil factory, which is closed down.



Next stop, 'tavern under the trees.' "This sign is up at the main road. Here we are going to get served traditional Greek food.



Here we come down to the taverna.



A large pergola at the entrance.



We get there just as the sun goes down.



Here we have set down at the table.



We are sitting at a big long table.



The staff is serving the first dishes.



The apollo guide says something.



We get more dishes eventually.



More food.



Finally a picture of Mesochori obtained from the Internet at the following [adresse](#).