



City Tour – Portianos & Moudros Cemeteries

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

The mythological landing place of Hephaistos, the god of metalworking cast out of Olympos by Zeus, Lemnos is appropriately volcanic; the lava soil crumbles into broad beaches and grows excellent wine and herbal honey. Controlling the approaches to the Dardanelles, the island was an important outpost to both the Byzantines and the Turks, under whom it prospered as a trading station.

Our tour will commence with a short drive to the old port of Myrina. Successor to ancient Myrina, Lemnos' second town in antiquity, modern Myrina sprawls between two sandy bays at the foot of a rocky promontory. Not especially touristed, it is one of the more pleasant island capitals in the North Aegean. Enjoy your walking tour over its colourful cobbled streets through the unpretentious but charming market and imposing, neo-classical houses. The most ornate of these cluster is along the northerly beach, Romeikos Gialos. The south beach, Tourkikos Gialos, extends beyond the compact fishing port with its quayside tavernas. Your walk will bring you to the recently redesigned archaeological museum. Housed in an imposing 19th century mansion on Romeikos Gialos it is exemplary in its display of artifacts, some of them 6.000 years old, belonging to the four main ancient cities of Lemnos. This neoclassical building was recently renovated. Objects discovered during the excavations by the Italian Archaeological School and by K' Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities are exhibited here.

Following your visit to the Museum board your coach for a drive to the village Portianou. **Portianos Military Cemetery.** The hamlet of Portianos is on the west side of Mudros Bay, on the island of Lemnos. The cemetery is on the outskirts of the village, on Anzac Street, adjacent to the local communal cemetery.

The Portianos Military Cemetery was begun in August 1915 and used until August 1920. The cemetery now contains 347 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and five war graves of other nationalities. There are 50 Australians and 29 New Zealanders identified buried at the West Mudros Muslim Cemetery.

Next, head to Moudros to see the British Cemetery and World War II Memorial. **It is one of the two most important monuments the island has, of the allied expedition versus Gallipoli.** This WWI Monument was built for the Allies casualties in the war against the Turks in Gallipoli.

It is many victims of the 1st World War buried here in clusters depending upon their nationality.

We continue to the second largest city of Lemnos, **Moudros village.** Moudros is a very beautiful, picturesque harbor town with a population of 1000 people – a beauty of itself with its spectacular beaches. Here we will have time to wander around, take pictures or purchase some local souvenirs. It is located on the east side of Moudros bay on the roots of a small hill. Moudros bay is one of the biggest, natural bays in Greece. It is also of great ecological importance.