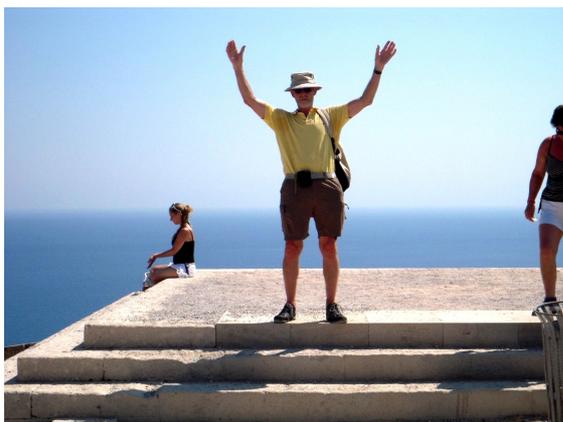


**With the "SkibsOverLæge" and
"Matrosen" on Rhodes & Simi....
Sept, 2011.**

Peter & Jørgen join us in Rhodes Sept. 18. for a 2 week cruise to Simi, Nissiros, Kalymnos & Leros. The mega-yachts are in, the Old town buzzes and we wander through it all. I buy a beautiful, riotously-coloured , hand-woven runner for the house. The crew buy "boots of beer"! The appropriately named "Fix Greece".



We take a drive & hot hike to the Acropolis of Lindos, followed by a cooling swim in the stunning, circular Bay of St. Paul. Today, the tiny chapel is a popular venue for weddings.



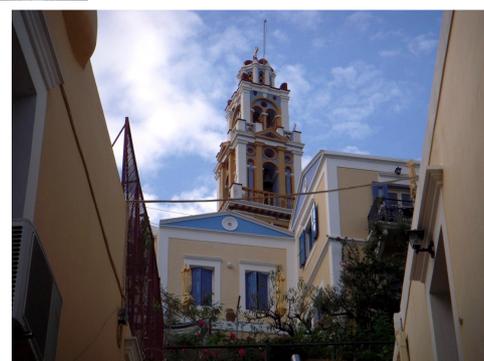
Enthusiastic guests! But it's true that no matter how often you see these sights, they *are* simply unbelievable.

Peter & I have a marathon day of culture! visiting the Museum of Modern Greek Art, a museum of artefacts with brightly-glazed ceramics and decorative wooden panels , the colours so fresh, yet centuries old. Climb the Knights' Street with an inn for each nationality who ruled the city, to the Museum of Archaeology, housed in the former hospital of the Knights of St. John. A hushed and silent oasis from the tourist crush outside, we have it almost to ourselves, the exquisite gold jewellery, marble statues, bright pottery, whole mosaic floors and walls, displayed amid the fragrant herb gardens.



The Old Turkish Mosque (no central pillars, one serene open space, as all are equal once inside and under Allah's eyes and the tranquil Islamic Library with shaded courtyard and ancient manuscripts of curly, beautiful arab script, still bright and legible..

Leaving Rhodes is less tranquil. Early morning our stern anchor entangles itself in the old mooring chains laid along the bottom of the harbour and notorious for causing problems. We struggle for an hour to haul it on board but finally Peter gets in the dinghy and frees us by cutting us loose with bolt cutters. We make for Simi,,the tiny pearl of the Dodecanese. Dolphins appear and play close off our starboard side.



We tie up just ahead of heavy thundershowers. In any weather, Simi is stunning with its pastel-coloured facades. We watch a local man painting these charming plant holders and climb up to the church for the view. Our not-so-friendly German neighbours cause discord with anchor spaghetti and an unhappy captain (ours!).



Bound for Nissiros, the air has cleared (on board and off) and the dolphins are with us again the second day in a row, a cheerful, good omen.

