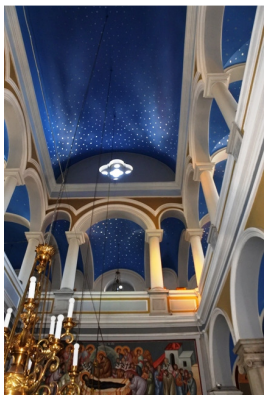

Island-hopping to… Samos

We decided it was time for a change of scenery, and it was a good opportunity to show Barbara and Neil a few more of the Dodecanese Islands we love so much, so we loaded up the jeep and boarded the old “Nissos Kalymnos” ferry for the 5-hour trip to Samos, calling in en route at Patmos, and tiny Lipsi, Arki and Agathonisi where it was fun to watch the manic activity that always greets the ferry´s arrival and departure. Although late in the season, the weather was still kind, and it was quiet during the last few days of the season. We had booked a cozy little hotel in Pythagorian where we could come and go as we pleased (with a lovely little painted window!) just steps from the lovely church, pretty churchyard and ruins of Samos Castle and a good family restaurant next door which served up hearty portions and treated us as long lost friends when we turned up again the next night! Probably the last customers of the season, they gave us the whole works….

Above: the tiny resort of Kokkari – a lovely spot. Never seems to change- timeless.

As a final flourish, on our excursion to Samos, we were treated to a display of folk dancing on “Ochi Day” (No Day!) by the town´s children in national dress, with the main street full of beaming parents. The Greeks are nothing if not patriotic! A nice ending to a lovely visit.

And in true Leros style (expect the unexpected!), one of our last impressions was of this magnificent herd of at least 100 goats, who were whistled and shepherded along the main road, happily munching away and oblivious to the traffic. How lovely that Greece remains so…well, Greek!