

## ATHENS & RHODES TWIN CENTRE HOLIDAY 11 Days / 10 Nights



### Tour Highlights:

- round-trip flights from/to London Heathrow Airport\*
- 10 nights' accommodation in Silver or Gold plan, bed & breakfast basis (*option to upgrade to half-board*)
- transfers upon arrivals and departures
- English-speaking guides throughout
- full-day extensive tour of Athens
- full-day tour in Rhodes
- ample free time at leisure or for activities from our handpicked selection

◆ Outbound flight from London Heathrow on AEGEAN Airlines to Athens, flight on AEGEAN Airlines from Athens to Rhodes and return flight on British Airways direct service from Rhodes to London Heathrow

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### About this program

Our carefully designed small group programs offer expansive itineraries, as well as providing choice and free time. Whilst you will be traveling alongside others, you will have the freedom of the independent traveller.

We include services and tours for everybody, such as transfers and sightseeing, while offer a wide range of optional programs to choose from and do independently. The itineraries are well-balanced in terms of activities and time at leisure, on your own. We recommend this tour for ages 6 and above.

#### Silver & Gold Plans

This program is operated in **Silver and Gold** plans. The itinerary provided will be the same, however we offer a choice in terms of the accommodation based on your preference and budget.

#### In partnership with:



**PACKAGE INCLUDING:** ATOL protected • Round-trip airfare from/to London Heathrow airport on AEGEAN Airlines (London Heathrow – Athens & Athens – Rhodes) and British Airways direct flight (Rhodes – London Heathrow), including hold luggage • 10 nights' (3 nights Athens & 7 nights Rhodes) hotel accommodation on bed & breakfast basis • arrival & departure transfers between airports and the hotels mentioned in the itinerary • English-speaking guides throughout all tours • full-day extensive tour of Athens • full-day tour in Rhodes • entrance fees as per the itinerary



### ITINERARY

**DAY 1 - DEPARTURE** – Depart from London Heathrow Airport on your Aegean Airlines flight to Athens. After collecting your luggage, transfer from the airport to your hotel.

**DAY 2 - ATHENS - Full Day Tour of Athens:** This tour will drive past the neo-classical buildings of the Academy, the University, and the National Library, as well as the Omonia Square before moving on to Syntagma (the heart of central Athens). Opposite this, you will see the Parliament building, where the National Guards (Evzones) watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in their colourful uniform skirts and pompom shoes. Next you will see the all-white marble Pan-Athenian Stadium, made famous as the site of the first modern Olympic Games. Nearby, visit the Temple of Zeus, just separated from modern Athens by the tall stone structure known as Hadrian's Arch. Also view the Pnyx (the official meeting place for the Athenian democratic assembly), the Theseum and the Agora with the reconstructed Stoa of Attalos. One of the main focal points you will then enjoy is the ancient citadel known as, the Acropolis, the base of which stands the ancient theatre

of Dionysos, and the still used Odeon of Herodes Atticus. Just next to this is Philopappos Hill offering a magnificent panoramic view of Athens. This will reveal the splendour and timeless beauty of the Parthenon to you, as well as the Propylaea, the Temple of Wingless Victory, and the Erechtheum.

You will then enjoy a guided tour and tasting at Brettos, the oldest distillery shop in Athens, considered to be the second oldest distiller in Europe! Located in the heart of Plaka, it started operating back in 1909 at the ground level of an Athenian mansion. The founder, Mr Michael Brettos, started producing ouzo, brandy and an array of liqueur flavors, ranging from the old-time classics like cherry and peppermint to the most distinct ones like citrus and Mastiha, a plant resin known for its earthy, vanilla-like flavour and healing abilities. These are made based on old family recipes originating from Smyrna, an ancient city, now known as Izmir in Turkey, today. After the tasting allowing you to experience these trade secrets firsthand, you will have a chance to stop by the incredibly charming and "out of time" bar that is still operated today.

Lastly on this tour is a visit to the New Acropolis Museum. This is where you will have the chance to admire more than 4,000 ancient works, including some of the best surviving classical sculptures that once adorned the Acropolis. The new facility was designed by the New York-based architect Bernard Tschumi and is over 21,000 square meters of glass and concrete. This museum is one of the largest in Europe and houses the archaeological findings related to the Acropolis hill and the Parthenon.

**DAY 3 - ATHENS** – Today enjoy a day at leisure or partake in one of the optional activities.

**DAY 4 – ATHENS/RHODES** – Transfer to the airport for your flight to the island of Rhodes. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

**DAY 5 - RHODES** – Enjoy your first free day in Rhodes to start discovering this wonderful, historical island.

**DAY 6 – RHODES - Full Day of Tour Rhodes:** You will discover the highlights of both the ancient and modern-day Rhodes during this picturesque orientation tour of the city. Firstly, depart on a scenic drive through the modern areas of Rhodes. As you pass by the Mandraki Esplanade, be ready to see the government buildings, the Church of Annunciation built 1925, the replica of the Old Church of the Knights of St John and the deer statues at the entrance of Mandraki port. You will then continue up to Monte Smith for panoramic views and photo opportunities of Rhodes and the Aegean Sea. From afar, you will be able to view the Acropolis of Rhodes with its Ancient stadium built more than two thousand years ago.

You will then continue to the Gate d'Amboise, the remarkable military structure set in the Northwest corner of the Medieval City of Rhodes, where you will proceed on foot to the Grand Masters Palace for a guided walking tour. Now a history museum, this enormous Palace was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and originally had 158 rooms, sadly it was destroyed in 1856 but was rebuilt in 1939 by the Italians in order to accommodate the King of Italy, Emmanuel II and Mussolini. Today 24 rooms are safe and open to visitors.

You will then walk down the Street of the Knights, where you will see many inns once occupied by the crusaders. At the end of the street, you will arrive at the Archaeological Museum, formerly the Knights Hospital. The museum was built in 1440 A.D. and is the most well-preserved building in the Old City. After the City tour, you will set off to Lindos with frequent stops to taste the local produce. Such as the opportunity to sample an assortment of home-grown olive oil at a very cosy and authentic olive oil factory, or a stop at Melissokomiki honey factory and bee museum, where you will discover one of the most popular traditions of Rhodes, the famous Melekouni.

You will then stop at a traditional village to see the "Traditional House of Koskinou" which provides a real taste of local life, before arriving to Lindos, one of the three Ancient Cities on the island of Rhodes.

Lindos is among the island's most splendid villages and is renowned for its magnificent Acropolis at a height of 535 feet. The Acropolis offers breath-taking views and photo opportunities of the entire village, including its medieval castle, superb sandy beach and delightful white-washed, sugar cubed houses. Apostle Paul famously stopped at Lindos after he had left Jerusalem to preach in Europe, today there is a small chapel dedicated to his name at St. Pauls Bay.

During your visit, take a walking tour through the labyrinth of narrow cobbled streets, and past the colourful courtyards and mosaics for which Lindos is very well-known for. Ancient Lindos was the most important city on the Island and has been inhabited for 5000 years. After the guided tour of the Acropolis, you will walk down to the village of Lindos for a visit to the Byzantine Church of the Ascension.

**DAY 7 -10 - RHODES** – Enjoy these days of your holiday at your own leisure, perhaps join some optional activities, explore the shopping opportunities, or simply relax on the beach before heading home.

**DAY 11 – RETURN TO THE UK** - Transfer to the airport for your direct British Airways flight back to London Heathrow.

## ACCOMMODATION

	Nights	Hotel	Silver Plan	Gold Plan
Athens	3	<a href="#">Royal Olympic Hotel 5*</a>	Executive Room	Athenian Panorama Room
Rhodes	7	<a href="#">Hotel Mediterranean 4*</a>	City View Room	Full Sea View Room

For more information regarding the hotels please click on the links above.

**We reserve the right to change the hotels listed, however should this occur the replacement hotel will be within the same category and with similar facilities.**

## OTHER INFORMATION

### NOTES:

- The days / times of the tours may change
- Half-board option is available only in Rhodes
- We recommend this tour for ages 6 and above

### Not Included:

- meals during the full day tours
- tips & hotel extras

*If you wish to book any Optional Activities feel free to have a look at the corresponding product on our website, alternatively download the respective document OR contact us.*

Product name: Athens & Rhodes - Twin Centre Holiday (ex LHR / S22)  
File name: NT-ATHENS & RHODES - TWIN CENTRE HOLIDAY (EX LHR - S22)

Product ID: TCH-RHO-LHR-  
Date: 24-Mar-22

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