

About the history and the monuments of our country and our island.



**Meeting in Rhodes
2-8/10/2016**

**Greece/ Hellas
Monuments and
Archaeological Sites**

Creta, Knossos, The Palace

- Knossos is the site of the most important and better known palace of Minoan civilization. According to tradition, it was the seat of the legendary king Minos. The Palace is also connected with thrilling legends, such as the myth of the Labyrinth with the Minotaur, and the story of Daidalos and Icaros.
- The palace is the largest of the preserved Minoan palatial centres.
- Four wings are arranged around a central courtyard, containing the royal quarters, workshops, shrines, storerooms, repositories, the throne room and banquet halls. Dated to 2000-1350 B.C



Mycenae

- The archaeological site of Mycenae comprises the fortified acropolis and surrounding funerary and habitation sites.
- It is the most important and richest palatial centre of the Late Bronze Age in Greece.
- Its name was given to one of the greatest civilizations of Greek prehistory, the Mycenaean civilization, while the myths related to its history have inspired poets and writers over many centuries, from the Homeric epics and the great tragedies of the Classical period to contemporary literary and artistic creation.
- Most of the visible monuments date to the centre's great floruit, from 1350 to 1200 BC.



Acropolis of Athens

- Acropolis is the highest point of a city. Over there used to be the most important buildings.
- The sacred rock was dedicated to the goddess Athena.
- Through the Propylaia one enters the sanctuary proper with its great masterpieces of ancient Greek architecture built primarily in the fifth (5th) century BC under Pericles.



Parthenon

- The Parthenon, dedicated by the Athenians to Athena Parthenos, (Virgin) the patron of their city, is the most magnificent creation of Athenian democracy at the height of its power. It is also the finest monument on the Acropolis in terms of both conception and execution.
- It was built between 447 and 438 BC, as part of the greater Periklean building project after the Persian wars and the victory of Athenians.
- It is a double peripteral Doric temple with several unique and innovative architectural features.



It was designed by architects Iktinos and Kallikrates, while the sculptor Pheidias supervised the entire building program and conceived the temple's sculptural decoration and chryselephantine statue of Athena.

Parthenon.

The frieze

- In contrast to the mythological subjects of the metopes and pediments, on the Parthenon frieze, Pheidias chose to depict the Great Panathenaia, the greatest festival of the city in honor of the Goddess Athena.
- From the entire frieze that survives today, 50 meters are in the Acropolis Museum, 80 meters in the British Museum, one block in the Louvre, whilst other fragments are scattered in the museums of Palermo, the Vatican, Würzburg, Vienna, Munich and Copenhagen...



The theatre of Epidaurus

- Among all the ancient theatres, Epidaurus theatre is the most beautiful and best preserved.
- It was constructed in the beginnings of the 3rd c. B.C.
- It had a capacity of 13.000 spectators.



Monastery of Osios Loukas.

- The smaller church, dedicated to the Theotocos (Virgin Mary) , was built in the 10th century.
- The catholicon(the main church) is the earliest preserved specimen of the octagonal cross-in-square type of church, built in the first half of the 11th century.
- The walls are veneered with marble slabs on the lower section and decorated with superb mosaics on the upper part and the upper floor.
- The mosaics represent the more severe and abstracted style of the Middle Byzantine decorative art and date from the first half of the 11th century

