

# MAJESTIC GREEK ISLES



**APRIL 29 - MAY 6, 2017**

**7 Days - 5 Ports of Call**

**Princess Cruises**

**\$2490 pp dbl occ**

Ports of Call: Athens (Piraeus), Greece, Katakolon (Greece), Kotor, Montenegro, Mykonos, Greece, Rhodes, Greece, Khios, Greece, Athens, (Piraeus,), Greece

Includes:

- \*Round trip air from St. Louis - Athens
- \*One night hotel in Athens
- \*All Transfers
- \*7 Day cruise in a balcony cabin

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**St. Louis, MO 63141**

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**Olympia Greece** - Perched on the west coast of the Peloponnesus, Greece's largest peninsula, this sleepy fishing village of some 300 souls is your gateway to Olympia, site of the original Olympic Games. Held every four years between 776 B.C. and 393 A.D., when the Emperor Theodosius banned pagan festivals, the Olympic Games celebrated the ideal harmony of mind and body. Every four years, the sacred flame of Altis is rekindled to light the torch for the Modern Games. Olympia's temples were destroyed after the games were banned. An earthquake in the 6th century compounded the destruction, and floods buried the site. Excavation of the ruins began in 1875, and Olympia was declared a National Park in 1976.

#### **Mykonos Greece**

Thanks to its proximity to the mainland, Mykonos was one of the first Greek islands to become an international travel destination. During the late '60s and early '70s, Mykonos was famed as a haunt for the rich. The island's nightlife - then and now - was a glittering whirl of colored lights, music, and parties. But there's another side to Mykonos - the neighboring island of Delos. In classical mythology, Delos was the birthplace of Apollo and his twin sister Artemis. Travelers to Delos can stroll among the island's vast ruins, which include three temples consecrated to the Sun God and the famed Lions Walk. Mykonos town features hip boutiques, restaurants, jewelry stores, souvenirs, taverns and cafés. The island's famed windmills are found just south of the waterfront.

**KOTOR**—Kotor lies at the head of Boka Bay. Bordered by towering limestone cliffs, the winding bay is actually Southern Europe's longest and most dramatic fjord. The port itself is a medieval gem: its narrow, asymmetrical streets are lined with ancient stone houses, old palaces, and churches dating from the 12th century. Kotor is also your gateway to the cultural and scenic wonders of Montenegro, from the old royal capital at Cetinje to the marshes and wildlife of Lake Skadar National Park.

Kotor is renowned for its nightlife: the streets of the old port are lined with pubs, taverns and cafés. The city is also host to a renowned summer carnival.

**RHODES**—The largest and arguably the most beautiful of the 12 islands forming the Dodecanese, Rhodes has long played a major role in history. Lying just 12 miles off the coast of Turkey, the island straddles the sea-lanes linking Egypt, Southern Europe and the Holy Land. Rhodes Town bears witness to that long history. The ancient city features a classical stadium and the ruins of the Temple of Apollo. The "old" city is a walled town with medieval buildings and streets harking back to the days of the Crusades. The new town is a Mecca of luxury resorts lining the island's picturesque Mandaraki Harbor.

The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, is reputed to have once stood guard over the harbor. Today, the bronze statues of a stag and doe top the two columns marking the harbor entrance.

Khios is revered as the birthplace of blind Homer, the bard whose epics "Iliad" and "Odyssey" mark the very origins of Western literature. In fact, archeologists believe that Chios town has been inhabited since 2000 B.C.

During the course of its long and turbulent history, the island has been controlled by Greek and Italian city-states as well as the Roman and Ottoman Empires. (Khios was the site of an infamous 1822 massacre during the long struggle for Greek independence from Ottoman rule.) The island is also the source of mastic - an aromatic gum gathered from Khios' lentisk tree. Mastic has been a highly prized ingredient in cosmetics and medicines since Antiquity. The island's "Mastic Villages" were built between the 14th and 16th centuries to control and protect the trade's enormous profits.

**ATHENS**—The past maintains a vibrant presence in the cradle of Western civilization. Atop the Acropolis, the serene Parthenon sails above the commotion of the modern city. The tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were performed in the Theater of Dionysus at the foot of the Acropolis. On Pnyx Hill, citizens of a fledgling democracy gathered to cast their votes on Athens' destiny. Then there is the hustle and bustle of the modern city, a metropolis of 4.5 million that spreads out from the foot of Mt. Lycabettus and across the plain. Packed with busy shops and lively tavernas, modern Athens is a colorful counterpoint to classical Greece.