

## RHODES TO RHODES - BLUE VOYAGE.

### (10 DAY CRUISE).

**DAY 1 - RHODES** - Arrive at the yacht, enjoy a welcome cocktail and receive information on the gulet and the route. Some time to relax and enjoy exploring the city. **Rhodes** is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands. The island is a very popular holiday place as it has one of the best-protected harbours and the largest European Medieval city and has warm weather 300 days of a year. Rhodes has been home for many civilizations; starting with the knights of St.John in the Middle Ages, then Ottomans and Italians; thus the island has a unique historical harmony and beauty. The main port of Rhodes is the Rhodes Town which bears the same name as the island. So you will be right in the heart of things. Lively nightlife too!



**DAY 2 - HALKI** - Halki is one of the smallest Dodecanese Islands and often overlooked as so close to Rhodes, but the island offers a perfect harbour. The village of Chorio, west of Halki, once the only settlement on Halki, is situated around the hill upon which the fort is built and has olden style stone houses. The village of Chorio was abandoned gradually and today is deserted. The town of Halki, built during prosperous times, is architecturally aristocratic, with traditional two and three story houses positioned amphitheatrically around the harbour. Of special interest are the neoclassical Council building, the stone clock tower and the church of St. Nicholas (built in 1861) with its characteristic bell tower and finely worked wooden iconostasis.



DAY 3 - TILOS -Tilos displays many worthwhile sites for the visitor. In the capital there is the wonderful church of the Taxiarch, with its masterfully carved wooden temple, pulpit and throne. In the Kastro, from which the visitor can see the picturesque bay of St. Antonios, the old church of the Taxiarch is preserved. The most important pilgrimage site is located in the north-western part of the island and is the monastery of St. Panteleimon. As it is today, it is thought to have been built in the second half of the 15th century and saw its peak during the 18th century. It is constructed within a lush green ravine and has a well and a magnificent view of the sea. The church has old frescoes and a beautiful pebbled courtyard.



DAY 4 - NISYROS- According to ancient mythology Poseidon, helping Zeus in his battle against the Titans, chased the fearful giant Polybotis over land and seas. When Poseidon reached the island of Kos he broke off a piece of the island with his mighty trident and throwing it at Polybotis he buried him under it. This broken off piece of Kos became the island of Nisyros. The volcano was created over the mouth of Polybotis and the constant rumblings are the chest sighs of the buried titan. Thermal springs are found in many points on the island, the most well known of which are located a short distance from Mandraki. A few idyllic beaches contrasting their red and yellow colouring with the green of the rich vegetation interrupt the usually precipitous coastline. The idyllic look of the island is the result of Nisyros's famous volcano and the gifts bestowed by it. Some of these 'gifts' are: the old mines which produced the milling stone, the pumice stone, the sulphur rock layers, and the exceptional fertility of its soil. It is also from the volcano that the great catastrophes have come which history refers to, each time that the gods of the underworld unleashed their rage, resulting in devastating earthquakes accounting for many human lives.



DAY 5 - LEROS - A generally mountainous island with deep bays often full of greenery picturesque valleys and dented coasts. Agia Marina, capital of the island, is overlooked by the Franco-Byzantine castle. Lakki, only 3 km from Platanos, is one of the biggest natural ports in the Mediterranean, which can accommodate large ships and yachts. The ruins of a Byzantine castle remain on mount Kasteli. Every year, on the last Sunday in Lent, there is a Carnival in Leros - complete with chariot parade, fancy ball and wine festival. There are many small villages easily reachable by taxi - these include Xirokambos, Koukouli, Kithoni, Panagies, Blefouti, Gourna, Lepida, Temenia.



DAY 6 - LIPSI -The colourful town of Lipsi, with its whitewashed houses and blue shutters, preserves its island character. In the main square of the town visitors will find tavernas and cafeterias offering their fine local foods and beverages. In the centre of the town, north of the church dedicated to St. John the Theologian, there is (in a ground floor hall) the archaeological collection of Lipsi. There the visitor can see exhibits of clay pot pieces and inscriptions both on tablets and columns which are dated from the classical, Hellenistic and Christian periods. It is worth visiting the picturesque Panagia of Charou, which was built early in the 17th century, and the surrounding islets. Daily excursions and boat trips are available, and walks along the paths which crisscross the island direct the nature lover to idyllic places.



DAY 7 - PATMOS - Called Jerusalem of the Aegean, Patmos is the island of ascetic austerity. It is made of rock and bays and is surrounded by seagull-islands. Here in a cave St John wrote the Apocalypse .The whole island is suggestively dominated by the monastery, dedicated to the memory of St John and encircled by medieval ramparts. Boats anchor at the port, Scala, with its whitewashed houses and narrow lanes. Chora offers the most beautiful houses in the whole island, fronts with vaulted entrances, windows with images. Inside there are wooden partitions, carved and decorated with flowers and birds. From the windows one sees white terraces and endless orange groves. Mansions, simple village houses, Byzantine churches, all climb up to the Holy Monastery of the Theologian on top of the hill. This castle of God, built in the 11th century, contains priceless religious relics, rare manuscripts, icons, jewellery and embroidery. Of particular interest are the murals and wonderful temple of the church within the monastery, as well as the murals in the chapel of the Madonna, dated c. 1210-1220. Scala the harbor of Patmos, situated at the base of a mountain crowned by a 13th century monastery of St. John the Divine. The island with its monasteries is of great importance for the Greek Orthodox Church.



DAY 8 - KALYMNOS -This island of golden beaches and tiny green valleys owes its fame to its celebrated sponge fishers. This is the main profession for men on the island, and the theme for many local dances and folk songs. Sponge-fishing means a yearly expedition to the seas off the North African coast. Sponge-fishers of Kalymnos leave with their boats every spring. Their departure is a moving and important event which is therefore accompanied by colourful religious ceremonies. After approximately five months' hard work sponge-fishers return to the island. One can feel the relief and joy that overtake the people of Kalymnos at that time. The whole island puts on festive dress and prepares to celebrate the return of the sea-beaten sailors. Kalymnos or Pothia, the island's capital, amphitheatrically built, descends to the port like a multicolored torrent of bright houses, churches, and belfries.





DAY 9 - KOS - This island has given the world Hippocrates, father of medicine; it looks like a huge floating garden. The city is built along a wide bay and catches the eye from the very first moment. Here we shall visit the Knights' Castle, an impressive medieval building, Freedom Square with its huge plane, under the shadow of which Hippocrates is said to have taught, also Roman homes with marvellous mosaics, early Christian basilicas and the Museum, with its statue of Hippocrates (4th century BC) and other fascinating items of Ancient, Hellenistic and Roman times. We can also see the doric Temple of Venus, the Roman School of Music and the Castle, built c. 1450-1478 by the knights of St John on the ruins of the ancient wall. The Castle houses a small collection of Classical sculptures as well as inscriptions of the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and early Christian period. Four kilometres to the SE of the city we shall visit the Aesculapium, infirmary of Antiquity, which began to be built in the 4th century BC. The ground slope is such that buildings exist on four different levels connected by a marble staircase. Among the ruins we can discern the Temple of Aesculapius, the Stoa of Hippocrates' medical school, and the altar.



DAY 10 - SYMI - Symi is best known for its Neo Classical architecture. Symi was once a major commercial, sponge fishing and ship-building centre with a population of roughly 22 000 people. The island is approximately 13 km long, north to south, and about 8 km at its widest point. It is very steep and arid with some forests remaining on the high plateau. The highest point is the Vigla at 616 meters. It is a popular destination with walkers, artists and photographers. A number of writers have chosen the island to pursue their muse, and celebrities come to enjoy quiet anonymity. The first known historical reference to Symi is in Homer's *Odyssey* when King Nireus of Symi contributed 3 ships to the Trojan War. Occupied thereafter by Dorian Greeks, the island fell under various spheres of influence: Rhodian, Roman, Byzantine and that of the Knights of St John. Part of the Ottoman Empire from 1522, it was occupied by the Italians from 1912 during the Turko-Italian War and remained Italian until the Second World War. After an uncertain period during which Symi was bombed and attacked by both Allies and Axis alike, it fell under British Military Occupation at the end of 1944. In 1947 Symi and the other Dodecanese islands were incorporated into modern Greece. It was renowned for its boat-building, sponge-fishing, viticulture, icon-painters, wood carvers and schools.



Day 11 - Rhodes (end). After having breakfast together, it will be time for farewells and departure from boat.

**\*Please note that the Captain reserves the right to make changes of the tour program depending on the weather conditions.**

\*\* Itineraries are always flexible, so if somewhere looks very busy or you'd like to stay in one spot a little longer, you can discuss them with the Captain. There are always plenty of options and with the help of the Captain and crew you will have a very enjoyable voyage.

**The crew of Queen of Datca wish you an experience of a lifetime!**

