

# Athens

Always vibrant, this 24-hour city is an intriguing mix of east and west, history and modernity, bustle and culture. Athens contains treasures that really should be seen at least once, and a few nights here can easily be included in our fly-drive or tailor-made holidays.

The 2004 Olympic Games meant substantial investment in Athens' infrastructure (new airport, roads, transport systems), upgrading of museums and historical sites, and significant hotel refurbishment.

We have selected a range of hotels, mainly within our favoured district of Makriyianni, as it is just a short walk from both the Acropolis, the splendid new Acropolis Museum and the atmospheric 19th century Plaka district, now largely pedestrianised.

Athens also has organised beaches – the nearest can be reached by tram from the centre in about half-an-hour.

Wherever you stay, a wide range of guided excursions can be had, the most popular being the half-day city tour, full day Delphi and full day Argolis (Mycenae and Epidavros). All can be pre-booked. Three and four day Classical Tours are also available. For a full list of tours please enquire or see our website.

Athens is also the embarkation point for a range of 3, 4, 7 and 14 night cruises to the Aegean islands, Turkey and Egypt – choose from popular itineraries on a larger ship taking in the most famous islands or a more intimate small ship/mega-yacht cruise visiting some of the lesser-known. A cruise can be easily tailored into a longer holiday. Please call for details.

For a brief taste of Athens (including of course the Acropolis) the city can also be visited as part of an excursion from our resort of Tolon (overnight stay possible). A few nights in the city can also be included in any holiday booked via Athens Airport e.g. to Hydra or Andros, only 90 mins and 2 hours by ferry respectively.



Herodion Hotel roof-terrace

View from Royal Olympic 'Panorama' room

## Central Athens Hotels

Although we can book any hotel in Athens we have selected those which over the years we have found to be comfortable, central and not too noisy. All are within a short walk of a metro station and 10 minutes from the Acropolis and Plaka (except Pan Hotel).

All hotels possess air-conditioning, tv and minibar. Our holidays to Athens are based on flights from Heathrow, Manchester or Gatwick and include taxi transfers.

Our chosen 5 Star hotel is the recently renovated **Royal Olympic**. The hotel has an excellent location just across the road from the Temple of Zeus. The hotel has well appointed rooms, roof restaurant and outdoor pool.

The **Herodion** is a good 4 Star hotel. It has a restaurant and bar, and some rooms have fine Acropolis views as do the roof-garden jacuzzis (free for Sunvil guests!).

Also 4 star, and not far from the Herodion, is the **Hera Hotel**, a most stylish boutique-style hotel (38 rooms only) of a very high standard. If you want a balcony guaranteed book a Junior Suite, which has Acropolis views. The hotel has a roof-garden restaurant.

The **Philippos and Acropolis Select** (both 3 star) combine good modern standards with a small and friendly atmosphere.

The **Pan Hotel** is a comfortable 3 Star just a minute's walk from Syntagma Square. You could not really be more central than this.

As flight prices vary so much depending on season and when you book, we will quote prices for Athens short breaks and holidays on request.