## wonders of the world GREECE

## colossus of rhodes

The 110-meter statue of the Colossus towered over the ancient port of the Greek island of Rhodes for only 56 years, but its size and construction impressed visitors so much that it was included in the list of ancient wonders centuries after its destruction. The people of Rhodes commissioned the sculptor Chares of Lindos to build a giant bronze statue of their patron deity Helios, the Sun God, in 294 BC. Unfortunately, in 238 BC Rhodes was hit by an earthquake and the beloved Colossus fell. However, according to historical accounts, visitors to Rhodes were still delighted with the statue, even when it lay in ruins.

## dowry of Zeus in Olympia

The statue of Zeus at the Temple of Olympia (on the west coast of modern Greece) is made of ivory and gold and was built around 435 BC by the Greek sculptor Pheidias. A gigantic and stunning white statue towered over the site of the original Olympic Games, and people from all over the Greek Empire came to pay their respects to Zeus and take part in the games. Scholars agree that the statue stood in the temple for over 800 years, but there is debate about when and how the statue was destroyed. Some scholars believe that the statue was destroyed in a temple fire in the 5th century. Others believe that the statue was moved from the temple to the palace in Constantinople, where it was destroyed in a fire around 462.