

Greece:

The Journeys and Letters of Paul

Day 1 **USA/ATHENS**
Departure from the USA for our overnight journey to Athens. (meals aloft)

Day 2 **ATHENS**
Arrive in Athens and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (meals aloft,D)

Day 3 **ATHENS**
Today we visit the Acropolis with the Parthenon shimmering in its ageless grace and unmatched design and the unique Erechtheion (the only double temple). Nearby we climb the Areopagus (Mars Hill), where the apostle Paul addressed the philosophic court. Our full day of touring also features a visit to the ancient Agora, a marketplace that contained temples, courts, and other public buildings. We also see Embassy Row, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Palace, the House of Parliament, and the University. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)



Corinth

Day 4 **ATHENS**
This morning we visit the National Archaeological Museum, which houses the world's greatest collection of Greek antiquities, including sculptures, vases, weapons, jewelry, and rare ancient books. This afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration of Athens. (B,D)

Day 5 **ELEUSIS/CORINTH/EPIDAUROS/NAUPLIA**
Today we drive to Eleusis, birthplace of Aeschylus and also well-known for having been the site of the Eleusinian Mysteries, one of the major cults of ancient Greece. We travel next to Corinth, the capital of the Roman province of Achaia and the city of Paul's extensive personal ministry and challenging letter writing. Dominated by the Acrocorinth rising 1700 feet above the ruins, the Market Place is still laid out as it was in Paul's day with its stone Bema (judgment dais) where Gallio refused to condemn Paul (Acts 18). Nearby in a prominent place is the Temple of Apollo with its Doric columns. A superb collection of Corinthian artifacts greets the visitor in the museum. We continue to Epidaurus, where we see the 14,000 seat theater, still well-preserved. We then travel to the picturesque coastal town of Nauplia for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

Day 6 **MYCENAE/OLYMPIA**
Today we visit Mycenae and visit Greece's archaeological underground treasure chest of royal tombs constructed like a beehive and the important Lion Gate. We continue to Olympia, site of the Olympic Games in classical times, for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

Day 7 **OLYMPIA/DELPHI**
Today we tour Olympia. In modern times, the Olympic flame is lit here by reflection of sunlight in a parabolic mirror near the restored Olympia stadium and then transported by a torch to the place where the games are held. We drive north to Patras, and at nearby Rio we cross the Gulf of Corinth from the Peloponnese over to mainland Greece. We continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

Day 8**DELPHI/KALAMBAKA**

Site of the famed Oracle, Delphi's prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollos Pythios. We visit the treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo and the museum containing such masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture as the bronze charioteer and the famous Athlete Aghias. We travel to Kalambaka and our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 9**METEORA/BEREA/VERGINA**

We travel to Meteora, which lies amid striking mountainous scenery. Perched atop huge rocks stand ageless monasteries where we can see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. The greatest of the monasteries is the richly endowed 14th century Grand Meteoron. We also see the simpler Convent of Aghios Stefanos, with its flower-filled courtyards and ancient cloisters. We then drive to Berea, visited by Paul, whose residents Luke described as "noble" (Acts 17:11). A beautiful monument stands here in remembrance of Paul's work. Then we continue to Vergina and the museum with its artifacts from the excavated tomb of Phillip II of Macedonia. Our destination this evening is Thessaloniki where we have dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

Day 10**THESSALONIKI/PHILIPPI/KAVALLA**

We visit the old city ramparts and the Galerius Arch which rises along Egnatia Street, named for the nearby and famous ancient Roman *Via Egnatia*. We drive to Philippi, named for Philip II (the father of Alexander) and later made a Roman Colony in honor of Julius Caesar. Here Paul and Silas were imprisoned and here the first believers in Europe responded to the Gospel and were baptized in the Gangites River (Acts 16:15-34). To these people Paul addressed his wonderful letter about Christ our model. Here we visit the historic market place, basilica, prison and theatre. We continue to the modern port city of Kavalla, ancient Neapolis, where Paul and his companions first touched Europe. Returning to Thessaloniki we see the beautifully decorated Basilica of St. Demetrius. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

Day 11**THESSALONIKI/USA**

We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flight to the USA. (B, meals aloft)

The sequence of touring and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedule changes, etc.



Meteora