

# *13-Day Journeys of Paul & John including a 4-night Aegean cruise*

## **DAY 1, MONDAY**

## **DEPART USA**

Depart on our overnight journey to Greece. (meals aloft)

## **DAY 2, TUESDAY**

## **THESSALONIKI**

Arrive in Thessaloniki and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (meals aloft,D)

## **DAY 3, WEDNESDAY**

## **THESSALONIKI/**

## **PHILIPPI/NEAPOLIS/KAVALA**

This morning we tour Thessaloniki, the city named for Salonike, the step-sister of Alexander the Great. Here Paul preached with success (Acts 17:1-9) and wrote the early letters to his beloved Macedonians (1 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:7-12). We view the old city ramparts and the Galerius Arch which rises over the famous Via Egnatia. We see the Hagia Sophia church, constructed in the 9th century as a copy of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. We also walk around the Roman Agora where Paul preached next to the Jewish quarter of those days. Then 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 preached the gospel for the first time in Europe and were imprisoned. Here the first believers in Europe, including Lydia, were baptized in the Gangites River (Acts 16:13-34). To these people Paul addressed his wonderful letter about Christ our model. We visit the historic market place, basilica, prison, and theatre. Then we continue to Neapolis (modern day Kavala). A town on the northern shore the Aegean, it was the seaport of Philippi, and was the first point in Europe at which Paul and his companions landed. After our time here, we return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

## **DAY 4, THURSDAY**

## **BEREA/METEORA/ KALAMBAKA**

Today we drive to Berea, visited by Paul, and see the excavations of the ancient Jewish community, the residents of whom Luke described as "noble" (Acts 17:11). A beautiful monument stands here in remembrance of Paul's work. Then we continue 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 travel to our hotel in nearby Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

## **DAY 5, FRIDAY**

## **DELPHI**

This morning we go to Delphi. 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. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Delphi. (B,D)

## **DAY 6, SATURDAY**

## **OLYMPIA**

Today we drive to 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 tour the extensive park-like ancient ruins, seeing the stadium that once held 20,000 spectators and that hosted the shot put events in the 2004 Olympics. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Olympia. (B,D)

## **DAY 7, SUNDAY**

## **CORINTH/ATHENS**

This morning we drive 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 Acro-corinth 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. After our time here, we continue to Athens and check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

This morning we transfer to the cruise port and board our ship, the ***Celestyal Discovery***. We arrive in the afternoon at the world famous Greek island of Mykonos. Mykonos combines the dazzling white beauty of a typical Cycladic island with a sophisticated jet-set atmosphere. Stroll at leisure through the white-washed, flower-decked alleyways to the church of Paraportiani, and along the waterfront to the famous windmills. (B.L.D)

We arrive this morning at Kusadasi, Turkey and journey to Ephesus, which had become the capital city of the Roman Province of Asia by the time John wrote the Book of Revelation to the churches there. Walk through history in a city founded as early as the 10th century B.C. and in the magnificent excavations see streets lined with wonderful public buildings such as the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Basilica of St. John and the great theatre. We then sail to the former Roman prison island of Patmos where John received his "Revelation." Here we visit the Grotto named for his book and the Monastery of St. John which houses ancient manuscripts including one of the Gospel. (B.L.D)

The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, once dominated the strategic harbor entrance. Later it served as a crucial outpost for the Crusaders in many of their ill fated journeys to Israel during their conflicts with the Muslim conquerors. Today we visit Lindos and climb to the top of the ancient acropolis standing 122 meters above the sea, overlooking St. Paul's Bay. Enjoy some free time in Lindos village and then return to Rhodes city. Return to the ship for lunch, or dine on your own in town. Enjoy the afternoon in Rhodes to explore on your own, perhaps to view its fortifications, the Street of the Knights with medieval stone mansions, the Palace of the Grand Master and the Hospital of the Knights (now a museum). There are also art shops as well as many lovely beaches. (B,L,D)

The largest of the Greek islands, Heraklion (Crete) is well-known for its archaeological sites. You may wish to take an optional excursion to the Palace of Knossos, the residence of the ruling house and also an administrative and religious center for the whole region. The buildings (a labyrinth complex) covered an area of 22 square miles. The high standard of Minoan civilization 4000 years ago, displayed here through architecture, frescoes and the perfect plumbing system, surprise modern visitors. We travel on to the island of Santorini, widely considered to



be the lost continent of Atlantis. Off the entrance of the bay of Santorini there is the only active volcano in the Eastern Mediterranean. After you have strolled through the narrow streets you can enjoy the fascinating and marvelous sunset. (B.L.D)

After a morning arrival of our cruise ship back in port, we spend this morning touring Athens. 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 Paul addressed the philosophic court about Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 17:22-34). Our sightseeing also features a panoramic tour including Embassy Row, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Palace, the House of Parliament, and the University. After our tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. (B,D)

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



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