

March 7: We fly to Izmir, Turkey.

March 8: Upon arrival in Izmir, we depart to **Kusadasi** for dinner and overnight.

March 9: We depart for **Ephesus**, the location of one of the seven churches of Revelation (Rev. 1: 11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. The Apostle Paul's first visit to Ephesus was brief, during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21). His second visit lasted about three years, during his third missionary journey (Acts 19:1-20:31). We visit the Terrace Houses, the Great Theater, the



Fountain of Trajan, the Library of Celsus, and the Chapel of the Virgin Mary where the Third Ancient Council convened. We continue on to the Basilica of St. John where early tradition associated John, disciple of Jesus and author

of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, with the city of Ephesus.

We then continue on to **Miletus**, one of Paul's stops on his third missionary journey. Among the remains of the city is an impressive theater. The original one seated about 15,000 people and, during excavation, an inscription was found among the stones between the third and sixth row of seats. The inscription read, "The place of the Jews, also called the God-fearing."

We move on to **Didyma**, located in the southwest part of modern Turkey, a religious site of ancient Ionia and home to a large temple dedicated to Apollo called the Didymaion. Both ancient Greek writers Herodotus and Pausanias date the origins of the Didymaion before Greek colonization in the 8th century BC. Then we head back to **Kusadasi** for dinner and overnight.

March 10: We take a charter boat from the port of Kusadasi to the island of **Patmos** (Rev 1:9). On the island, we have a tour of the Monastery of St. John, where the Apostle John was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation, and the Cave of the Apocalypse where John received the visions that he recorded. Afterwards, the charter boat returns us to the port of **Kusadasi** for dinner and overnight.

March 11: We begin our day by visiting the ancient cities of **Hierapolis** and **Laodicea**, mentioned in Colossians as the center of Epaphras' work (Colossians 4:13). Our Hierapolis highlights include the necropolis, the Domitian Gate, Byzantine gatehouses, and two Roman baths. In Laodicea, we visit the Temple of Zeus, a 2,200-year-old theater, ancient church remains and the Caracalla Fountain, as well as many other archaeological finds. Afterwards, we return to **Kusadasi** for dinner and overnight.

March 12: We depart for **Pergamon**, where we visit the Acropolis with its Great Theater which is the steepest of the ancient world. Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as being “where Satan's seat is”, a reference to the altar of Zeus, where we stop for reflection on the fulfillment of Scripture. Nearby, we visit the Red Basilica; once a pagan temple, it later converted into a Christian church.



We continue on to **Troy**, where we visit the ancient city that is famous for the legendary Trojan horse. Afterwards, we head to **Canakkale** for dinner and overnight.

March 13: We cross the Greek border and head to the ancient colony of **Philippi** (Acts 16:11-40), built in 356 BC by Alexander's father, Philip II. We visit the ruins of the church in Philippi, which was founded by the Apostle Paul in 49 AD as the first church in Europe. Our next stop is the Baptistery of St. Lydia of Filippisias, where Paul baptized the first European Christian woman, Lydia of Thyatira (Acts 16:14-15).

We then arrive in the beautiful city of **Kavala**. We walk a short section of the Roman Road before dinner and overnight.

March 14: We depart for **Amphipolis**, an ancient Greek city and later a Roman city, whose large remains can still be seen. At the nearby vast Kasta burial mound, we see an ancient Macedonian tomb and stop to admire the Lion of Amphipolis monument nearby.

We continue on to **Thessaloniki**, the second largest city in Greece,



which was founded by Cassander, a king of Macedon who seized the crown by assassinating the son of **Alexander the Great**. We have a city tour, starting with the Church of

Saint Demetrius where we admire the mosaics of the church and see the spot where Demetrius was martyred. We visit the Agora, the White Tower and the Upper Town, where we have a panoramic view of Thessaloniki before our dinner and overnight.

March 15: We head to **Vergina**, where we visit the Polycentric Museum of Aigai, featuring the Museum of the Royal Tombs which houses the tombs of Philip II, king of Macedonia from 359 to 336 BC , and his grandson, Alexander IV, son of Alexander the Great.

Afterwards, we continue on to **Veria**, built at the foot of Mount Vermio, where we view the “Step of the Apostle Paul”. Afterwards, we head to **Kalambaka** for dinner and overnight.

March 16: We depart for **Meteora** to see a rare geological phenomenon, towering sandstone cliffs which are home to six monasteries. The name Meteora is attributed to the monk of the monastery, Agios Athanasius the Meteorite. We take some time to enjoy the panoramic ride and visit two of the six monasteries.

We continue on to the waterfront town of **Itea**, with a short stop at **Thermopylae**, known for the battle that took place in 480 BC between the Persian Empire and an alliance of Greek city-states, led by Sparta. We then head to **Delphi** for dinner and overnight.

March 17: We tour **Delphi**, an ancient Greek city that housed the most important oracle of the ancient Greek world. We are guided around the archaeological site and the museum.

We then depart for **Nafpaktos**, a coastal town in the Corinth Gulf that was first mentioned in 1104 BC when the Dorians came to the region to build ships. It is known for one of the most significant naval battles in world history; on October 7, 1571, during the second Venetian-Turkish War, the Naval Battle of Nafpaktos became a turning point in the balance of power in the Mediterranean Sea. We take some time to wander in the picturesque Venetian harbor, and then depart for dinner and overnight in ancient **Olympia**.

March 18: We tour **Olympia**, an ancient Greek city known as the venue of the Olympic Games. In Olympia stood the enormous statue of Zeus, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We have a guided tour of the Stadium, which had a capacity of about 45,000 spectators, and of the Archaeological Museum.

We continue to **Nafplion**, the capital of the prefecture Argolis. It is one of the most scenic cities in the country and was the first capital of the Greek state from 1828 - 1833. We explore the picturesque streets of the city before dinner and overnight.

March 19: We visit ancient **Corinth**, which dates back to the Neolithic Period (5000-3000 BC) and was an important city-state during the time of the Apostle Paul (Acts 18:1-11). Our time in Corinth includes a stop at one of the largest museums in Greece, and a view of the place where Paul was dragged before Gallio and the Roman Tribunal (Acts 18:12-17). We take time to view a Latin inscription carved deep into the pavement with an inscription referencing an individual who is believed to be Paul's companion, Erastus, referenced in Acts 19:21-22, Romans 16:23 and 2 Timothy 4:20.

We then travel through **Cenchreae** (Acts 18:18) and have a short stop at the Isthmus of Corinth, a narrow strip of land six kilometers in length that joins central Greece with Peloponnese. We then depart for dinner and overnight in **Athens**.

March 20: We have a day tour of **Athens**, starting with the Panathenaic Stadium which was built for the first modern Olympic games in 1896. We continue to the Zappeion Hall, the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then, along Panepistimiou Street, one of the most central streets of Athens, we see the triad of neoclassical buildings: The Library, the Academy and the University. We visit Mars Hill (Acts 17:16-34),



as well as the Acropolis with magnificent monuments including the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, the Propylaea, the Ancient Agora, the Theater of Dionysus and the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. We walk around the Parthenon, which was built in the 5th century BC Then we

enjoy some free time in the traditional settlement of Plaka, a district in the center of Athens just beneath the Acropolis, before enjoying dinner and overnight in Athens.

March 21: We have our final breakfast together. Then we have free time in the city center for walking and shopping until we depart for the Athens airport.