



PILGRIMAGE TO ISTANBUL AND GREECE

April 10-24, 2026

**TOUR
HOSTS**



**Stewart
Rawson**



**Ron
Shive**



TUTKU

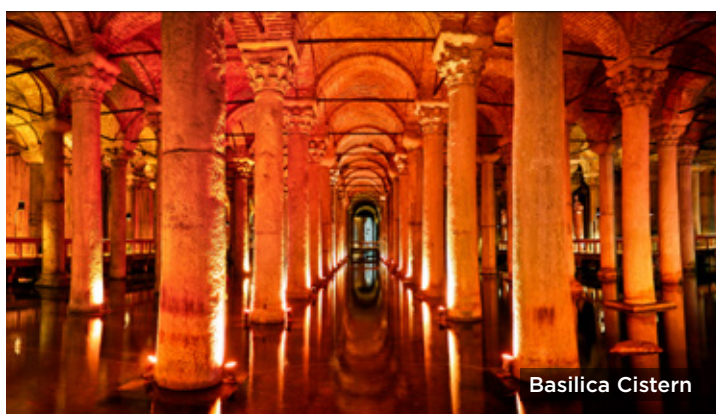
— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —



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Tour Hosts: Stewart Rawson and Ron Shive



Basilica Cistern

Tour Itinerary:

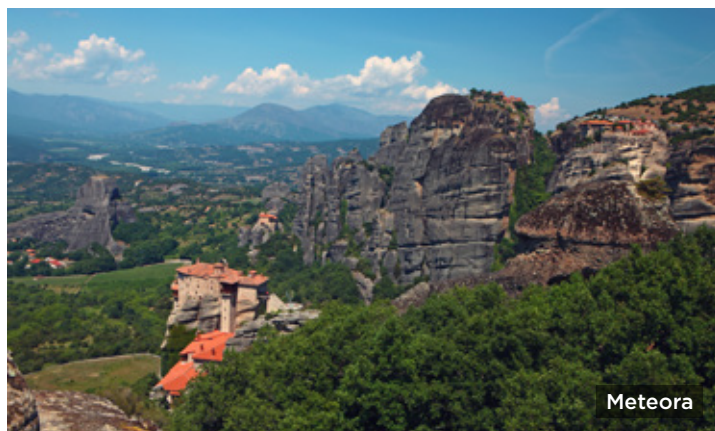
Apr 10 Fri **Depart US** – Arrange and pay for your own flights to Istanbul International Airport (IST).

Apr 11 Sat **Arrive in Istanbul.** Transfer to Sheraton Atakoy Hotel for dinner and overnight. (D) **2 nights**

Apr 12 Sun **Istanbul** – Full day Istanbul tour; visit the Topkapi Palace, St. Irene Church, the Hagia Sophia, the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, Basilica Cistern, the Blue Mosque, the Roman Hippodrome, and the Grand Bazaar. (B,D)

Apr 13 Mon **Istanbul – Fly Thessaloniki**
Full day Istanbul tour; visit the Chora Church, Fatih Mosque and Complex, Valens Aqueduct, Suleymaniye Mosque, and the Spice Market. Take a late afternoon flight from Istanbul to Thessaloniki. Arrive at Thessaloniki Airport and transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Lodging: Thessaloniki, two nights. Grand Palace Hotel

Apr 14 Tue **Kavala and Philippi**
We enjoy a scenic drive along the Aegean Sea to Kavala (ancient Neapolis), one of Greece's most picturesque mainland ports. Kavala is the port city of Philippi, where Paul landed by boat and first brought the gospel to Europe. We'll travel inland to Philippi, named after Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. We follow the Via Egnatia which the apostle took into the city. Here at Philippi Paul preached his first sermon in Europe (Acts 16:13-15) and baptized the first Christian convert in the continent, a "certain woman named Lydia." The Philippian church became one of Paul's favorite congregations and many years later, while under house arrest in



Meteora

Rome, he wrote them a letter (Philippians) expressing his gratitude for their faithful support of his missionary activity. Extensive Roman and Byzantine ruins have been uncovered and there is a crypt where it is believed Paul and Silas were imprisoned. We leave Philippi and continue to follow the Via Egnatia to Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) to view the Lion Monument that Paul would have seen as he traveled by this city. We pass by Apollonia (Acts 17:1) and return to our hotel in Thessaloniki.

April 15 Wed **Thessaloniki, Berea, Kalambaka (Meteora)**
Paul spent a number of weeks in Thessalonica during his 2nd Missionary Journey establishing a church (Acts 17:1-9) to whom he would a short time later write two letters (1 & 2 Thessalonians). Visit the Roman Agora (marketplace), where a mob was formed against Paul and an ensuing riot started in the city (Acts 17:5) as well as the Archaeological Museum. Other impressive sites include the triumphal Arch of Galerius (AD 305-311), remnants of two beautiful Byzantine churches (Hagia Sophia & Saint Dimitrios), the ancient ramparts of the city, and the White Tower—the symbol of the city. We leave Thessaloniki for a brief visit to Berea (modern Veria), the place whose Jewish citizens "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). Visit the spot where tradition has Paul taught the Bereans, the beautiful monument dedicated to the apostle and a local synagogue that could be the location Paul visited., we drive south to Kalambaka. Lodging: DivanaMeteora in Kalambaka

April 16 Thu **Meteora, Delphi**
In Meteora are the famous Cenobitic Monasteries that are perched precariously on top of huge and precipitous columns of rock that rise up out of the ground, thereby giving rise to the name "Meteora," which means "in the air." It was in the 11th century that the first hermits sought refuge in the caves of Meteora where the solitude and spectacular vistas enhanced the mystic way of life. Eventually the hermits began to group together in monasteries whose buildings were decorated with frescoes and icons by the great artists of the day. After touring one of these historic and breathtaking monasteries, we spend the afternoon enjoying the scenic drive to Delphi. Lodging: Delphi 2 nights – Parnassos Delphi

April 17 Fri **Delphi**
Enjoy a late morning start with a visit to Delphi, located on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, Delphi is the home of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the world-renowned "Delphic oracle." Other impressive ruins found here include the Temple of Athena, a well-preserved theatre that seats 5000 people, an athletic stadium seating 7000, a gymnasium for physical training, various stoas, and treasuries. It is with good reason that Delphi is widely acknowledged as the most spectacularly beautiful ancient site in Greece. After lunch, we also will visit the Delphi Museum, whose impressive collection includes an inscription concerning the governor Gallio (Acts 18:12), which plays a crucial role in establishing the chronology of Paul's life and ministry. Lodging: Delphi



April 18 Sat Athens

After an early morning departure, we arrive in Athens. Paul visited Athens during his 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 17:15- 34). We'll see the Agora ("Marketplace") of ancient Athens where the apostle dialogued with the Athenian citizens and philosophers (Acts 17:17) and also at the Areopagus ("Mars Hill") where Paul addressed the city leaders (Acts 17:19-33). Before going up to see the Acropolis, we'll stop at the New Acropolis Museum which helpfully explains the history of this world-famous place. Then we'll go up to the Acropolis, which towers over the city of Athens and which houses the Parthenon, a building so masterfully created that it has been the subject of architectural study since its creation. Equally impressive buildings on the Acropolis include the Erechtheion, with its Porch of Maidens, and the Temple of Athena Nike, the goddess of "Victory." The area surrounding the Acropolis houses a number of other striking archeological sights: the Stoa of Attalos, the Theatre of Dionysus, the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Arch of Hadrian and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Lodging: Athens 2 nights, DivaniAcropolis.

April 19 Sun Corinth and Cenchrea

Corinth, Cenchrea, Athens After briefly stopping at the Corinthian Canal, we proceed to nearby Cenchrea, one of the two harbors of ancient Corinth from where Paul sailed on more than one occasion (Acts 18:18) and which was also the home of another early church and an influential Christian woman, Phoebe (Rom. 16:1). We then visit Corinth, the place where Paul ministered for 1½ years (Acts 18:1-18) and would later write at least four letters, two of which have survived (1 & 2 Corinthians). The city is located on the slopes of the Acrocorinth, a towering mountain rising 1,886 feet above the sea and crowned in ancient times by the temple of Aphrodite. Extensive ruins of Corinth are visible today, including temples, water fountains, shops, various public buildings, the largest Agora ("Marketplace") in the ancient world and the Bema, where Paul likely met before the governor Gallio (Acts 18:12-17). The Corinthian Museum contains many significant artifacts, several of which have a direct link to events, items and people mentioned in the New Testament. Free time to walk through Plaka or the Varvakeios Central Market or enjoy an afternoon to relax.

April 20 Mon Transfer to Lavrio port to begin 4-Night Greek Isle Cruise

Athens (Lavrio), Greece - Mykonos, Greece
11:00 a.m. - departure from Lavrio (Athens)
4:00 p.m. - arrive in Mykonos; 11:00 p.m. departure

April 21 Tue Greek Isle Cruise

7:00 a.m. - arrive Kusadasi, Ephesus, 12:30 p.m. departure
4:00 p.m. - arrive Patmos, 9:00 p.m. departure

April 22 Wed Greek Isle Cruise

7:00 a.m. - arrive Rhodes, 6:00 p.m. departure

April 23 Thu Greek Isle Cruise

7:00 a.m. - arrive Santorini, 8:00 p.m. departure

April 24 Fri Departure - Disembark 6:00 a.m. in Athens.
Transfer to Athens Airport (ATH) - Return on your scheduled flight.

LAND & CRUISE

\$4,100 Per Person in Double Room

\$5,250 Single Room

INCLUDING

- Istanbul-Thessaloniki flight
- 2 Nights at **Sheraton Atakoy Hotel in Istanbul** or similar
- 2 nights at **Grand Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki** or similar
- 1 night at **DivaniMeteora in Kalambaka** or similar
- 2 nights at **Parnassos Delphi Hotel** or similar
- 2 nights at **Divani Acropolis in Athens** or similar
- 4 nights - **AEGEAN CRUISE Iconic Greek Islands** - 15 dbl inside staterooms cat IB
- Daily open buffet breakfasts
- 11 Dinners
- Ephesus, Rhodes and Patmos Shore Excursions (Mykonos, and Santorini shore excursions are not included)
- All land transportation by private bus with driver
- Tolls, parking fees, fuel, driver's & guide's expenses
- Professional licensed English speaking tour guide during the whole program
- English speaking assistant during departure transfers
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Service charges & local taxes
- Climate resilience tax at hotels (2025 rates)
- Tips to hotels
- Headsets
- Wifi on the bus
- One small bottle of water per person on the bus

EXCLUDING

- Roundtrip International Air Ticket between US-Athens
- Tips for tour guide and driver
- Lunches and Drinks during dinners except for water
- Travel and Health insurance, any kind of insurance (insurance may be given at an extra cost, please ask)
- Any other item which is not mentioned above

PAYMENT PROCEUDRE

- \$1000 per person DEPOSIT June 1, 2025 (refundable until December 1, 2025)

- FULL BALANCE PAYMENT on December 1, 2025

Land Only Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations made before 60 days of departure: Full refund
Cancellations made within 45 days of departure: 90% refund
Cancellations made within 30 days of departure: 75% refund
Cancellations made within 15 days of departure: 50% refund
Cancellations made within 7 days of departure: 25% refund
Cancellations made within 6 days of departure: No refund

In addition to the above cancellation policy, we charge a 5% processing fee for all refunds, no matter the date of cancellation. This fee is necessary to cover the costs associated with processing refunds, including bank fees and administrative expenses. We understand that sometimes travel plans change, and we appreciate your understanding of this policy.

For Further Information, Contact:

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