

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

# Pilgrimage to GREECE

With Greek Isles Cruise



**May 30 - June 9, 2025** -----✈️

**\$6,240 per person**  
from Huntsville (HSV)

*All prices based on double occupancy.  
Pricing available from any airport: [www.206tours.com/airports](http://www.206tours.com/airports)*



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## **Your Pilgrimage Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare
- Airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- 9 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
  - 2 ni: May 31 – June 2: The Met, Thessaloniki
  - 1 ni: June 2 – 3: Amalia Hotel Kalambaka, Kalambaka
  - 1 ni: June 3 – 4: Amalia Hotel, Delphi
  - 2 ni: June 4 – 6: Athens Marriott, Athens
  - 3 ni: June 6 – 9: Celestyal Discovery Cruise, (outside cabin with picture window)
- Breakfast and Dinner daily, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner while on Cruise
- Wine and mineral water with dinners
- Unlimited alcohol and non-alcohol drink package on board 3 day cruise
- Transfers as per itinerary

- Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Whisper headsets where needed
- Assistance of a professional local Christian Guide
- Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Port taxes & fees
- All tips included while on cruise
- Shore excursions while on ship include: Mykonos (Walking tour), Kusadasi (Ephesus & the house of the Virgin Mary), Patmos (Monastery of St. John & Grotto of Apocalypse), Crete (Palace of Knossos), Santorini (Thira by cable car, walking tour, Mass at Santorini Cathedral)
- Flight bag & PDF digital confirmation of all travel documents

## **Sample Daily Itinerary**

### **Day 1, Friday, May 30: Depart for Greece**

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Onboard, meals will be served to you.

### **Day 2, Saturday, May 31: Arrive in Thessaloniki**

Upon landing at Makedonia Thessaloniki Airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Board the bus to transfer to your hotel. Enjoy some time to relax after check-in before group get together for Mass. Enjoy delicious welcome dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

### **Day 3, Sunday, June 1: Thessaloniki: Excursion to Philippi and Kavala**

After breakfast, start your journey in Philippi where Saint Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and established the 1st church in Europe. "And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days". (Acts 16:12-18). It is also the site where Saint Paul baptized a woman named Lydia, the first convert to Christianity in Europe. Visit the Roman Forum, where Saint Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling woman. View the prison (now in ruins) where Saint Paul and Silas were thrown into by the owners of the fortune-tellers. Continue to the modern port city of Kavala, which was once the ancient Neapolis. This port is where Saint Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy landed when they sailed into Europe. After enjoying this city by the sea, return to Thessaloniki for a delicious meal and restful overnight.

### **Day 4, Monday, June 2: Thessaloniki City Tour – Veria – Kalambaka**

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel. In the winter of 49-50 A.D., Saint Paul wrote two epistles to the Thessalonians. These letters urged Christians to "live blamelessly" and to refrain from living idly while they wait for the second coming of Christ. While in Thessaloniki, you will witness several ancient artifacts, such as the triumphal Arch of Galerius found at the start of Via Egnatia. Due to the convenient location, this arch was once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire and constructed to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius following the Roman victory over the Persians. We also see St. Demetrios Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and from here we walk to view the Roman Agora, a place St Paul was preaching. Then drive to the upper town which offers a marvelous view of the city. We drive through the modern church of St Paul and reach the site where the Monastery of Vlatadon was built and is believed to be the location where Jason's house once stood and where St Paul was accommodated during his visit to Thessaloniki. Following the city-tour we drive to VERIA (Berea). According to historical resources, Paul the Apostle had visited Veria at least twice between 50 AD and 57 AD in order to teach the life of Jesus to the people of the region. Pauls the Apostle's passage through Veria and the impact of his preaching, reveal the significance of the town at the first steps of Christianity and the important role that the town played for the spreading and establishment the Christian faith in Greece. In the modern city stands a "Triptych monument" in remembrance of St Paul's work. The monument includes three steps that were removed from a salvage dig at a nearby school property. The steps were reputed to have been from the location of the ancient synagogue. The display is made of colorful mosaic tile and displays three panels: the Macedonian man vision St Paul, and the address to the Bereans. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 5, Tuesday, June 3: Meteora – Delphi**

Today, visit the center of the ancient world (navel) of the earth, Delphi. Its 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 Apollo Pythios. Its history dates to the Mycenaean period and in Homer's Iliad, the site was referred to as Pytho. The oracle or the Pythia as it was called was a woman over 50 who abandoned normal life and lived her life in seclusion to serve the many who came to have their questions answered. The Pythia would pronounce her prophecies while the priests wrote them down and translated them to the people. Among the most noted to come with questions were King Croesus and King Midas.

### **Day 6, Wednesday, June 4: Delphi – Athens**

Today, visit the center of the ancient world (navel) of the earth, Delphi. Its 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 Apollo Pythios. We visit the religious center of the ancient Greeks, of the so-called "Gentiles", we learn more about their religion and how "extremely religious in every way" they used to be (Acts 17, 22) and we finally realize how difficult was the task of St Paul to christianize them.

In the museum, among other impressive artifacts, we see the "Gallio inscription" which is a precise chronological anchor for the Book of Acts, which places Apostle Paul in Corinth in 51 AD and helps to determine a timeline for Paul and his travels. Visit the site and the museum and continue to Athens. "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found, also, an altar with this inscription 'to an unknown God'. What, therefore, you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you" Athens is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Athens.

### **Day 7, Thursday, June 5: Athens – Excursion to Corinth**

After breakfast at the hotel, start with a tour of the oldest city in the world, Athens! Visit the rock that has dominated the panorama of Athens for twenty-five centuries, the Acropolis. At the Acropolis, you will see the ruins of the Parthenon, Erectheum, and Propylene. After, you will ascend Mars Hill of where Saint Paul spoke to the Athenians about the one and only God (Acts 17:22). While in this city, view the ancient Agora, the former public center of Athenian life. Proceed with a drive through the city to view the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square. View the University of Athens, the oldest higher education institute in Greece and, the National Library of Greece that holds 4,500 Greek manuscripts. Visit Panathenaic Stadium, the beautifully marbled multi-purpose stadium. It is home to the Olympian Zeus and the site of the first modern-era Olympics (1896). Following your visit to Athens, you will proceed to ancient Corinth. Under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, Saint Paul lived in Corinth for two years. While here, Saint Paul felt great grief over what the Gentile Church in Corinth has become. As a result, he wrote four letters, all with the overarching theme of love. In Corinth, view the remains of the first century shops, the site of the Saint Pauls trial by Gallio, the Fountain of Peirene, and the Temple of Apollo. Return to Athens for a delicious meal and overnight.

### **Day 8, Friday, June 6: Athens – Start 3-day Cruise (Celestyal Cruises) to Mykonos**

Following breakfast, proceed to the Piraeus port, where you will board your 3-day cruise. Your first stop will be the Island of Mykonos, the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands that attract visitors from all over the world. Transfer to Hora, the capital of the island. Enjoy a walking tour and pass by chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs, and white-washed houses to arrive in Alefkandra. This part of Mykonos, known as the "Venice of Mykonos", as homes have wooden balconies and are built on the sea. Historically, these homes were of the wealthy merchants and captains. Return to the cruise ship for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 9, Saturday, June 7: Kusadasi – Ephesus (Mary's House) – Patmos**

Enjoy breakfast on board in the lively Turkish port of Kusadasi. Transfer to the small village of Mt. Koresos. Visit the stone chapel situated upon the site, where the Virgin Mary spent her last days following the crucifixion of Christ. Following this visit, walk through the Magnesian Gate to the ancient Ephesus. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you through the most magnificent excavations in the world. Some of the sites include the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the Scholastica, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrines, the Library of Celsus. The last stop on the walking tour is the Great Theatre where Saint Paul preached. Follow the Arcadian Way which runs from the Great Theatre to the city harbor. View the Basilica of Saint John. In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian erected this structure over the grave of the evangelist, John. Upon arrival in Kusadasi, enjoy free time to explore on your own before returning to the ship. The cruise journey continues to Patmos, where you will transfer to Chora. Visit the monastery of Saint John the Theologian, built nine-hundred years ago. Visit the small museum, where you will view priceless treasures. Board the bus and transfer to the monastery. Visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse believed to be where John of Patmos received his visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. View the three-fold crack made by the voice of God, who emphasized the importance of honoring the Holy Trinity. Transfer to the port of Scala and enjoy free time before returning to the ship.

### **Day 10, Sunday, June 8: Heraklion – Santorini**

This morning transfer to Heraklion. Visit the in 1899 discovered ancient ruins of the Palace of Knossos. The palace is currently partially reconstructed. Here is where Saint Paul met the owner/-and captain of the ship and was warned by him of continuing his journey to spread Christianity in Rome. Following this historical visit, embark by ship to the idyllic island of Santorini. Santorini is definitively the most breathtaking island of all of the Greek Islands. Upon arrival in Santorini, visit Thira with its iconic white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes, and glittering boutiques that cling to cliffs. This evening enjoy your last dinner and overnight on the cruise ship.

### **Day 11, Mon, June 9: End of Cruise – Athens – Return Home**

Today marks the end of your cruise. Following breakfast, you will say your heartfelt farewells to a journey that will last in your memory forever. Transfer to Athens airport for your return flight(s) home.

*\*206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.*