

olivia@206tours.com silvia@206tours.com (800) 206-8687

www.206tours.com/frtvrdik/greece

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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 nights: Oct 18 20: The Met Hotel, Thessaloniki
   1 night: Oct 20 21: Hotel Amalia Kalambaka, Meteora

  - 1 night: Oct 21 22: Hotel Amalia Delphi, Delphi 2 nights: Oct 22 24: Athens Marriott or Royal Palace Hotel, Athens 3 nights: Oct 24 27: Celestyal Discovery Cruise (outside cabins)
- Breakfast and dinner daily All meals on cruise (breakfast, lunch and dinner) Wine and mineral water with dinners
- Transfers as per itinerary

- Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Headsets where needed
- Assistance of a professional local Christian guide
- Assistance of a professional rocal crinistian guide Sightseeing and admission fees as per itinerary Mass daily & spiritual activities Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
  Port taxes and 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 and Thira (Fira) by cable car, walking tour, Mass at Santorini Cathedral
- Flight bag & Portfolio of all travel documents

# Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Fri, Oct 17: 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, Sat, Oct 18: Arrive in Thessaloniki

Upon landing at Makedonia Thessaloniki Airport, you will be greeted by your tour guide and/-or driver. Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy time to relax after check-in. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

#### Day 3, Sun, Oct 19: Philippi - Kavala - Thessaloniki

After breakfast, start your journey in Greece with the first stop of the day in Philippi. Philippi was the city where Saint Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and, he 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 fortunewhere 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. Close to the port we can view a beautiful mosaic depicting St. Paul (the Call to Macedonia) and the arrival of the Apostle In town.Remains of ancient columns mark where St Paul tide his boat escorted by Silas. The mosaic can be seen at St. Nicholas church by the port This ancient city of Neapolis was later renamed Christoupolis because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. Imagine walking on the same sod as these men of the Bible! We will see the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis in this beautifully located city, known since the 5th century as Kavala. Return to Thessaloniki for a delicious meal and restful overnight.

# **Day 4, Mon, Oct 20: 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. The Apostle of the Nations was warmly welcomed since his first visit and his preaching had a great impact on the Verians and the Jews. Paul's the Apostle 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. We continue to Kalambaka. This evening, you will have a wonderful meal and a relaxing overnight in Kalambaka. had visited Veria at least twice between 50 AD and 57 AD in order to teach have a wonderful meal and a relaxing overnight in Kalambaka.

# Day 5, Tue, Oct 21: Meteora - Delphi

After breakfast, board the motorcoach for a short drive to the Meteora Monasteries. In the eleventh century, some monks settled within caves However, as the Turkish occupation increased, the monks were forced to move their settlements higher upon the rocks until they were unreachable by any opposing enemy. These settlements became Monasteries by bringing building and lifting materials by ladders and baskets. Notórious for preserving the Hellenic religion as well as their academics and arts. During your visit, you will be able to view stunning Byzantine art, as well as the breathtaking scenery that surrounds the monastery. Continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

Day 6, Wed, Oct 22: 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. 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 for dinner and overnight.

Day 7, Thu, Oct 23: 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 twentyfive 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 The House of Parliament on Syntagma Square. Also, have the opportunity to view the University of Athens. 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). Proceed to ancient Corinth. Saint Paul lived in Corinth for two years. 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 dinner and overnight.

### Day 8, Fri, Oct 24: 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. After docking, transfer to Hora, the capital of the island. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you on the narrow cobbled streets of the city. 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. Return to the cruise ship for dinner and overnight.

Day 9, Sat, Oct 25: Kusadasi - Ephesus (Mary's House) - Patmos Enjoy breakfast on board in the lively Turkish port of Kusadasi. We then transfer to the small village of Mt. Koressos. Visit the stone chapel situated upon the site, where the Virgin Mary spent her last days following the crucifixion of Christ. Walk through the Magnesian Gate to the ancient Ephesus. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you through the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the Scholastica, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrians, the Library of Celsus. The last stop on the walking tour is the Great Theatre. Follow the exact route that Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession via the Arcadian Way. 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 the village of Chora. While in this capital, to Patmos, where you will transfer to the village of Chora. While in this capital, visit the monastery of Saint John the Theologian. This marvelous structure, built nine-hundred years ago, continues to be supported by the walls of a strong fortification. View the beautiful courtyard, dining room, and bakery. Visit the small museum, where you will view priceless ecclesiastical treasures. Board the bus and transfer to the monastery. Visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse believed to mark the spot where John of Patmos received his visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. Transfer to the port of Scala. Enjoy free time before returning to the ship.

### Day 10, Sun, Oct 26: Heraklion - Santorini

This morning awaken and transfer to the largest city on the island of Crete, Heraklion. While in this administrative capital, visit the in 1899 discovered ancient ruins of the Palace of Knossos. The palace is currently partially reconstructed and believed to have been the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. 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. Embark by ship to the idyllic island of Santorini. Visit Thira with its iconic white-washed houses, narrow streets, openair cafes, and glittering boutiques that cling to cliffs. This evening enjoy your last dinner and overnight on the cruise ship.

## Day 11, Mon, Oct 27: Return Home

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