



## **Greece & Ephesus 2021**

***Follow Paul's journey on a 4 night cruise through the Greek islands and 5 nights on land following the path of his ministry.***

**July 6 – July 16, 2021 (11 days including travel)**

*Schedule based on evening arrival in Thessaloniki and afternoon departure from Athens*

**July 7 – July 16, 2021 (from Israel)**

### **DAY 1 TUESDAY, July 6, 2021: DEPART US FOR GREECE**

### **DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, July 7, 2021: ARRIVE IN THESSALONIKA, GREECE (SKG)**

Upon arrival in Thessaloniki meet the local representative who will assist with your transfer to the hotel. Your journey to the Biblical land of Greece begins! Upon his arrival in Thessalonica, Paul went immediately to the synagogue and for three Saturdays he explained the prophecies of the Old Testament to Jews and Greeks. According to the Book of the Acts many Greeks believed and even many «Greek chief women» (Acts 17:1-4). We go to the upper Old City Walls then drive along the Egnatian Way to see the Triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda. Check-in and overnight.

### **DAY 3 THURSDAY, July 8, 2021: PHILIPPI – KAVALA - THESSALONICA**

On our way to Philippi, we drive by the Lion of Amphipolis (short stop for photos). We visit Philippi, the site where Paul established a strong church. To this congregation he sent his letter (Acts 16:9-33). We see the river where Lydia is said to have been baptized, the ruins of a prison where Apostle Paul and Syllas had been kept, the Agora, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century Basilica and the Theater. After the visit, we continue to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where we enjoy a panoramic tour before returning to Thessalonica for overnight.

### **DAY 4 FRIDAY, July 9, 2021: BEREIA - ATHENS**

Check-out from the hotel in Thessaloniki. We start our drive to Athens (Approximate driving distance 7-8hrs including stops). On our way we stop at Berea (Acts 17:10-15) where Paul arrived and according to his custom went to the synagogue where, to his pleasant surprise, he discovered that these Jews were “more noble” than those he had encountered in Thessalonica. We see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching (Acts 17:10-11). Arrival in Athens for check in and overnight.

### **DAY 5 SATURDAY, July 10, 2021: ATHENS – TEMPLE OF PARTHENON – MARS’ HILL**

Today we climb up to the marble capped Acropolis Hill and visit the famous Parthenon and Erechtheion Temples. We then walk to nearby Mars' Hill (Areopagus) (Acts 17:22) where Paul delivered his soul-stirring sermon to the giants of philosophy, logic and learning and spoke about the inscription: “to an unknown god”. We continue our tour with a panoramic sightseeing of the city highlights. Enjoy the rest of the day at your own leisure in Plaka, the oldest and most picturesque district of Athens.

## **DAY 6 SUNDAY, July 11, 2021: ANCIENT CORINTH TOUR**

Today we depart for our morning tour out of Athens. On the way, we stop at the historic Corinth Canal. It was Corinth (Acts 18:1-18) where the Apostle Paul lived and worked, established a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles now part of the New Testament. Here, we see all of the sites associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's Seat. The small local archaeological museum here is an absolute must! Return to Athens in the afternoon. Evening will be free to explore the historical and modern center of the city where old combines with new!

## **DAY 7 MONDAY, July 12, 2021: EMBARK CRUISE - MYKONOS**

In the morning transfer to the port of Piraeus and the cruise ship for our 4-day Cruise to the Greek islands and Turkey. At 6:00 p.m. arrive in Mykonos and stroll on your own through the whitewashed, flower-decked alleyways, climbing to the sculpture church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront of "Little Venice" to the famous windmills. Sail for Kusadasi, Turkey at 11:00 p.m.

## **DAY 8 TUESDAY, July 13, 2021: KUSADASI (EPHESUS) – PATMOS**

At 7:00 a.m. we dock at Kusadasi in Turkey, starting point for our excursion to the ancient city of Ephesus (Acts 18:19-21). The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. We tour the spectacular ruins where excavations still continue in this once great city. At 1 p.m. sail for Patmos, Greece (Rev 1:9) and upon arrival enjoy a tour to the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist and the Grotto of the Revelation. Return to the ship and sail for Rhodes.

## **DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, July 14, 2021: RHODES**

We shall spend our whole day on this beautiful and enchanting island. Paul sailed to the island of Rhodes (Acts 21:1), home of the famous philosophers and orators, on his homeward journey to Jerusalem. From the port we begin our tour to the Acropolis of Lindos and we explore the medieval town or spend some time relaxing and swimming in one of the many pristine beaches, only a short distance away.

## **DAY 10 THURSDAY, July 15, 2021: CRETE – SANTORINI**

Early morning arrival at the port of Heraklion in Crete from where we can join the optional excursion to Knossos, the center of the ancient Minoan civilization and legendary home of the Minotaur. In the afternoon be inspired by the unique beauty of Santorini island. Ride the cable car up to the white-washed town of Thera, perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano. Stroll freely through the cliff hanging villages and admire the breathtaking views. At 9:30 p.m. set sail back to the port of Piraeus.

## **DAY 11 FRIDAY, July 16, 2021: DEPARTURE FROM ATHENS AIRPORT**

Arrival in Port of Piraeus. After witnessing a unique visual and historical experience of the Old and New Testament sites in Greece, this Biblical journey in Greece has come to an end. You will be transferred to Athens International Airport for your departure flight home or to Jordan.

## **HOTELS**

Athens - Divani Palace Acropolis

Thessaloniki - Grand Hotel Palace

ALL ITINERARIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SCHEDULING NEEDS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS.