



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 15, 2021 (10 days including travel)

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

July 6, 2021: TUESDAY – DEPART FOR GREECE

Arrive by evening July 7.

July 7, 2021: WEDNESDAY –ARRIVAL IN THESSALONICA

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.

July 8, 2021: THURSDAY – 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, 5th and 6th 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.

July 9, 2021: FRIDAY – 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.

July 10, 2021: SATURDAY – ANCIENT CORINTH –PIRAEUS EMBARKATION ON CRUISE

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Today we depart for our half day tour of ancient Corinth. 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! After a stop for lunch we return to the port of Piraeus and and embark on our cruise ship for our 4-day cruise to the Greek islands and Turkey. Our ship sails for Turkey at 8:30 pm.

July 11, 2021: SUNDAY – KUSADASI (EPHESUS)

Turkey is currently a RED country for COVID and the cruise is unable to dock there. It is likely that Ephesus will be replaced with Patmos and/or Crete.

At 7:00 a.m. we dock at Kusadasi in Turkey, starting point for our included 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. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in the port of Kusadasi exploring the Bazaars and trying your bargaining. Return to the ship and sail for Rhodes at 6:30pm.

July 12, 2021: MONDAY – 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 included tour to the Acropolis of Lindos and the medieval town. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time exploring the medieval town or spend some time relaxing and swimming in one of the many pristine beaches, only a short distance away. At 6:30 pm we sail for Santorini.

July 13, 2021: TUESDAY – SANTORINI

At 7:30 am we arrive to the unique island of Santorini. 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 or join the optional shore excursion which takes you to Oia Village, famous for the many blue domed churches. At 10:30 p.m. set sail back to the port of Piraeus.

July 14, 2021: WEDNESDAY – LAVRIO-ATHENS CITY TOUR -TEMPLE OF PARTHENON – MARS' HILL

Morning arrival in the port of Piraeus. We disembark and transfer to Athens for our visit 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 after some free time for lunch. Continue to the hotel for check in and enjoy the rest of the day at your own leisure in Plaka, the oldest and most picturesque district of Athens.

July 15, 2021: THURSDAY – TWO OPTIONS. Credit for one hotel night will be given.

1. Travelers going to Jordan will depart for airport and flight to Amman.
2. Travelers not going to Jordan can depart for home (or elsewhere) or stay extra night(s) in Athens and depart when desired. AIT or traveler can arrange for hotel nights.

HOTELS

Athens - Divani Palace Acropolis

Thessaloniki - Grand Hotel Palace

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