

GREECE:

In the Steps of Paul



MAY 7 - 17, 2025



Grace Covenant Church

Greece Trip Itinerary | May 7 -17, 2025

Come join us as we trace Paul's second missionary journey, Acts 16 – 19, through Greece and Turkey. We start with a four-day cruise on the Aegean Sea to visit Ephesus, Patmos, Mykonos, Santorini, and Crete. Then we'll fly to Thessaloniki in northern Greece to visit Amphipolis, Philippi, and Kavala. On our way back to Athens we will visit Pella, Berea, Vergina, Meterora, and Delphi. From Athens we will venture to Corinth and Nauplia. You will gain deeper insights into the Book of Acts, the Epistles of Paul, and the challenges of spreading the Gospel to the Greek world.

DAY 1

USA • ATHENS

Depart on our flight to Athens. Meals included in flight. After arriving at our hotel we will enjoy dinner together.

DAY 2

ATHENS

Enjoy a city tour of Athens. First, visit the Acropolis and wander through the ruins of some of the most architecturally perfect buildings ever constructed. We'll see the Propylaea, the Temple of the Wingless Victory, the Erechtheum with its peerless Porch of Maidens, the Parthenon and Mars Hill where Paul was brought before the council. On a drive through the city we'll see the National Library, the University, the Academy, the Presidential Palace, the Stadium, Temple of Zeus and Hadrian's Arch. The rest of the day is free to pack and prepare for our 3-night Aegean cruise.

DAY 3

ATHENS • MYKONOS

This morning, we drive to the port at Piraeus and embark on our cruise through the Aegean to Turkey. Arrive at Mykonos in the afternoon. The afternoon is at leisure on this small and famous gleaming white Aegean Island, with its golden beaches, windmills and picturesque narrow roads. All meals on board our cruise ship.

DAY 4

KUSADASI (EPHESUS) • PATMOS

This morning, we wake up and find we have arrived in Kusadasi, Turkey. Kusadasi is a colorful harbor town and the starting point for an excursion to the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, site of one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Excavation still continues in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC and was subdued by both Croesus and Alexander the Great. Walk through history along streets lined with magnificent public buildings, among them the Baths of Skolastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the theatre. Ephesus also played an important part in the life of the Apostle Paul, who wrote an epistle to its inhabitants. This afternoon, we spend our time cruising the beautiful, blue Aegean arriving after lunch in Patmos. Patmos is the beautiful, rocky island where the exiled St. John the Divine received the mystical Revelation which forms the last book of the New Testament. We will take an excursion to the Grotto of the Revelation and then go to the 11th Century Monastery of St. John, which houses an original manuscript of the Gospel. Enjoy the panoramic view from this superb, fortress-like complex, high on a hill.

DAY 5**CRETE, SANTORINI**

We will wake up at Heraklion, Crete, the home of the great Minoan Civilization. Visit the Knossos excavations dating back to 4000 B.C. and the Palace. Return to our cruise ship to sail to Santorini. Enjoy the town at leisure or perhaps relax over a coffee as you gaze down upon Kamenes, the two black volcanic islets in the Caldera Bay. Afterwards, return to the small pier of Scala by cable car, where the vessel's tenders will take you back to the ship. Overnight on board our cruise ship.

DAY 6**ATHENS (Disembark) • THESSALONIKI**

We will disembark the ship in Piraeus, then connect with our domestic flight to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7**THESSALONIKI • AMPHIPOLIS • PHILIPPI • KAVALA**

We begin with a tour of the biblical Thessaloniki where Paul founded the Church in AD 49-50. We will see the ancient ruins as well as some local churches. "And from there we went to Philippi which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia..." (Acts 16: 12-18). Drive along the ancient route of Paul, through mountain passes and plains to Amphipolis for a short stop to view the ancient Lion Statue. Continue to Ancient Philippi where we find two early Christian basilicas, traces of the Egnatian Way which Paul followed from the harbor of Neapolis (ancient port of Philippi) on his first visit on European soil. View the Roman Forum, the Citadel, and the ancient theater. Continue on a short drive to Kavala on the site of ancient Neapolis where Paul landed on the way to Philippi. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8**THESSALONIKI • PELLA • BEREIA • VERGINA**

We'll drive to Berea to visit a beautiful monument dedicated to Paul at Berea. Paul and Silas were sent to Berea after fleeing from Thessalonica (Acts 17:10). We visit Vergina to see the Tumulus (tomb) of Philip II as well as some of the treasures buried with him. We continue on to Meteora. Dinner & overnight in Kalambaka.

DAY 9**METEORA • DELPHI • ATHENS**

Start the day with a tour of the Grand Monastery of Meteora. We proceed south to Delphi. We will take a walking tour of Apollo's sanctuary that houses the Temple of Apollo and the renowned oracle who advised both king and commoner. Tour the Theater and the Stadium where festivals and games were held. We will also visit the museum that contains exquisite pieces of sculpture among which is the Bronze Charioteer. Later today, we drive to Athens via Arachova, Levadia and Thebes. Dinner & overnight in Athens.

DAY 10**CORINTH • NAUPLIA**

Today we head to Corinth driving through Daphni and Eleusis. After crossing the Corinthian Canal which connects the Aegean and Ionian Seas, we will arrive in ancient Corinth. We visit the ruins of Corinth where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. Included are the First Century shops, the Agora, Temple of Apollo and the Bema Seat. Still gurgling under the ruins is the water of the springs of the mighty Acropolis above, which once fed the Fountain of Pirene. Continue your drive up to Acrocorinth, in Paul's time site of the great Temple of Aphrodite. Return to Athens where the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. We will enjoy a Greek dinner experience as our final evening of our adventure. OPA!

DAY 11**ATHENS • USA**

We transfer to the airport for departure from Athens. Arrive today with wonderful memories of a magnificent journey.

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in partnership with Friendship Tours

Cost: \$5,880 per person, upgrades at extra cost, Land-only option: \$4,375

Terms & Conditions:

1. This is a custom tour and cost is based on a minimum of 30 participants. Should the group fall below that number, the tour operator reserves the right to re-cost the tour.
2. Airfares are subject to change and could modify the price. Deviations are not permitted, since this is a special group airfare price.
3. Must have a valid passport that expires after November 17, 2025.
4. Price Includes:
 - a. Round trip jet economy class airfare from Austin, TX.
 - b. Four Star hotel accommodations based on two people per room.
 - c. Outside cabins on cruise ship.
 - d. Full breakfast and dinner buffet with free beer & wine at meals.
 - e. Special Greek Dinner experience on last night in Athens.
 - f. Shore excursions to Ephesus, Patmos, Heraklion / Knossos
 - g. Transportation on private motor coach.
 - h. Qualified, licensed English-speaking guides.
 - i. All hotel, port, and airport taxes, gratuities, and service charges are included.
 - j. Porterage for one standard size suitcase per person.
 - k. No visas are required for U.S. passport holders.
5. Not included:
 - a. Santorini & Crete shore excursions.
 - b. Cost of obtaining U.S. passport.
 - c. Cost of Travel protection insurance.
6. Full balance must be paid on or before February 1, 2025. Funds are not transferable to any other person.
7. The U.S. State Departments issues travel advisories for travel to certain countries from time to time. It is your responsibility to review these advisories and determine if you are comfortable traveling to areas this tour includes.
8. Cancellations: All cancellations must be done in writing. Loss of deposit and other cancelation penalties maybe be incurred up to 100% of total tour cost depending on when the written cancelation is received. This is one way trip insurance may help minimize your losses.
9. Responsibilities: CASARA Travel Enterprises, Inc, doing business as Friendship Tours, and its agents and representatives act only in the capacity as agents for passengers in all matters pertaining to the tours, trips, and travel arrangements and accommodations, whether by air, rail, motor coach, ship, boat, or other means of travel or transportation, including hotel accommodations, sightseeing, and other accommodations. As such, Casara Travel Enterprises, Inc., doing business as Friendship Tours, is free of responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, hurt, or harm to or suffered by, the passenger, or the passenger's luggage or possessions. Casara Travel Enterprises, Inc. is not responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late air, rail or boat arrivals or departures; or by any change of schedule or other condition; nor responsible for the loss or damage to baggage or any article belonging to the passenger.

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