

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. 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.

DAYS 1 & 2 USA • ATHENS

We depart Austin to fly to Athens. Meals are included during the flight. We will arrive in Athens in the late afternoon, go to our hotel, enjoy dinner together and get some good rest.

DAY 3 ATHENS & MYKONOS

This morning, we drive to the port at Piraeus and embark on our cruise through the Aegean Sea. In the afternoon we arrive at Mykonos. 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 will be on board our cruise ship.

DAY 4 KUSADASI (EPHESUS) • PATMOS

After cruising through the night we will arrive 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 continues in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. We will walk through history along marble streets lined with magnificent public buildings, among them the Baths of Skolastica, the Library of Cel-sus, the Temple of Hadrian and the theatre. Ephesus played an important part in the life of the Apostle Paul, who wrote an epistle to its inhabitants. Once we return to the ship, we will cruise to the island of Patmos. Patmos is the beautiful, rocky island where the exiled St. John 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. We will enjoy the panoramic view from this superb, fortress-like complex, high on a hill.

DAY 5 CRETE, SANTORINI

We will wake up in Heraklion, Crete, the home of the great Minoan Civilization. Visit the Knossos excavations dating back to 4000 B.C. and the Palace and then return to our cruise ship to sail to Santorini. Located on top of the rocky cliff s you can gaze down upon Kamenes, the two black volcanic islets in the Caldera Bay. You can enjoy a stroll through the whitewashed buildings in search the blue-domed churches. Afterwards, return to the small pier of Scala by cable car, where the vessel's tenders will take you back to the ship.

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

Today is a travel day to northern Greece. We will disembark the ship in Piraeus, then transfer to the airport for our domestic flight to Thessaloniki. There we will enjoy dinner and overnight. Thessaloniki will be our base to pick up on Paul's entry into Europe and his path of proclaiming the Gospel to this pagan world.

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

We begin with a tour of the biblical Thessaloniki where Paul founded the Church in AD 49-50. Then we will head east toward Philippi. During this day we will visit Kavala, the site of ancient Neapolis, the port where Paul first crossed over from Asia to Europe. We'll go to see the ruins of Philippi, a totally Roman city in its day. We will go outside the city to the site where Paul found the "place of prayer," met Lydia and baptized her. We will walk on sections of the Egnatian Way, the Roman road Paul followed in spreading the gospel. Northern Greece is the area the Bible refers to as Macedonia. It is the kingdom of Philipp II and Alexander the Great. Along the way we will pass through Amphipolis for a short stop to view the ancient Lion Statue. We will 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 went to Berea after fleeing from Thessalonica (Acts 17:10). We will visit Vergina to see the Tumulus (tomb) of Philip II as well as some of the treasures buried with him. We continue south on to Meteora, the unique mountain formation in central Greece. We will have dinner & overnight in Kalambaka.

DAY 9**METEORA • DELPHI • ATHENS**

We start the day with a tour of the Grand Monastery of Meteora. Then 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 pass through Arachova, Levadia and Thebes on our way to Athens. We'll enjoy dinner then overnight in Athens.

DAY 10**CORINTH • NAUPLIA**

Today we head west 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. Returning to Athens we'll 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. Our trip will be capped off with a fun 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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