

# Your Logo



## ***Greece: In the Footsteps of St. Paul***

***Includes 4-Day Mediterranean Cruise with 3 Shore Excursions***

**Led by Your Name Here**

**Travel Dates: Your Dates Here**

**\$x,xxx.00 from City, State**

*(Includes: US and Intl. departure taxes and std. gratuities)*

**Contact Devotion Travel**

**310-857-5000**

**groups@devotiontravel.com to**

**Custom Design your Group Trip.**





#### DAY 1 - DEPART USA/THESSALONIKI

We depart for Greece on our International flight to Thessaloniki.

#### DAY 2 - THESSALONIKI

We arrive in Thessaloniki where St. Paul spent only three Sabbath days (3 weeks), and yet, the **church in Thessalonica** (as it was called in St. Paul's day) was a model of faith for all the other churches in Macedonia and Achaia! Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.(D)

#### DAY 3 - THESSALONIKI —PHILIPPI AND KAVALA

We explore Thessaloniki, and discuss St. Paul's visit while seeing several of the city's landmarks, including the **White Tower**, the **Byzantine Acropolis**, the **Roman Arch of Galerius**, the **Basilicas of St. Demetrius** and **St. Sophia**. This afternoon, we make our way to **Philippi**, where St. Paul met Lydia and her friends. We visit the river where they were baptized, the Greek Orthodox baptistery (with its murals and stained glass window of St. Paul and Lydia—see opposite!) and then the archaeological site of Philippi, including its agora, the jail where Paul and Silas spent the night before an earthquake struck, the theater and a portion of the 2,000-year old Via Ignatia, the road built by the Romans. From Philippi, we drive to **Kavala** (Neapolis of Paul's day), where Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke stepped onto the continent of Europe for the first time. We return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

#### DAY 4 - THESSALONIKI/METEORA/ ATHENS

This morning we leave Thessaloniki and we drive to **Verea** (Berea of Paul's day). Here "the Jews were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all willingness and examined the scriptures daily to determine whether these things were so" (Acts 17: 11). From Verea we travel south through **Meteora** to visit the **world-famous Byzantine monasteries perched high atop summits of gray rock**. From Meteora, we continue south, reaching Athens for dinner, and we overnight in Athens.(B, D)

#### DAY 5 - ATHENS/ PIRAEUS (embarkation)/ MYKONOS

After breakfast, we transfer to the port of Piraeus and board the Celestial Olympia to begin our 3-day/4-night Aegean cruise, stopping first on the beautiful island of **Mykonos** to stroll along the waterfront and explore the unique blue & white city and its windmills! We have dinner tonight aboard ship and enjoy the evening activities. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 6 - KUSADASI (EPHESUS), TURKEY/ PATMOS, GREECE

Early this morning we visit **Ephesus** (Kusadasi of modern-day Turkey), the city in Asia Minor where St. Paul spent nearly three years, the entirety of his 3rd missionary journey. By the time Paul left Ephesus, Luke tells us, "all the inhabitants of the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord, Jews and Greeks alike"

(Acts 19: 10). With its marble streets, **Library of Celsus** (one of the three great libraries of the ancient world!), the **theater** that seats 25,000 people, and the newly excavated wealthy residential area, this is one of the most fabulous archaeological sites in the entire world!



We will also visit the house where tradition says that **Jesus' mother, Mary, spent her final days** in the care of the Apostle John. We set sail for Patmos and explore the island where John wrote the book of Revelation.



We walk down to the **Grotto of the Apocalypse**, the site of the apocalyptic Revelations of St. John the Divine. Tonight, we return to our ship for dinner. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 7 - HERAKLION OF CRETE/SANTORINI

In the morning, we arrive at the island of Crete. St. Paul and Titus visited Crete, and Paul famously said in his letter to Titus that one of Crete's own poets [Epimenides, 7th century B.C.] noted that "Cretans have always been liars, vicious beasts, and lazy gluttons" (Titus 1: 12)! [Actually, they're very nice folks, as we'll see.] On Crete, we will visit **Knossos**, the spectacular archaeological remains of a civilization dating back to 4,000 B.C. We walk around the large Central Court to view the awe-inspiring **Throne Room**, the **fresco** of the "**Prince of the Lilies**," **Grand Staircase**, the **Queen's Megaron** and apartments. We return to our ship for leisure time and lunch. This afternoon we arrive at **Santorini**, one of the most stunning islands in the Aegean Sea. Santorini is part of a volcanic caldera, the rim of an ancient volcano, and possibly the site of Plato's Atlantis. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 8 - PIRAEUS, GREECE (disembarkation)/ CORINTH/ ATHENS

This morning we arrive back at Athens, and after disembarking from our ship we head directly southwest to **Corinth**. During our Logos summer-quarter we studied St. Paul's "Corinthian Correspondence," and we learned a great deal about the city and the people of Paul's day. This morning we will walk where Paul walked and we will experience Corinth ourselves, visiting the agora, the temple of Apollo, the "Bema" where Gallio presided over St. Paul's hearing, the Corinthian canal and the Diolkos. From Corinth, we drive to **Cenchreae**, the eastern port of the Saronic Gulf, and then we head back to Athens. In Athens, we climb the **Acropolis**, view the Odion, and visit the iconic **Parthenon**, dedicated to the goddess Athena.

At the foot of the Acropolis, we visit **Mars Hill**, where St. Paul spoke to the Areopagus, the "faculty club" of Athens—with little success.



At the end of our day, we take a driving tour of Athens, seeing many of its famous sites. During the bus tour, we also see Constitution Square with the **House of Parliament** and the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, the **Temple of Zeus**,



the **Old Olympic Stadium** and the **Neoclassical Buildings** of Athens. Late this afternoon is at leisure to explore Athens on your own. Dinner and overnight are in Athens. (B, D)

#### DAY 9 - ATHENS - DELPHI

After breakfast, we make a special visit to **Delphi**, high up on **Mount Parnassus**. Home of the temple of Apollo and the Oracle of Delphi, the ancient Greeks viewed Delphi as the "omphalos" (the "navel" or "center") of the earth. Here the eternal flame burned in the temple, and here the Pythia, a specially selected priestess, prophesied. For nearly 1,000 years, people from the entire Mediterranean world—both commoners and kings—consulted the Oracle, through whom the god Apollo spoke. This is a fabulous site!. (B, D)

#### DAY 10 - ATHENS/HOME

We transfer this morning to the Athens airport for our flight home. During the flight, we will have memories to share, photos to edit, and new friendships to enjoy, having walked in the very footsteps of St. Paul!(B)

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*\*While we do our very best to make sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control effect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, vessel changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your group leader and tour guide.*

*\*Breakfast & Dinner included daily while on land. Three meals will be provided each day (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) on board the cruise. Drinks are not included with meals, except for customary items served at the buffet. Three excursions are included in the itinerary. Patmos is an evening excursion and you may elect to have dinner (at your own expense) on the island.*