Arizona Bible Class
Presents
Greece: In the Footsteps of St. Paul
Includes 4-Day Aegean Cruise with 4 Shore Excursions

Led by: Kevin Saunders
Travel Dates: May 21 - 31, 2022

$5,899.00 from Phoenix, AZ
(Includes: Round trip flights from Phoenix; US and Intl. departure taxes, visas, std. gratuities, and current port charges and taxes)

Devotion Travel at 310-857-5000
groups@devotiontravel.com
Greetings Travelers,

I am excited to announce the next travel opportunity that I will be hosting in 2022. We are going to walk in the Footsteps of St. Paul!

Our trip will include visits to many New Testament cities and sites where I will teach the stories of Paul and his associates as they made their way around the ancient Roman Empire of his day. Each stop will afford an opportunity to take in the geography and history, and Biblical narrative that is evident at each site.

This trip will also include a very nice Greek cruise, with ports of call to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini. We will tour one of the greatest archaeological sites in Turkey, Ephesus, and make a pilgrim’s journey to the House of Mary located just outside of this ancient city. On the island of Patmos, we visit the Cave of the Apocalypse, where John the Evangelist wrote the Book of Revelation.

I don’t go to Greece and Turkey often. So do take advantage of this opportunity to travel with me this coming Spring. Space is limited, so your early response to this offer is highly recommended. I am very much looking forward to this trip and hope you will be able to join me.

Peace,

Kevin Saunders
Bible Scholar

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, MAY 21: PHOENIX/ THESSALONIKI
We depart from the Phoenix International Airport for our flights to Greece.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, MAY 22: THESSALONIKI
This evening we arrive in Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece and located in the Thermaic Gulf. This city and community figures prominently in the New Testament, at which time this provincial capital was considered a world cultural center and was the center of Paul’s activities in Northern Greece. It is where he preached and founded a church and to whom he wrote two epistles (Acts 17:1-9; Thessalonians 1-2). 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! Tonight, we gather to enjoy dinner at our hotel. (D)

DAY 3 – MONDAY, MAY 23: THESSALONIKI: PHILIPPI and KAVALA
This morning 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, and the Basilicas of St. Demetrius and St. Sophia.

This afternoon we drive along the ancient route of Apostle Paul to Amphipolis (Acts 17:1). Our first stop is in ancient Philippi, which was named after the father of Alexander the Great. This busy Roman colony boasted a great library and theater. In Philippi, Paul established the first Christian community in Europe on his second missionary journey (Acts 16: 7-40; Philippians). It was in this area that Paul met Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, and her friends. She and her household accepted Christ and were baptized in the nearby river (Acts 16:11-15). We visit the river where they were baptized and the Greek Orthodox baptistery (with its murals and stained-glass window of St. Paul and Lydia).

From Philippi, we drive to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis of Paul’s day (Acts 16:9-11). This is where Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke stepped onto the continent of Europe for the first time. We return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B, D)

DAY 4 – TUESDAY, MAY 24: THESSALONIKI/ VERIA/ KALAMBAKA
This morning we stop in Veria (Beroea of the New Testament), where Paul and Silas were sent by friends after being accused of treason in Thessaloniki (Acts 17:5-15). We visit the Bema of Apostle Paul, where he is said to have stood and preached the Gospel to the local community. We travel to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 25: KALAMBAKA/ METEORA/ ATHENS
Today, we travel to Meteora, where we visit the world-famous Varlaam and St. Stephen’s Byzantine monasteries. Situated atop vast grey rocks, the 14th-century monasteries compose one of the most breathtaking sites in the world. Inside the monasteries, we view many historical and religious treasures. We continue to Athens for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 6 – THURSDAY, MAY 26: ATHENS
We begin our day with a tour of Athens. A visit to this city is a trip back in time to places where great historic events happened, twenty-five centuries ago. We will see the Acropolis, Parthenon, Areopagus, and Mars Hill, where Apostle Paul delivered his well-known sermon. Later, we have a panoramic tour of the city to see the Parliament House, the Academy, Omonia Square, and Panathenaic Stadium. This afternoon, we will have free time in the Plaka, a picturesque old town perched on the slopes of the Acropolis, which has been continuously inhabited for over 5,000 years. Explore this ancient city and cradle of Western civilization. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B, D)
DAY 7 – FRIDAY, MAY 27: AEGEAN CRUISE: PIRAEUS (embarkation)/ MYKONOS
After breakfast, we will have leisure time before we transfer from our hotel to the Port of Piraeus. Bon voyage! We set sail this afternoon aboard Celestyal Olympia to begin our four-day/ three-night Greece and Turkey cruise. Our first stop is the beautiful mountainous island of Mykonos. This evening we will have free time on own to stroll along the waterfront and explore the unique blue and white city and its windmills before returning to the ship for on board entertainment. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 – SATURDAY, MAY 28: AEGEAN CRUISE: KUSADASI (EPHESUS), TURKEY/ PATMOS, GREECE
Early this morning we visit the Turkish Port of Kusadasi. Here we enjoy a shore excursion to the ruins of Ephesus, whose inhabitants were the recipients of Apostle Paul’s famous Epistle to the Ephesians (Acts 18:19–26). It was once the capital of the Roman province of Asia and the city where St. Paul spent nearly three years, the entirety of his third 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! Our final visit is to the House of Mary, where the Virgin Mary is said to have spent her last days in the care of the Apostle John.

We return to our ship and set sail to Patmos, the “Jerusalem of the Aegean”. Our Patmos shore excursion this evening includes visits to the Monastery of St. John and the Cave of the Apocalypse, where John the Evangelist wrote the Book of the Revelation during his exile (Rev. 1:9-11). Tonight, we return to our ship for dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 – SUNDAY, MAY 29: AEGEAN CRUISE: HERAKLION OF CRETE/ SANTORINI
This morning we visit Heraklion of Crete, the ancient city and cultural heritage site of Knossos. This city has been identified with Plato’s mythical Atlantis from his dialogues of the Timaeus and Critias and is also known in myth most famously through the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. Our shore excursion includes a visit to the ancient Minion Palace of Knossos. 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.

Late this afternoon we dock at Santorini, the “Black Pearl of the Aegean.” The island is part of a volcanic caldera, the rim of an ancient volcano, and possibly the site of Plato’s Atlantis. Santorini is often referred to as the most breathtaking of all the Greek islands. The exquisite, whitewashed villages, including the town of Fira, or Thira, cling to volcanic cliffs, accessible by cable-car, or mule. We are transported from our ship by tender boats to the port of Athinios. Our shore excursion includes the village and archeological site of Akrotiri. It once was a bustling town before the Thira eruption. The ash from the volcano buried the city, preserving many of its structures and frescoes. We explore the remnants of the houses, shops and workshops that surrounded the village square thousands of years ago. Our next stop is Fira (officially Thira and classic Greek Thera), the capital of Santorini and its largest town. We will visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, famed for its elegant construction and beautiful frescoes. After our visit, we will have time to shop and enjoy a coffee. We board the cable car, the teleferik, and descend to the port below, where our tender boats will transport us back to our ship for dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 – MONDAY, MAY 30: AEGEAN CRUISE: PIRAEUS, GREECE (disembarkation)/ CORINTH/ ATHENS
Early this morning we return to Port Piraeus. We are met by our guide and travel southwest to visit ancient Corinth, the once-glorious city near the Isthmus of Corinth. In this area, Apostle Paul spent eighteen months with tent makers Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18: 1-18) and preached the gospel for a year and half. We visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples, and the famous Bema, where Paul stood in judgment before the Corinthians.

Late this afternoon we return to Athens. We conclude our day with a visit the Acropolis Museum, which is in the historical area of Makiyianni and houses artifacts from the Greek Bronze Age (Early Helladic period) to Roman era (Byzantine Empire). We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 11 – TUESDAY, MAY 31: ATHENS/ PHOENIX
This morning, we say goodbye to Greece and make our way to Athens Airport for our flights back to the United States. We arrive home filled with wonderful memories, renewal of our faith and new friendships. (B)

Note:
* This is a moderately strenuous tour, walking on archaeological sites, cobblestone streets and hills. For your safety and enjoyment, you should be able to walk a mile briskly and climb 100 stairs. Most sites are not handicapped accessible.
* 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 trip leader and tour guide.
* Breakfast and 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. Four excursions are included in the itinerary. Two of which are Patmos and Santorini which will be evening excursions. You may elect to have dinner (at your own expense) on these islands.
Based on a tour price of $5,899.00, the cost of the Travel Protection Plan starts at $552.00.

RIGHT TO CHANGE TRIP LEADER:
Should Kevin Saunders be unable to lead all/part of the trip for any reason, another Trip leader may be substituted in his place without notice. There will be no refunds or credit.

Each passenger is responsible for making sure that they have a valid passport that has an expiration date at least six months after the date of return from their trip. A copy of your valid passport must be submitted to our office by January 27, 2022.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY:
Imagina and its associated companies agree to provide the itinerary described in this brochure. This represents the entire agreement between the passenger and his agent, the travel agent, the tour host, and the tour operator. All prices, itineraries and schedules are subject to regulations and changes by acts of government, international agreement, and airline tariff adjustments, rules, and regulations. Imagina reserves the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who may sustain related to this tour; (ii) delays, damages, illness, injuries or death, (iii) changes in itinerary or flight times, (iv) no refund or allowances will be given to travelers on a per trip basis. Imagination Tours & Travel, LLC, is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. Registration No. ST36635.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:
For your convenience we offer travel protection through TravelExsurance at an estimated premium of $552.00 per person insures up to $6,000.00 Trip price.

Travel coverage is offered through Devotion Travel and is not handled by Imagina Tours & Travel. Devotion Travel is not an insurance agent or broker and cannot answer questions or provide advice concerning coverage or technical questions about the travel insurance.