

**LOGOS BIBLE STUDY PPRESENTS...**

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

**Led by: Dr. Bill Creasy**

**Greece Travel Dates: July 2 – 11, 2023**

**Includes: 3-night Cruise**

**Trip Price Includes: Roundtrip flights from Los Angeles, Intl. departure taxes, standard gratuities, and Turkish visas for U.S. citizens)**

**OPTIONAL POST-TRIP TURKEY: JULY 11 - 14, 2023**

**Contact: Devotion Travel**

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#### DAY 1 - SUNDAY, JULY 2: LOS ANGELES/ THESSALONIKI

We embark upon our journey with an overnight flight to Greece. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience and get some rest on the flight. Tomorrow, you will be walking where the apostle Paul walked!

#### DAY 2 - MONDAY, JULY 3: THESSALONIKI

Tonight, we arrive in Thessaloniki. This is the city where Paul was received by Jason. Paul was preaching the Word of God here until he was rushed out of the city. We transfer to our hotel for check-in and a light dinner. (D)

#### DAY 3 - TUESDAY, JULY 4: THESSALONIKI – PHILIPPI AND KAVALA

This morning after our **panoramic tour of Thessaloniki** we depart for **Philippi**. Here, we sit by the **Zygakti River** and tell the story of **St. Paul baptizing Lydia and her friends**. We then visit the **Baptistry of Lydia**. Lydia was the **first convert of Paul on European soil**, followed by the Philippian jailer. We also visit the **ruins of the Forum of Philippi**, the **Christian Basilicas**, the "Prison of Paul" and the **Theater**. Then we drive to **Kavala** (Neapolis), the picturesque ancient port of Neapolis of Paul's day (Acts 16:9-11). This is where **St. Paul first set foot on the continent of Europe**. We view the **Byzantine Castle** and the **Roman Aqueduct** before returning to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

#### DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 5: THESSALONIKI/ VEREA/ METEORA/ DELPHI

Today, we leave Thessaloniki and drive to **Verea** (biblical Berea of Paul's day), the so called "**Little Jerusalem**" of northern Greece. We travel south to **Meteora**, where we see the **world-famous Byzantine monasteries** that are perched on summits of gray rock peaks of varied and beautiful shapes. Their history goes back to the 14th century when the monks sought refuge in the cliff-side caves, then fled higher to build the original wooden shelters, which were later transformed into monasteries. Afterwards, we continue to **Delphi** where we will have dinner and overnight. (B, D)

#### DAY 5 - THURSDAY, JULY 6: DELPHI/ ATHENS

After breakfast, we visit **Delphi**, a mountainous city which today is both an archaeological site and a modern town. For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was labeled the "**omphalos**" (navel) of the earth, and it is here that the **eternal flame burned** in the **Temple of Apollo**. Delphi was the site of the **Delphic oracle**, the most important oracle in the classical Greek world. It was also here beginning in 586 B.C. that athletes from all over the Greek world competed

in the **Pythian Games**, one of the precursors to the modern Olympics. After our visit at the **Archeological Museum of Delphi**, we make our way to Athens. During our drive, we will have time to stop and enjoy the **small scenic villages** that cling to the mountainsides. We arrive in Athens and check-in to our hotel. Tonight, we will have time to explore the **Pláka** district, a short walk from our hotel and historical neighborhood of Athens, to have a self-hosted dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Athens. (B)

#### DAY 6 - FRIDAY, JULY 7: ATHENS/ LAVRIO PORT (embarkation)/ MYKONOS

After breakfast, we transfer from our hotel to the **Lavrio Port** in Athens. Bon Voyage! We set sail early this afternoon aboard **Celestial Olympia** to begin our **three-night/ four-day Greece and Turkey cruise**. Our first stop is the quaint isle of **Mykonos**, called the **island of windmills**. We arrive at Mykonos, where we disembark and have time on our own to experience the waterfront lined with shops and cafes. We stroll the charming walkways through a maze of white-washed buildings before returning to the ship for dinner and evening activities. (B, L, D)



#### DAY 7 - SATURDAY, JULY 8: KUSADASI (EPHESUS), TURKEY/ PATMOS

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). The impressive remains of Ephesus include the **Agora**, the **Theater**, the **Stadium**, the **Library of Celsus**, and the ruins of the **Temple of Diana** (one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World"). We also visit the **House of Mary**, where the Virgin Mary is said to have spent her last days. . We return to our ship and continue our cruise to **island of Patmos**, the "**Jerusalem of the Aegean**". Our **Patmos**

**shore excursion** this evening includes visits to the **Monastery of St. John**, on one of the island's highest points, and 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 8 - SUNDAY, JULY 9: HERAKLION OF CRETE/ SANTORINI

In the morning we arrive at **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 **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**. During our excursion, we take a short ride through the **town of Heraklion** and then arrive at the **Knossos excavations**. Here, Sir Arthur Evan's archaeological discoveries revealed a civilization dating back to 4000 B.C., when a great empire flourished on the island of Crete. Paul left Titus in Crete and gave instructions on appointing church leaders in the towns (Titus 1:5ff). Here we visit 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**, and 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**." Tonight, we depart for Athens, our last night of our cruise. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 9 - MONDAY, JULY 10: LAVRIO PORT (disembarkation)/ CORINTH/ ATHENS

Early this morning we return to **Lavrio Port**. We are met by our guide to continue our sightseeing with a **visit to Ancient Corinth**. This is the **once-glorious city near the Isthmus**, where **Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla** and spent a year and a half preaching the Word of God. We visit the "**Erastus Inscription**," the **Archaeological Museum**, the **Forum**, the **Temples**, and the **famous Bema**, where Paul stood before Gallio, accused by the Jews of Corinth. We travel to **Diolkos** along the paved trackway across, which small ships and cargo we hauled across the Isthmus. We then drive to the **top of the acropolis** for an overview of the city. Next stop is **Cenchreae**, the **little harbor** from which **Paul sailed back to Asia**, thus **ending his second missionary journey**. This afternoon, we have a self-hosted lunch at a restaurant overlooking the **Corinthian canal**. We return to Athens for a walking tour to view the **architectural wonders of ancient Athens**. We follow our guide to the **world-renowned Acropolis**, to see the **Propylea**, **Erechtheum** and **Parthenon**. We visit **Mars Hill**, where **Paul delivered his speech on the "Unknown God"**. Then we see the **Agora**, the **ancient center of the economic and public life of the city**, where Paul preached to the skeptical Athenians. This evening we gather to enjoy a very **special farewell dinner celebration** at a local restaurant with music and Greek dancing. This will be a time to share our many joys and memories, and to say goodbye to our Istanbul Extension travelers. Overnight at our hotel. (B, D)

#### DAY 10 - TUESDAY, JULY 11: ATHENS/ LOS ANGELES

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our return flights home, cherishing our memories of a beautiful country and the sites we have seen that make Scripture come alive. (B)



Dr. Bill Creasy

Photograph by Ana Maria Vargas

## Optional Turkey Extension

### January 11 –14, 2023

#### DAY 1 - TUESDAY, JULY 11: ATHEN/ ISTANBUL

We depart Athens this morning and arrive at Istanbul Airport. After clearing customs, we will be met by our guide who will show us this fascinating city. Headed towards the **city of Istanbul**, we will drive through the **ancient Roman Walls** into the **Old City** to **explore the 4th century Church of St. Savior** in **Chora** (now called “Kariye Mosque”), where it was known to be the keeper of the **famous icon of Virgin Mary** that was believed to have been painted by Luke the Apostle. We will also stop at the **Greek Patriarchate** that serves as the head of the **Greek Orthodox World**. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant to experience the famed Turkish cuisine. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, D)

#### DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, JULY 12: ISTANBUL

This morning we will visit the **Topkapi Palace** that was built following the Ottomans conquest of Istanbul including the **Harem**, the section of the palace where family of the sultan lived and, the treasury and kitchens that served thousands that worked within the grounds of the palace every day.

We will continue our sightseeing with a visit to **Istanbul Archaeological Museum**, where the famed **tablet from Hezekiah’s Tunnel in Jerusalem** as well as various other **stunning artifacts** from **Old Testament** sites and civilizations are exhibited. We continue our explorations of the **Old City**. Then onto the **Blue Mosque** famed for its **turquoise color**. Followed by a short stroll through the **Roman Hippodrome** that today displays the famous **Egyptian obelisk, Serpentine Column** and **Roman columns** around which the chariots ran. This afternoon we will visit **underground cisterns**. Later in the day we will experience the lively atmosphere of the **Spice Market** dating back to the **17th century**, welcoming us with its **enchanted smells** and **colorful display of spices** brought from around the world. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B, D)

#### DAY 3 - THURSDAY, JULY 13: ISTANBUL

Our first visit today will be to the **19th century Dolmabahce Palace** an exceptionally **majestic edifice**. We then visit **Galata District** that reflects the **19th century face of Istanbul** with its **palazzo style apartments**. We visit the **Pera Museum** that displays **Kirac Family’s private collection of artworks** of both rural and urban Turkish culture. Later in the afternoon, we visit the **Grand Bazaar**,

the oldest shopping mall in history. Since 1455, the Grand Bazaar has been the abode of trade **connecting Occident and the Orient**. Enjoy a Turkish coffee while hearing about rugs, tiles, leatherwork in the alleys of 4800 shops. This evening we will take a short ride to the **shores of the Bosphorus** to board our **private motor yacht** for a most **memorable cruise** between the **two continents** gazing at mansions and palaces. Docking at the northern shores of Bosphorus, we will be hosted for a **delicious signature seafood feast**. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, D)

#### Day 4 - FRIDAY, JULY 14: ISTANBUL/ LOS ANGELES

This morning we will transfer to Istanbul Airport for our international flight. We arrive home filled with wonderful memories, a renewal of our faith and new friendships! (B)



#### NOTE:

- ◆ This is a moderately strenuous tour, walking on ancient archaeological sites, cobblestone streets and hills. For your safety and enjoyment, you should be able to walk a mile briskly and easily climb 100 stairs. Most sites are not handicapped accessible and cannot be accessed by persons with limited mobility.
- ◆ 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.

### **Israel Trip Prices: Available on Registration Form**

**Trip price is based on double occupancy and includes:** round trip group coach air from Los Angeles; US and Intl. departure taxes; visas for U.S. citizens; group transfers from group flights to group lodgings; accommodation and sightseeing per itinerary; certain meals per itinerary (listed as "B", "L" or "D" in the daily itinerary); entrance fees to sights visited as noted in the itinerary; destination group ground transportation; local guide(s); and all standard taxes and gratuities. **Greece price is based on a minimum group size of 30. Turkey price is based on a minimum group size of 18.**

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy. The deposit is due at registration. When available, single rooms/cabins are often smaller than doubles. Full payment must be received by February 17, 2023. All offers are subject to availability, are capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Trip price does not include airline baggage charges, travel insurance cost, individual transfers, optional items or personal expenses, or other items not listed as included in the itinerary. Lunches, meals/dinners not listed on the itinerary as included, and beverages at all meals are not included. Post-booking changes in fees, fuel surcharges, and taxes may result in surcharges to each traveler. By taking this Trip, each traveler agrees that Devotion Travel (a division of Executours TravelService ["Executours"]) may pass along such increases to the Trip member to offset increased taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges and agrees to pay the additional charges to offset them.

Devotion Travel and/or Dr. Bill Creasy reserve the right to cancel this trip for any reason in their sole judgment, including insufficient minimum number of participants. Dr. Creasy and Devotion Travel may reschedule Trip dates; adjust, omit or limit itineraries or scheduled stops or activities; and/or substitute hotels or flight arrangements as circumstances warrant in their sole judgment.

Information and pricing are subject to change without notice. Additional restrictions, terms and conditions apply. We cannot be responsible for incomplete or inaccurate representations, which may not be under our control. In the event of a pricing error, misrepresentation, or omission, we reserve the right to adjust pricing or make other corrections.

### **Payment Schedule & Refund and Cancellation Fees Per Person**

Cancellations must be received in writing to be effective. Fees are based on the date written notice of cancellation is received by Devotion Travel. From registration until January 16, 2023, fee is \$350.00.

From January 17, 2023- February 17, 2023, fee is 100% of deposit.

#### **Final payment due: February 17, 2023**

From February 18, 2023 - March 13, 2023 – cancellation fee is 50% of Trip price.

From March 14, 2023 - April 14, 2023 – cancellation fee is 75% of Trip price.

On/after April 15, 2023 -- 100% cancellation fee (no refund).

If final payment is not received by February 17, 2023, a late payment fee of \$150 will be assessed or we may cancel your registration and refund your payment, less applicable cancellation fee.

### **Travel Insurance**

Devotion Travel offers travel insurance. Travel insurance must be purchased prior to or along with final payment. This insurance provides insurance coverage that only applies for a covered trip. The purchase of travel insurance is not required to purchase this trip or any other product or service from Devotion Travel. You may already have coverage that provides similar benefits, and you may wish to compare the terms of this coverage with your existing coverage. If you have questions about your current coverage, call your insurer or agent. Devotion Travel is not qualified to answer questions about the benefits, exclusions or conditions of the travel insurance or to evaluate your existing coverage.

Terms, exclusions, and limits are governed by the coverage documents (available on request). **Travel insurance payment is non-refundable.**

### **Health/Mobility**

This trip requires walking (including on rough and uneven surfaces), climbing stairs and inclines, and at times significant exertion in order to see and experience all aspects of the itinerary.

The itinerary is not suitable for and cannot be fully accessed by persons with limited mobility, including persons who use a wheelchair or walker. Trip members should consult their personal physician for individual assessments and recommendations. Any needed assistance must be provided by the traveler at his/her expense and cannot be provided by Devotion Travel or Logos Bible Study.

### **Registration Form**

A signed registration form (Seller of Travel disclosures available online) is required from each traveler agreeing to the terms and conditions for the Trip.

### **Space is Limited**

E-mail us at [groups@devotiontravel.com](mailto:groups@devotiontravel.com)

Call us at (310) 857-5000, or

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