

# Greece Itinerary

May 2019

## **May 18 (S) Arrive Thessaloniki, Greece (D)**

Arrive get settled and get some needed rest

## **May 19 (Su) Arrive Thessaloniki, Greece (B,D)**

Welcome to Thessaloniki, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions, and continue to the city center to see the highlights and visit the Churches of Aghios Dimitrios and St. Sophia. Continue to hotel for check-in. Balance of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at hotel Capsis in Thessaloniki.

## **May 20 (M) Thessaloniki. Excursion to Philippi & Kavala (B,D)**

Today begins along Paul's route via Amphipolis, a wealthy city in ancient Macedonia where a large number of Christian churches were built in the 5th and 6th centuries. Next, travel to Philippi, a busy Roman colony with an impressive library and theater. It was here that Paul preached and established the first church in Europe, and to whom he wrote his Philippians epistle while imprisoned in Rome. Continue to Kavala, ancient port of Neapolis. Dinner and overnight at hotel Capsis in Thessaloniki.

## **May 21 (Tu) Thessalonika–Veria–Kalambaka (B,D)**

This morning, stop in Veria (called Berea in the New Testament), where Paul and Silas were sent by friends after being accused of treason in Thessalonika. Visit the BEMA OF APOSTLE PAUL, where he preached the gospel to the local community, then continue to Kalambaka, home to the awe-inspiring Meteora monasteries. Dinner and overnight at hotel Divani Meteora in Kalambaka.

## **May 22 (W) Kalambaka–Meteora–Athens (B,D)**

A real highlight is in store today. Situated atop soaring cliffs and rock faces, the Meteora monasteries create one of the most inspirational sites in the world. Visit the HOLY MONASTERY OF VARLAAM, the second-largest of the monasteries, and the HOLY MONASTERY OF ST. STEPHEN, which was bombed by the Nazis during WWII but later was reconstructed by nuns. Here you will be introduced to the many historical and religious treasures. Dinner and overnight at hotel Zafolia in Athens.

## **May 23 (Th) Corinth–Athens (B,D)**

Travel to Corinth to visit the EXCAVATIONS where Apostle Paul worked for 18 months with tent-makers Aquila and Priscilla. Learn about this ancient city-state and its early church, which was the recipient of Paul's two Corinthians epistles. Return to Athens for sightseeing that visits the ACROPOLIS with the Parthenon and AREOPAGUS, where Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of the "Unknown God." Tonight, join your traveling companions for a final evening of fellowship and celebration at a farewell dinner with wine at your hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel Zafolia in Athens.

## **May 24 (F) Athens–Piraeus (Embarkation)–Mykonos (B,L,D)**

Awaken refreshed this morning and ready to begin your 3-night CRUISE around the Greek Isles and Turkey. Head first to mountainous Mykonos with its iconic windmills and brilliant whitewashed houses. Dinner and overnight on the ship.

**May 25 (Sa) Kusadasi, Turkey–Excursion to Ephesus–Patmos, Greece (B,L,D)**

Visit the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the RUINS OF EPHESUS, the former capital of the Roman province of Asia. Walk in the footsteps of Apostle Paul, who lived and preached here, and meditate on what life must have been like for the early Ephesian Christians in this pagan society. INCLUDED SHORE EXCURSION: Ancient Ephesus through the Ages – Hellenistic/ Roman (KUS-02)

Continue your cruise to the island of Patmos, the “Jerusalem of the Aegean,”. INCLUDED EXCURSION TO THE MONASTERY OF ST. JOHN and the CAVE OF THE APOCALYPSE, where John the Evangelist received the visions that he recorded in the Book of the Revelation during his exile (PAT-01). Dinner and overnight on the ship

**May 26 (Su) Cruising: Crete, Heraklion–Santorini (B,L,D)**

First port of call today is Heraklion on Crete. Visit nearby KNOSSOS, the center of the 3000 BC Minoan civilization and historic site of mythology’s tales about the Minotaur and the labyrinth. INCLUDED SHORE EXCURSION: Minoan Palace of Knossos-1st European civilization (HER-02)

Afternoon call at Santorini, the “Black Pearl of the Aegean.” OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO OIA VILLAGE (SAN-01). Dinner and overnight on the ship.

**May 27 (M) Piraeus (Disembarkation)–Departure (B)**

Disembark and transfer to airport