



FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL IN GREECE JULY 4-17, 2023 WITH IWS

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Greece is an enchanting destination whose rich and ancient history is important to all civilization. From the volcanic islands to the mountainous Peloponnese to the fertile plains in the north, the terrain is both rugged and inviting. For the Christian, Greece is rich. Paul first proclaimed the Gospel to Europe in Philippi, gave his most famous sermon in Athens in sight of the Parthenon, and had a close relationship with the church in Corinth. In Greece, the Orthodox Christians remained faithful and strong in spite of the years of Ottoman occupation. The majestic Cathedrals, the multiple monasteries, and the biblical sites all offer the traveler a deep and unparalleled spiritual experience. Greece never disappoints and all who visit once long to visit again.

TUESDAY, JULY 04

Arrive in Thessaloniki

Upon arrival in **Thessaloniki**, transfer to hotel for check-in and overnight.

Note: depending on time of arrival, walk to the Aegean sea and the center of Thessaloniki for dinner.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 05

Thessaloniki–Lydia–Philippi–Kavala–Thessaloniki (Acts 16)

After breakfast, depart for **Lydia**, a church and holy baptismal site by the river that commemorates Lydia, Paul's first European convert. Continue to the famous archeological site of the city of **Philippi**, where Paul and Silas sang in jail. Visit the impressive theater, ancient basilica, prison, and agora; walk along the *Via Egnatia*. After lunch in **Kavala** (ancient **Neapolis** where Paul first set foot in Europe), walk through the old town, admiring the beauty of the architecture and gaze out to sea toward Samothrace from where Paul came. In the afternoon, drive back to Thessaloniki. Dinner and overnight Thessaloniki.

THURSDAY, JULY 06

Thessaloniki–Berea–Kalabaka

Today we continue our visit to Thessaloniki. Our first stop is **St. Demetrios Church**, dedicated to the patron saint of Thessaloniki who was martyred for his Christian faith in the early fourth century. After visiting the amazing preserved catacombs

under the church, we take a short walk to the overlook of the agora of **ancient Thessaloniki** where Paul preached, rioters fruitlessly sought Paul and Silas, and Jason and the other believers sent them away under cover of night (Acts 17). Visit the **White Tower, Rotunda, and Arch of Galerius** before departing for **Veria** (ancient **Berea**), where the nobler Christians lived. Visit the holy mosaics at Berea and continue to **Kalabaka**. As we approach the town, the terrain changes drastically to reveal the high cliffs and caves where the medieval monastics retreated to worship and pray for the region. Dinner and overnight Kalambaka.

FRIDAY, JULY 07

Kalabaka–Meteora--Itea

After breakfast, ascend to the mountain heights to visit **Meteora** monasteries, perched atop conical cliffs. The original monks were lifted in baskets, but we use stairs. Visit the highly decorated churches and grounds, imagining the monastic's life dedicated to prayer and austerity. After taking in the views, proceed to Itea, a small town on the Corinthian Gulf. Dinner and overnight Itea.



SATURDAY, JULY 08

Itea–Delphi–Nafplio

Depart Itea and ascend again to the heights, this time to the fantastic archeological site of **Delphi**, the center of the ancient world and the site of the Delphic Oracle. Walk through the ancient temples, learn mythological origins, see the hippodrome, and visit the museum. After lunch overlooking the

majestic view, travel to **Nafplio** to visit the **Palimidi Fortress**, the 17th century Venetian castle built for defense. It stands majestically on a commanding hill above the Argolic Gulf. Descending the one thousand steps to town is optional, and we will enjoy a delicious dinner close to the town square.



Sunday, JULY 09 Nafplio–Corinth–Kechries–Athens (Acts 18)

After breakfast, depart Nafplio to visit the ancient site of **Corinth**, where Paul visited multiple times, initially spending a year and a half there. Stand in the church built on the **Bema**, where Paul was judged by Gallio and found innocent. See the **Erastus Inscription** and then ascend to the **Acrocorinth**, the fortified castle above the city. Travel to the port city of Corinth, **Kechries** (ancient **Cenchrae**) where Phoebe led the church that met in her house (Romans 16) and gaze out toward Ephesus, the direction of Paul's journey after he left Corinth. Stand on the **Diolkos**, the ancient "road" that took boats across the narrow isthmus to avoid the harsh winds around Achaia. Then view the

recently built **Corinth Canal** that now spans the narrow land. Arrive in **Athens** and catch the first glimpse of the **Parthenon**. Dinner, overnight Athens.

Monday, JULY 10 Athens (Acts 17)

Begin the tour of the amazing historical city of Athens by visiting the **Acropolis Museum**, where there are images of all the ancient gods. Then ascend to the majestic **Acropolis** to the **Erechtheion** and the massive temple to the goddess Athena, the **Parthenon**. Visit the ancient **Agora** and picture Paul debating there. Finally, arrive on **Mars Hill**, the **Aereopagus**, where Paul's most famous speech proclaimed Christ to the city that worshiped all gods. Dinner in **Plaka** with traditional dancing, overnight Athens.

TUESDAY, JULY 11 Athens

After breakfast, head through the **National Garden** to Syntagma to watch the famous **Changing of the Guard** in front of the **Presidential Palace**. Optional hike up **Lykavitos Hill** for a breathtaking view of the Parthenon and surrounding city. Visit **Monastiraki**, the **Cathedral**, and the **Philopappos Monument**. **Free afternoon**. Dinner, overnight Athens.

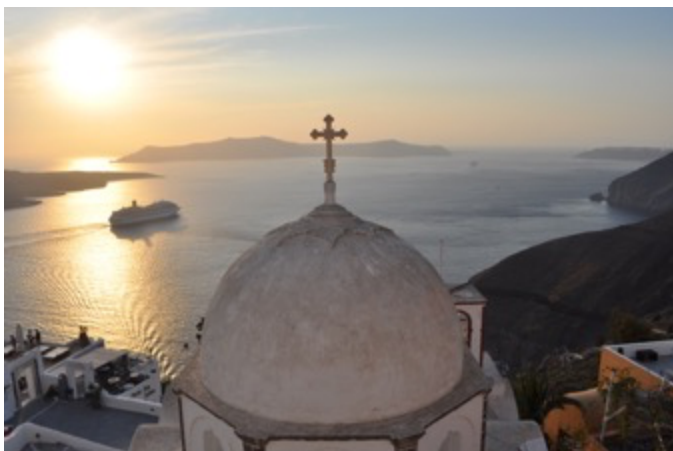
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 Athens–Rhodes

Fly from the Greece mainland to the first island destination, Rhodes. Afternoon tour of **St. Paul's Bay** where Paul stopped on his way from Ephesus to Jerusalem (Acts 21). Be impressed with the breathtaking views from the **Castle of Kritinia**, a 16th century Venetian Castle overlooking the sea. Visit the **Kremasti Church**, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and see its accompanying monastery. Enjoy a walking tour of old town. Dinner, overnight Rhodes.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

Rhodes–Crete

Fast ferry to our second island destination, Crete. Visit the **Koules Fortress** and the modern **Church of St. Titus**. Then enjoy a stroll along the **Waterfront** and through **Old Town**. Dinner, overnight Heraklion.



FRIDAY, JULY 14

Crete (Acts 27, Titus 1)

After breakfast begin to explore the largest of Greece's 4,000 islands. Head to **Kali Limenes** (ancient **Fair Havens**), the port where the ship that was taking Paul to Rome after he appealed to Caesar landed with difficulty. Move on to **Loutro Harbor** (ancient **Phoenix**) where the ship's owner and the centurion in charge of the prisoners had intended to winter. Visit the massive sixth-century **Basilica of Gortys** dedicated to the first bishop of Crete, St. Titus, the leader Paul left in Crete to care for the Christians. On the way back to Heraklion, visit the ancient Minoan city and **Palace of Knossos**. Dinner, overnight Heraklion.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Crete–Santorini

Fast ferry to Santorini, the most famous of Greece's islands. Tour **Fira** and walk along the **Caldera** enjoying the magnificent views of the colorful cliffs and sea. Dinner, overnight Santorini.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Santorini

Optional Caldera Hike to **Oia**, tour **Oia**, enjoy the picturesque beaches. Sunset dinner, overnight Santorini.

MONDAY, JULY 17

Santorini–Athens

Free time Santorini, Depart Santorini, fly to Athens.

MEET YOUR LEADERS

Amy and Ghiath's teamwork started the day Ghiath welcomed her to Damascus in 2010. Ghiath was Syria's top-rated tour operator for over 25 years, leading trips for American Museums and Universities in the Middle East and Europe. Ghiath lectured at all sites, traveled with groups, and shared the culinary delights of each region. Amy was a professor bringing a group of students to observe and experience the biblical and early Christian sites of Syria and Lebanon. She had already led trips to the Holy Land, Egypt, and Turkey. Their teamwork grew into a delightful marriage with two wonderful sons. They have taken multiple tour groups to Greece to walk the Footsteps of St. Paul. Amy and Ghiath share a passion for the history, biblical sites, worship, culture, and food of the Mediterranean. This dynamic duo seeks to ensure that guests love Greece as much as Amy and Ghiath do!



Tour Cost (Land Only): \$3,465
Per Person Sharing Double Occupancy

Single Supplement: \$825

Price based on a minimum of 8 participants.

Airfare Supplement
JFK (NYC)-THESSALONIKI, ATHENS-JFK
Approximately \$1200

**We reserve the right to change the order of activities or sites due to unforeseen schedule conflicts such as weather conditions or in order to allow the itinerary to run smoothly. All prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation, fuel prices, and/or unforeseen economic circumstances.*

This is an active trip, involving walking and sometimes ascending stairs. The lodging is 3-4* plus according to European style in the best locations for exploring.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Accommodation & Entrance to all sites
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner for all days
- Water at meals and on bus
- Land Transportation
- Domestic Flights (Athens–Rhodes and Santorini–Athens)
- Ferries (Rhodes–Crete and Crete–Santorini)
- All Guide and Lecturer fees
- Gratuities for meals, Guides, Lecturers, etc.

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights to/from Thessaloniki or Athens
- Visas for non-US citizens as required by Greece (US citizens do not need a visa)
- Transportation to Thessaloniki hotel from airport if not traveling with the group
- Beverages at meals
- Travel Protection Insurance or Travelers Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, excess luggage, etc.)
- Any additional nights due to flight schedule

Payment Schedule

December 15, 2022	\$350 non-refundable (check)/\$361.55 (credit card)
January 15, 2023	\$1000 (check)/\$1033 (credit card)
March 1, 2023	\$1000 (check) /\$1033 (credit card)
May 1, 2023	Balance due

Credit card payments are to be made at the IWS Online Payment System (<https://iws.edu/payments/>) under the Miscellaneous category. Specify "Greece Trip" in the description box.

Checks should be mailed to Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies Greece Trip, 4001 Hendricks Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32207

To register for this trip, please email alumni@iws.edu

For more information please contact
amy.davisabdallah@iws.edu or kwalters@iws.edu

Hosted by

The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies
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