



Itinerary

Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle featuring a 3-night Greek Islands & Turkey cruise
Sep 25, 2019 - Oct 5, 2019

Pre Night: Crowne Plaza Athens City Center



The Crowne Plaza Hotel Athens City Center is situated in the heart of Athens, very close to the historical sites of Athens such as the Acropolis, the traditional Plaka area (old town) and Syntagma (Constitution) square. All guestrooms at the 5-star Crowne Plaza Athens City Center have modern interior design, with state-of-the-art technology and support, making them ideal for a pleasant stay in a relaxing environment.

Day 1: Overnight Flight



Paul the Apostle, the prolific writer of the New Testament letters, was one of the first Christian missionaries. Trace his journey through the ancient cities and pastoral countryside of Greece and Turkey.

Day 2: Athens, Greece - Tour Begins



Your tour begins in Athens, Greece's lively capital. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in Athens' historic district – the Plaka – a lively historic neighborhood nestled at the foot of the Acropolis. Feast on local cuisine and enjoy fine wine in a traditional taverna while Greek entertainment creates a wonderful ambiance around you.

Hotel

Crowne Plaza Athens City Center
 Athens

Culinary

Dinner

Weather

High 83°
 Low 67°

Day 3: Athens - Piraeus* (Embarkation) - Mykonos



Embark on a wonderful 3-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily while on board. Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands, is your first stop. This charming, mountainous island is known for the hundreds of tiny chapels, whitewashed buildings and beautiful windmills that dot its landscape. Don't miss Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. Enjoy free time to explore this island paradise.

Hotel

Athens

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 83°
 Low 67°

Day 4: Kusadasi, Turkey - Patmos, Greece



Visit the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the ruins of Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where Paul the Apostle spent three years during his ministry and where its inhabitants were the recipients of Paul's famous epistle. Visit the House of Mary, where she is said to have spent her last days. A visit to the ruins includes the Agora, the great theater, and the stadium where chariot races took place and gladiatorial combats were held. It is said that Paul himself fought here against wild beasts. Continue your cruise to Patmos, the "Jerusalem of the Aegean." Visit the Monastery of John and the Cave of the Apocalypse where John the Evangelist, inspired by God, wrote the Book of Revelation during his exile.

Hotel

Kusadasi, Turkey

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 83°
Low 67°

Day 5: Heraklion (Crete) - Santorini**



Enjoy an excursion to the incredible open-air museum of the Minoan Palace of Knossos. Then, during free time in Crete's largest city, enjoy a variety of museums, shopping, or visit a nearby winery to sample traditional Greek wine. Later, arrive on the fabled island of Santorini, known as the "Black Pearl of the Aegean." Enjoy time at leisure to independently explore this lovely port or purchase a ship excursion*** from the cruise line.

Hotel

Heraklion (Crete)**

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 83°
Low 67°

Day 6: Piraeus* - Disembark Cruise Ship - Thessaloniki



After an early morning disembarkation, travel north. Make a picture stop at Thermopylae, famous for its heroic defense by Leonidas and his courageous Spartans against the Persian army. Your day ends in Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city. Founded in 315 B.C., Thessaloniki was an early center for Christianity; it is where Paul visited and preached during the winters of A.D. 49-50 and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Visit the Museum of Byzantine Culture, one of the finest museums in the world devoted to Byzantine art and civilization with an impressive collection of many Byzantine and early Christian frescoes, icons and artifacts.

Hotel

Capsis Hotel Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7: Thessaloniki - Kavala - Philippi - Thessaloniki



Travel to the coastal town of Kavala where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot on European soil. In nearby Philippi, Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, planting the seeds of Christianity. Join a local expert for a guided tour of this historic town featuring the archaeological site and monuments spanning the Ancient, Roman and Byzantine eras. See the dungeon where Paul was held prisoner and the site where he baptized Lydia, the first Christian in Europe.

Hotel

Capsis Hotel Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki

Culinary

Breakfast

Day 8: Thessaloniki - Meteora - Kalambaka



Proceed through the fertile Thessalian Valley – the "breadbasket" of Greece – to spectacular Meteora, a UNESCO World Heritage site. These dark, sandstone pinnacles rise abruptly from the plain of Thessaly, with six historic monasteries perched upon their peaks. Beginning in the 10th century, hermits, monks and ascetics sought solitude and spiritual solace in these dramatic crags. Visit two amazing Meteora monasteries**** which are renowned for their intricate construction and exquisite Byzantine art. Overnight in Kalambaka.

Hotel

Famissi Eden Hotel
Kalambaka

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 73°
Low 57°
Rain 2"

Day 9: Kalambaka - Delphi



Travel through scenic mountain terrain to Delphi, one of the most moving sites of the ancient world. Once considered the "navel of the world," Delphi is nestled on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty. Pilgrims once came from all over the ancient world to consult its mysterious oracle. A guided tour takes you along the Sacred Way to see the Doric Temple and the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasuries, and the intriguing Archaeological Museum with its staggering collection of ancient artifacts including the 5th-century bronze Charioteer.

Hotel

Domotel Anemolia Resort & Conference
Arachova

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 73°
Low 58°

Day 10: Delphi - Corinth - Athens



Travel to Corinth where Paul wrote two epistles, lived and preached for two years. Explore ancient Corinth on a guided tour featuring the Agora, where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, and the Bema, where Paul was brought before the tribunal, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. In Athens, see the hill of Areopagus (Mars Hill) – where Paul delivered his famous "Men of Athens" speech – and visit the incomparable Acropolis. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a marvelous trip.

Hotel

Holiday Inn Athens Attica
Athens

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 73°
Low 60°
Rain 2"

Day 11: Athens - Tour Ends



You've explored the ancient land where Paul the Apostle made missionary journeys. You've seen the places to which he sent his famous epistles – Thessalonians, Philippians and Corinthians – and seen many of the places described in the Acts of the Apostles. Return home inspired by the incredible, soothing landscapes and the words and deeds of Paul the Apostle.