

St Paul's Greece



Trip Highlights

- Five UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Traditional Greek dancing
- Ancient Corinth ruins and the remarkable Corinth Canal
- Dazzling mosaics in Byzantine churches
- Live bouzouki music and traditional Greek dancing

Trip Duration

8 or 12 days

Start & End Points

Start: Athens

End: Thessaloniki

Hellenism was a cornerstone of the spread of Christianity. Through creeds and canons, as well as the New Testament, Christian thoughts traveled throughout the Roman Empire into Europe via the Greek language. Christian proselytizers were Greeks or Hellenized persons who spoke and wrote in Greek.

All Christians embrace the writings and teachings of St. Paul. He wrote much of the New Testament and established Christian congregations in all the important Hellenic centers of the ancient world and spent many years in Greece. When St. Paul wrote to the Church of Rome, he did not use Latin, but Greek.

This trip allows contemporary admirers of St. Paul of whatever religious persuasion to see and touch and emotionally immerse yourself into the geography of St. Paul's Greece.

Also included are important pagan spiritual sites, such as the Temple of Apollo at Delphi and the Athens Acropolis. Additionally fascinating is the art, music and architecture of Byzantine churches, especially the remarkable monasteries of Meteora. Finally, the tour is enhanced by excellent accommodation choices, delicious Mediterranean cuisine and beautiful landscapes and seascapes.

Day 1: Athens

Athens was the world's intellectual center, so it was natural that St. Paul would journey here. Of course you will visit the Acropolis, but right next to don't miss Areopagos (Ares Hill) where St. Paul defended his "unknown god" to the pagan Greeks. Also stop by the Byzantine Museum with its 3500 icons.

Day 2: Corinth *1 hour drive*

On the way to Corinth, stop at Dafni, an 11th century Byzantine monastery with astounding mosaics making Dafni a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Owing to a divine vision, St. Paul chose Corinth as his missionary base and stayed there 1½ years. The ruins are a marvel to behold.

Day 4: Delphi 3 hours drive

The Ancient Greeks called Delphi “the navel of the universe,” because of its central role in determining the fate of the city-states. Here amidst pristine Mt. Parnassos is where the oracles prophesized for rulers and laymen alike for the price of an appropriate sacrifice.

Day 5: Meteora 5 hours drive

Meteora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site composed of a community of 11th to 12th century Byzantine monasteries each one perched atop a sandstone rock pinnacle. One marvels how they were built in an era without high tech rock climbers equipment.

Day 6: Meteora

There were once over 20 monasteries but after WWII bombings only six remain today, including one nunnery. You will feel transcendent visiting the monasteries and listening to the hypnotic Greek Orthodox chanting of monks.

Day 7: Thessaloniki 4 hours drive

Veria (Beroea) is often referred to Little Jerusalem because of the town’s 70 churches. St. Paul fled here from Thessaloniki and a memorial park with mosaic is dedicated to him. Visit Vergina, first capital of Ancient Macedonia, and a treasured archaeological site where Philip II is buried amongst the extensive tombs.

Day 8: Departures

Special Ephesus 4 day add-on

Across from the Greek island of Samos, a day boat takes you to Ephesus in Turkey. For two years St. Paul preached, performed miracles and converted pagans to Christianity. You will feel the apostle’s spirit while touring the superb ruins of Ephesus. In Samos, home of the mathematician Pythagoras, visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



St. Paul’s Greece 2009

Trip Price

Trip price depends on the number in your party, level of accommodations, extent of services requested and optional activities sought. See “Pricing” link on website and “Vacation Profile Contact Form”

Note: tour prices are based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. See exchange rates at www.xe.com

1190 euros per person

Basic Inclusions:

- ◆ 3 and 4 star hotels
- ◆ daily breakfast
- ◆ maps
- ◆ day to day itinerary with activities and logistics
- ◆ pre-tour trip packet with info about Greece, the region you will visit, recommended places to eat, phone numbers and other useful information

Exclusions:

- ◆ International and domestic air fare
- ◆ meals except breakfast
- ◆ entry fees to archaeology sites

Transport Options

- ◆ Private car (valid driver’s license required and international driver’s permit)
- ◆ Private car with personal driver
- ◆ 5-8 persons, mini-van with or without personal driver
- ◆ More than 8 persons, coach or mini-coach with personal driver

Hotel Upgrades

- ◆ 5 star hotels available in Athens, Corinth and Thessaloniki

Optionals

- ◆ Private archaeology tours with professional guides in Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Meteora and Day 7, and Ephesus add-on
- ◆ Corinth Canal sunset cruise
- ◆ Transfers to/from airport
- ◆ Personal bilingual Aegea guide throughout the trip

