Footsteps of Paul Greece & Turkey

17 days 25 March 2011

www.missiontravel.com.au

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to trace the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Here is your opportunity to do just that. Experience the sights and sounds of early Christianity as you journey and cruise to a number of places associated with the missionary journeys of the apostle and key New Testament destinations.

Among the many highlights will be an exploration of ATHENS and the Acropolis, ancient CORINTH, PHILIPPI, THESSALONIKA, RHODES and EPHESUS, all places of great significance for Paul's ministry in Greece and Turkey. In addition the tour will take us to PATMOS where the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, and then on to the SEVEN CHURCHES of the REVELATION in Turkey.

Our 18 day journey is an ideal first pilgrimage to New Testament Turkey and Greece. The trip includes the 'essential' elements of the Seven Churches of Asia as well.

For further information

Please call **Mission Travel Group**
Phone: **03 9889 0777** or **1300 554 654**
Email: **info@missiontravel.com.au**

mission travel group

605 Camberwell Road, Camberwell VIC 3124

Footsteps of Paul – plus Gallipoli
Greece & Turkey 25 March 2011

TOUR PRICE PER ADULT

Share Twin accommodation AUD $5999

Single Share Supplement AUD $1499

Land Only AUD $2935

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airfare return with Singapore Airlines return
- All departure taxes
- Eleven (11) overnights hotel accommodation based on sharing room with private bath, in 4-star hotels in Greece and Turkey
- Daily breakfast and dinner at hotels
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours in Greece and Turkey with the services of professional local English-speaking government licensed Bible oriented guides as outlined in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to the archaeological, historical sites & museums as specified in the itinerary
- Greek / Turkish border crossing fees
- 4 day cruise to the Greek Islands & Turkey, based on an outside category cabin with private facilities (shower/ bathtub, washbasin, toilet), on full board basis aboard ship beginning with lunch on embarkation day and including breakfast on the day of disembarkation; with entertainment, free use of shipboard facilities and services of cruise staff
- Port taxes.
- Assistance portage at all hotels.
- English-speaking escorted group transfers between airport/ port and hotel in Athens and vice versa, transportation by private, fully air-conditioned, deluxe motor-coaches as outlined in the itinerary.
- English speaking escort assistance during the 4-day cruise.
- Highway tolls and ferrying fees.
- Hotel service charges & local taxes VAT.
- Allocation of 1 Shore excursion per city visit

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Visas for Turkey (approximately USD 25)
- Driver and Guide tips only
- Drinks and Personal Expense
- Travel Insurance

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

To secure a place on the tour, please return your registration form to our office as soon as possible.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended when travelling overseas. Mission Travel Group can arrange Travel Insurance for you. Please speak to your consultant for Travel Insurance policy information. A 20% discount if offered to all Passengers booked on this tour.

STAYING ON IN EUROPE

If you would like to undertake further travel at the end of the tour, Mission Travel Group will be able to assist you with additional travel, please advise your needs when registering for the tour.

ITINERARY

FRI, 25 MARCH: ARRIVAL ATHENS

Upon your Athens arrival our representative will meet, welcome and assist you in your transfer to the hotel. After check-in welcome dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

SAT, 26 MARCH: ATHENS – CORINTH – CENCHREAE - ATHENS

Drive along the picturesque Corinthian Gulf and stop for pictures at the famous and breathtaking Corinthian Canal. Continue on to Ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-18) where the Apostle Paul lived, worked and sent his first and second letters to the Corinthians. Here we see all the sites associated with his ministry; the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's Seat. The small local archaeological museum here is an absolute must! In Romans 16:23 Paul mentions his friend Erastus and we will see an inscription to him at the site. Before returning to Athens we will see Cenchreae, the ancient seaport from where the apostle Paul set sail for Ephesus.

In the afternoon we enjoy an afternoon sightseeing tour of Athens (Acts 17:15). We climb up to Acropolis Hill and see the spectacular Parthenon. Then we go to nearby Mars Hill, where the apostle Paul preached to the philosophers of his day. After the tour return to hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

SUN, 27 MARCH: ATHENS – FREE DAY AT LEISURE

Free day in Athens. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

MON, 28 MARCH: ATHENS – METEORA - KALAMBAKA

We leave Athens early in the morning and reach Kalambaka where we enjoy a spectacular drive up to visit Meteora. Colossal symmetrical grey and reddish boulders, as though pushed upwards form the bowels of mother earth by an invisible hand, sustain breathtaking beautiful monasteries perched precariously high above the ground. They were first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation, accessible only by ropes thrown from above. We will climb through steps built since. They are veritable Byzantine museums exhibiting superb icons, old manuscripts and unique mosaics and frescoes. After the visit return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

TUE, 29 MARCH: KALAMBAKA – BEREA - THESSALONICA

Today we leave Kalambaka and drive to Berea (Acts 17:10) where the Apostle Paul arrived, and according to his custom went to the synagogue. To his pleasant surprise, he discovered that these Jews were "more noble" than those he encountered in Thessalonica. We see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. According to the local tradition, it was at this place where he stood and delivered his sermons (Acts 17:10-11). We continue on to Thessalonica (Acts 17:6) where Paul also preached. He sent his first and second letters to the Thessalonians. Here we see the Egnatian Road, the Galerius Arch, and the Citadel. Dinner and overnight stay at hotel in Thessalonica.

WED, 30 MARCH: THESSALONICA – PHILIPPI – KAVALA

We drive on our way to Philippi by the Lion statue of Amphipolis (Acts17:1) (short stop for photos). Picturesque drive to the city of Philippi (Acts 19:19). Here Paul established the first church in Europe. Here we see the river where Lydia was baptized and the Ancient Forum and jail where possibly Paul and Silas were kept. We continue on

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beautiful city of Kavala (Neapolis) (Acts 16:11). We enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. Check-in at hotel. Dinner and overnight.

THU, 31 MARCH: KAVALA - TURKISH BORDERS - GALLIPOLI - ANZAC COVE - CANAKKALE

Morning arrival to Greek border. met by our representatives and cross the border. Drive to Gallipoli peninsula to visit the Kabatepe War Museum, Anzac Cove, HellSpit Cemetery, Lone Pine, The Nek, and Chunuk Bair War memorial. Cross the Dardanelles Strait by ferry-boat. Check in at the hotel followed by dinner and overnight

FRI, 1 APRIL: CANAKKALE – PERGAMON – IZMIR

Mornming drive to Pergamon actually called Bergama. It is one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 2:12]. Here we explore the impressive Acropolis, the steepest theatre in the world, the Asklepieion, famous medical centre of classical times, see the Altar of Zeus which is mentioned as the «Throne of Satan» in the book of Revelation, the marble columns of the Temple of Trajan and the Library which was foremost in the world and was long a rival of the equally famous Library of Alexandria in Egypt. Its wealth of volumes was estimated at over 200,000. It inspired the invention of parchment.

We also visit the Red Basilica (St. John's Church).

Before we check in at the hotel in Izmir, we enjoy a panoramic ride of Smyrna, the third largest city in Turkey and one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 2:12-17]. Smyrnas is a city scarred with a bloody history of trade and warfare. We ascend to Mount Pagus where we visit the Citadel of Lysimachos, commander of Alexander the Great, erected in the 4th century BC. We will also see the Clock Tower. Check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight.

FRI, 2 APRIL: IZMIR – SARDIS – PHILADELPHIA - HIERAPOLIS

Today we depart early in the morning to one of the most picturesque areas of any of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:1-4], Sardis, presently Sart. This was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the 6th century BC, portrayed as a dying church. We visit the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele, which became a Byzantine Church. We will also visit some ancient Lydian houses, and the restored gymnasium and reconstructed Synagogue. We also see the last several meters of the royal Persian Road from Susa to Sardis built by Cyrus the Great and the «golden» river Pactolos.

Then we continue our journey to Philadelphia, nowadays called Alasehir, another church of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:7], and the only church not censured. There we see the remains of a Byzantine basilica built of brick, with a bit of high arch and some 11th century frescoes. We drive to the healing city of Hierapolis, actually Pamukkale, the white «cotton fortress» where hot mineral water bursts from the earth and cascades over steep cliffs forming pools, channels and stalactites. The therapeutic waters were known to the founders of Hierapolis and of Laodicea in 190 BC. In Hierapolis [Col. 4:13] we visit the Martyrium of the Apostle Philip where he was martyred during the persecutions ordered by Domitian.

We visit the Gate of Domitian, the Arcadian Way, the 2nd century AD Theatre, the Nymphaion, the Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium and the Necropolis. Check in at hotel in Pamukkale for dinner and overnight.

SUN, 3 APRIL: LAODICEA - APHRODISIAS - KUSADASI

Morning visit to Laodicea (present name Denizli) which is another of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13-16]. We see the ancient theatre, the remains of basilica and ancient stone water pipes.

Next stop is Aphrodisias, where we visit the Temple of Aphrodite that marks the site of ancient veneration, Hadrian's Bath and the Bishop's Palace, part of a building christened by the archaeologists.

After the visit continue on to Kusadasi for check-in at hotel, dinner and overnight.

MON, 4 APRIL: EPHESUS - KUSADASI

We start our tour with a visit to St. John's Basilica. We then continue on to Ephesus where Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians, lived and worked here for a number of years. We tour the spectacular ruins. Excavations still continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Theater. In this city, the marvelous Temple of Diana of the Ephesians was build, one of the Seven Wonders of the then Ancient World.

After the visit we will have time for some shopping in Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

TUE, 5 APRIL: KUSADASI – EMBARKATION ON THE CRUISE - PATMOS

At 9a.m. we embark on the cruise to sail to Patmos at 12 noon. Lunch on board. Arrive at 4pm. in Patmos. Our optional excursion takes us to the St. John Monastery and the Grotto of the Book of Revelation. Reembark on the cruise ship and sail for Rhodes at 9p.m.

WED, 6 APRIL: RHODES

At 7a.m. arrive in Rhodes port. Here, in classical times, the Colossus of Rhodes was one of the Seven Wonders of the World! Our optional half-day excursion takes us to visit the Temple of Athena on the majestic rocky Acropolis of Lindos, with the blue Aegean Sea beneath it and the sophisticated, whitewashed artists' colony at its foot. A local tradition has it that the apostle Paul on his way to Rome stopped in the small harbor of this place (Acts 21:1). Return to the ship and sail for Crete at 6p.m.

THU, 7 APRIL: CRETE – SANTORINI

At 7a.m. we call at Heraklion port of Crete where our excursion takes us from the lively bustling city to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur (half bull and half man). Sail for Santorini at 12:00 noon.

We arrive at 5:00 p.m. Disembarkation by tender-boats. Take a mule or the cable car up to the white-washed town of Thera; perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano, the eruption of which (1,600 BC) literally buried a flourishing Bronze Age town which has now been excavated at Akrotiri. Sail for Piraeus at 6:00 p.m.

FRI, 8 APRIL: PIRAEUS, ATHENS - DEPARTURE

At 6a.m. dock at Piraeus port. Disembarkation after breakfast and transfer to Athens airport for return flight.