

Footsteps of Paul- Greece, Turkey and Rome



22 Days , 6 June 2011.
Tour led by Pastor Astrid Staley

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 and ROME all places of great significance for Paul's ministry in Greece and Turkey and Italy. 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.

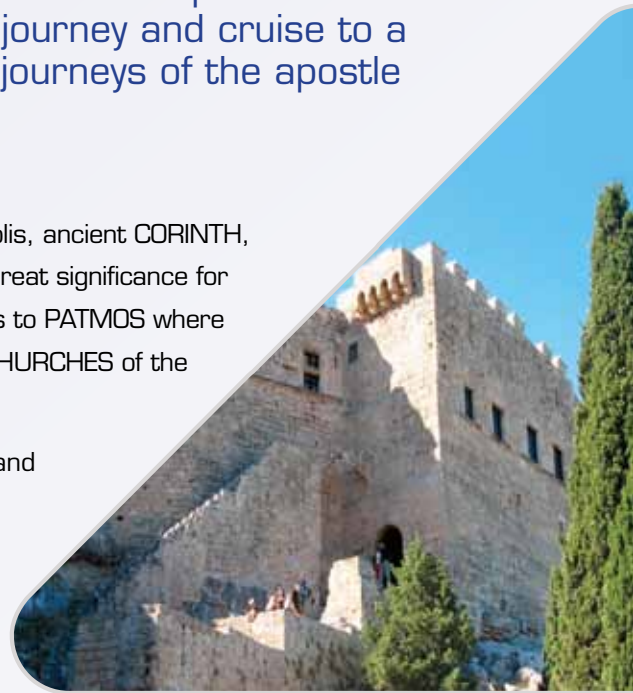
Our 22 day journey is an ideal first pilgrimage to New Testament Turkey and Greece and Italy. The trip includes the 'essential' elements of the Seven Churches of Asia as well.

For further information

Please call **Mission Travel Group**

Phone: **03 9836 7199** or **1300 554 654**

Email: info@missiontravel.com.au



mission travel group

3/400 Canterbury Rd Surrey Hills VIC 3127

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TOUR PRICE PER ADULT

Share Twin accommodation AUD \$7850

Single Share Supplement AUD \$1850

Land Only AUD \$5500

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airfare return with Singapore Airlines return
- All departure taxes
- Eleven (21) overnights hotel accommodation based on sharing room with private bath, in 4-star hotels in Greece, Turkey and Rome
- Daily breakfast and dinner at hotels
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours in Greece, Turkey and Rome 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 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.
- Driver and Guide tips only

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Visas for Turkey (approximately USD 25)
- 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 is 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

MON, 6 JUNE: MELBOURNE OR PERTH – DUBAI - ATHENS

Our life-changing journey begins today as we board our overnight flights via Dubai to Athens, Greece. Our Emirates flights depart Melbourne early evening and Perth late evening and the group meets to travel from Dubai together onto Athens.

TUE, 7 JUNE: 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.

MEALS: (D)

WED, 8 JUNE: 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.

MEALS: (B,D)

THU, 9 JUNE: ATHENS – FREE DAY AT LEISURE

Free day in Athens. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

MEALS: (B,D)

FRI, 10 JUNE: ATHENS – PIRAEUS, EMBARKATION ON 3 DAY CRUISE – MYKONOS, GREECE

At 8.30 am this morning we transfer to the Port of Piraeus for our 3 Day Cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. Embarkation and sail for Mykonos at 11.00 am. In the afternoon (5.30 pm), call at Mykonos with its international atmosphere. Stroll at leisure through the whitewashed, flowerdecked alleyways, climbing to the sculpture church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront of 'Little Venice'. The panoramic view from the old

windmills is wonderful. Return to the ship and sail to Kusadasi at 11.00 pm.

MEALS: (B,L,D)

SAT, 11 JUNE: KUSADASI, TURKEY – PATMOS, GREECE

At 7:00 a.m. we call at Kusadasi. Here we have free time for browsing and shopping in the local market. We return to the ship at lunch time and sail for Patmos, Greece at noon. At 4:00 p.m. we arrive at this beautiful mysterious rocky island where the exiled Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. We have an optional tour: we drive up to the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, where we have a wonderful view of the island. We also visit the Grotto of the Revelation where the heavenly voice of God revealed to St. John the future of humanity (Rev. 1:12-21). After some free time for browsing, return to the ship for an evening sailing to Heraklion at 9:00 p.m.

MEALS: (B,L,D)

SUN, 12 JUNE: HERAKLION, CRETE – SANTORINI, GREECE

At 7:00 a.m. we call at Heraklion Crete, (Acts 27:7-13) where our optional 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 11:30 a.m., where we arrive at 4:30 p.m. Disembarkation by tender-boats, weather permitting. 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 9:00 p.m.

MEALS: (B,L,D)

MON, 13 JUNE: PIRAEUS, ATHENS DISEMBARKATION – METEORA - KALAMBAKA

At 7:00 a.m. arrive at Piraeus. We disembark after breakfast.

We are met and we receive assistance by our guide to board the bus. Today we start our tour to Northern Greece.

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 from 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.

MEALS: (B,D)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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TUE, 14 JUNE: KALAMBAKA – BEREÄ - 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.

MEALS: (B,D)

WED, 15 JUNE: THESSALONICA – PHILIPPI – KAVALA

We drive on our way to Philippi by the Lion statue of Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) (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 then continue on to the beautiful city of Kavala (Neapolis) (Acts 16:11) where we check in at hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

THU, 16 JUNE: KAVALA – GREEK/TURKISH BORDERS - GALLIPOLI - CANAKKALE

Morning drive to the Greek/Turkish borders to cross into Turkey.

After clearing customs board the Turkish bus and meet the local guide. Here we begin our tours in Turkey. We drive to Gallipoli where we visit the World War I Battlefield of Gallipoli.

We will also visit the Kabatepe War Museum, Anzac Cove, HellSpit Cemetery and Chunuk Bair War memorial. Continue on to Canakkale where we check-into hotel for dinner and overnight.

MEALS: (B,D)

FRI, 17 JUNE: CANAKKALE – PERGAMUM - IZMIR

After breakfast at our hotel in Canakkale, we drive to Pergamum, 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). Buffet lunch is provided at a local restaurant.

After the visit we continue on to Izmir where upon arrival we enjoy an orientation tour. Izmir or Smyrna is the third largest city in Turkey and one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 2:12-17]. Smyrna is a city scarred with a bloody history of trade and warfare. We see the Clock Tower, the bazaar, St. Polycarp church. Check-in at the hotel for dinner and overnight.

MEALS: (B,D)

SAT, 18 JUNE: IZMIR – SARDIS – PHILADELPHIA - HIERAPO-LIS - PAMUKKALE

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.

After lunch break 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 for dinner and overnight.

MEALS: (B,D)

SUN, 19 JUNE: LAODICEA – APHRODISIAS - KUSADASI

We depart for Laodicea (present name Denizli) yet 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. Aphrodisias is our next stop. We visit the best-preserved ancient stadium ever excavated where the seating capacity was 30,000. We see the odeon with its extraordinary blue marble stage, 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.

Drive to Kusadasi where we will have supper and spend the night at the hotel. In the Turkish language, Kusadasi, this lovely and peaceful little port and fashionable resort, means "Island of Birds". It is built along the shores of a glittering bay, around a tiny islet covered with pine-trees and flowers. The terraced town overlooks the most beautiful bay of the Aegean Sea and seems it has been created purely for the delight of the holidaymaker. Check in at hotel. Dinner and overnight.

MEALS: (B, D)

MON, 20 JUNE: EPHEBUS - KUSADASI

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Ephesus including the Basilica of St. John and the Ephesus archaeological museum. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an epistle from him. We tour the spectacular ruins where 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 Theatre. The Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city. We visit the Basilica of St. John and the Ephesus archaeological museum. Lunch at a selected restaurant. Overnight in Kusadasi.

MEALS: (B, D)

TUE, 21 JUNE: KUSADASI - IZMIR – ISTANBUL ONWARD FLIGHTS TO ROME

Morning transfer to Izmir airport for domestic flight Izmir-Istanbul. Connect to onward flights back to Rome. Overnight in Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

WED, 22 JUNE: ROME – ITALY

Rome site seeing including Catacombes and Apian Way

Overnight - Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

THU, 23 JUNE: ROME – ITALY

Vatican with Vatican Museum + Churches

Overnight - Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

FRI, 24 JUNE: ROME – ITALY

Rome site seeing including Roman Forum and Colosseum

Overnight - Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

SAT, 25 JUNE: ROME – ITALY

Full day Site seeing tour of Pompeii

Overnight - Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

SUN, 26 JUNE: ROME – ITALY

Free day to explore Rome further, do some shopping or day at leisure visiting cafes and sampling gelato.

Overnight - Rome

MEALS: (B, D)

MON, 27 JUNE: ROME- DEPARTURE