



NORTH METRO CHURCH 2018 TOUR

9 DAY – “IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL” WITH OPTIONAL GREEK ISLE CRUISE

DAY 1: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018 - DEPART USA FOR ATHENS, GREECE

DAY 2: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018 - ARRIVAL INTO ATHENS

Arrive in Athens, Greece. The tour group will be met at the airport and assisted with arrival procedures. Enjoy a city tour in route to the hotel. Free to relax at the hotel or stroll along the streets of Athens for the remainder of the day. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Dinner

DAY 3: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018 - ATHENS

We begin our day in Athens, the city with the most glorious history in the world! We start our day at the magnificent Acropolis, the crown jewel of Greece. Our guided tour will take us to the Propylaia, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, The Parthenon – the most famous surviving building of Ancient Greece. We will climb Mars Hill where the Apostle Paul confronted the idolatrous beliefs of the “Men of Athens” and delivered his famous speech about the identity of “the Unknown God” (Acts 17). We continue on to the Dionysus Theater, House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the ancient Agora (marketplace). Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018 - CORINTH / MYCENAE

Following breakfast, we leave Athens for the ancient city of Corinth, the once glorious city near the Isthmus, where Paul met Aquila and Pricilla and spent a year and a half preaching the Word of God. Corinth is the city that inspired Paul’s most famous letters 1st and 2nd Corinthians. We

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will visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples and the famous Bema, where Paul stood before Gallio, accused of sacrilege by the Jews of Corinth. The ruins of this important cultural center are fascinating as we walk along the stone path that the Apostle Paul walked. Leaving Corinth, we will travel to Mycenae where the remains of the ancient city date back to the Bronze Age (1700-1100 BC). Return to our hotel in Athens for dinner and overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 - METEORA

This morning we depart Athens for Meteora (“suspended rocks”) in Western Thessaly, where world famous Byzantine monasteries perch precariously on top of these rock pinnacles. First used as a religious retreat by hermits in AD 985 followed by the building of a small church in the 14th century, 23 monasteries were eventually built upon these vertical rock faces. The monasteries represent a unique example of monastic life since the 14th century. We will have an opportunity to visit one or more of the monasteries. Dinner and overnight in Meteora.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018 - VERGINA / VERIA (BEREA) / THESSALONIKI

Traveling north this morning, our first stop will be a visit to King Phillip's (father of Alexander the Great) tomb in Vergina, one of the most outstanding archeological finds in all of Greece. Leaving Vergina, we take a short tour of picturesque Veria (Berea). In Veria, we will view the monument commemorating the site where Paul preached to the locals in AD 54. Paul visited Berea three times as did Silas and Timothy. Continuing to Thessaloniki, where Paul’s letters to them will come alive, (time permitting) we will tour the 5th-century Church of Agios Dimitrios, the largest church in Greece and renowned for stunning mosaics and frescoes. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 - THESSALONIKI / PHILIPPI / KAVALA (NEAPOLIS)

We begin the day by following the massive Byzantine wall to the citadel for a panoramic view of the city of Thessaloniki. Following the Apostle Paul today will include excursions to Philippi and Kavala (Neapolis). Kavala, (ancient Neapolis) is one of the most attractive port towns in

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Greece and where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. This ancient city of Neapolis was the first European city to accept Christianity. In Philippi, the first place in Europe where the apostle Paul and Silas preached, we will visit the ruins, the tribunal (Bema) where Paul was beaten, the prison where Paul and Silas were held in wooden stocks, and the small “Church of Lydia”, the stream where Paul baptized Lydia, the first Christian convert on European soil. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018 - THESSALONIKI / ATHENS

Following breakfast, we check out of the hotel and depart for the Thessaloniki Airport for our return (flight) to Athens. This day has no planned itinerary leaving time to explore Athens on your own. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 - ATHENS / RETURN FLIGHT TO USA

OR DEPART FOR OPTIONAL GREEK ISLE CRUISE

Following breakfast, those travelers returning to the USA will be transferred to the Athens Airport for the return trip home. Those continuing on the OPTIONAL 4-Day/3-Night Greek Isle Cruise will be transferred to the Piraeus Port to board ship.

Breakfast

OPTIONAL 4-DAY/3-NIGHT GREEK ISLE CRUISE including tour of Ephesus in Kusadasi, Turkey

DAY 9: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 - CRUISE TO MYKONOS

This morning we motor coach to the Port of Piraeus to begin our cruise through the Greek Isles. Weather and time permitting there will be a short stop at Mykonos with its dazzling white houses, narrow paved streets, shops and windmills. Dinner is served on board the ship.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (on board the ship)

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DAY 9: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018 – KUSADASI / EPHEBUS, TURKEY- PATMOS, GREECE

Early morning arrival in Kusadasi, a lovely Turkish port and gateway to the ancient city of Ephesus. Excursion to Ancient Ephesus (**fee is included in the cruise price**) to visit the extensive ruins. Paul visited Ephesus on his second and third missionary journeys and spent 2 years preaching there. Spending time walking among the ruins, we will view ancient monuments such as the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Artemis, and the Great Theatre. Walk along the amazing Arcadian Way, where once Mark Anthony and Cleopatra rode in procession. This is truly an impressive site giving eloquent testimony to this important and grand city of ancient Asia Minor. On this excursion we will also visit the Church of the Virgin Mary and The Church of St. John the Theologian built by Justinian in 527-565. Early afternoon, we set sail for Patmos, Greece, the island where tradition holds that John, the disciple of Jesus, was exiled to by the Roman government on account of his Christian faith and from where he wrote the book of Revelation. Arriving about 4:00 pm, our excursion on Patmos (**fee is included in the cruise price**) departs the port of Skala by motor coach for the short drive up to the Monastery of St. John, which has been magnificently built within the walls of a strong fortification. We will walk uphill toward the entrance of the Monastery for a view of the courtyard, the Monks' dining room and the main church with its outstanding frescoes and small but beautiful museum. We will continue on to the nearby Cave of the Apocalypse, the traditional site for the writing of the book of Revelation. Once inside the cave, see the silver niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by John as he wrote Revelation and view the three-fold crack made by the Voice of God. A full & unforgettable day! Dinner served onboard ship.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (on board the ship)

DAY 10: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018 – CRETE (HERAKLION) / SANTORINI

Early morning, our ship enters Heraklion, the port city and capital of Crete. Enjoy a short stroll on your own along the pedestrian streets that have plenty of local color and character. Leaving at lunchtime, we sail to the stunning island of Santorini (Thira). This island offers one of the most appealing natural spectacles in the entire Mediterranean Sea. Sailing into the flooded crater of its volcano, we see two dazzling white towns perched high on the cliffs. Walk up the 600 steps or take the cable car to the top then enjoy strolling the footpaths through the quaint town and along the cliff. Dinner served onboard the ship.

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Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (on board the ship)

DAY 11: MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018 - PIRAEUS / ATHENS AIRPORT / USA

Early this morning we disembark the ship at the Athens Port of Piraeus and transfer to the Athens Airport for return flight back to the USA.

Breakfast (on board the ship)

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