# A 12-Day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey
# Footsteps of Saint Paul

**DAY 1- Tuesday September 21, 2027 : Depart for Greece**

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight. Onboard, meals will be served to you.

**DAY 2- Wednesday September 22, 2027: Arrive in Athens-Greece**

Upon landing at Athens Airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Board the bus to transfer to your hotel. Enjoy some time to relax after check-in. Dinner at the hotel and overnight in Athens.

**DAY 3- Thursday September 23, 2027: Athens**

After breakfast at the hotel, start with a tour of the oldest city in the world, Athens! Visit the rock that has dominated the panorama of Athens for twenty-five centuries, the Acropolis. At the Acropolis, you will see the ruins of the Parthenon, Erectheum, and Propylene. After, you will ascend to Mars Hill where Saint Paul spoke to the Athenians about the one and only God (Acts 17:22). While in this city, view the ancient Agora, the former public center of Athenian life. It held the focus of a political, commercial, social, religious, and cultural center. As you are in the former political center, proceed with a drive through the city to view the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square. Also, have the opportunity to view the University of Athens, the oldest higher education institute in Greece, and, the

National Library of Greece that holds 4,500 Greek manuscripts. See Panathenaic Stadium, the beautifully marbled multi-purpose stadium. It is home to the Olympian Zeus and the site of the first modern-era Olympics (1896). Free afternoon. Dinner at the hotel and overnight in Athens.

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**DAY 4- Friday September 24, 2027: Athens-Start 3-day Cruise to Mykonos**

Following breakfast, proceed to the Piraeus port, where you will board your 3-day cruise. Your first stop will be the Island of Mykonos, the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands that attract visitors worldwide. After docking, transfer to Hora, the capital of the island. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you on the narrow cobbled streets of the city. Pass by chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs, and white-washed houses to arrive in Alefkandra. Return to the cruise ship for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 5 Saturday September 25, 2027: Heraklion-Santorini**

This morning awaken and transfer to the island of Santorini. Santorini is definitively the most breathtaking island of all of the Greek Islands. Upon arrival in Santorini, We ride the bus to visit the highest village on the island called Oia where you can explore the village and have pictures with white-washed houses, we will go down with the cable car to explore the village of Fira, narrow streets, open-air cafes, and glittering boutiques that cling to cliffs. This evening enjoy your last dinner and overnight on the cruise ship.

**DAY 6 Sunday September 26, 2027: Kusadasi - Ephesus (Mary's House) - Patmos**

Enjoy breakfast on board in the lively Turkish port of Kusadasi. We then transfer to the small village of Mt. Koressos. Visit the stone chapel situated upon the site, where the Virgin Mary spent her last days following the crucifixion of Christ. Following this visit, walk through the Magnesian Gate to the ancient Ephesus. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you through the most magnificent excavations in the world. Some of the sites include the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the Scholastica, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrians, and the Library of Celsus. The last stop on the walking tour is the Great Theatre. The largest ancient theatre with a capacity of 25,000 people and is a site where Saint Paul preached. Follow the exact route that Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession via the Arcadian Way. This main street runs from the Great Theatre to the city harbor. On your transfer back to Kusadasi, have the opportunity to view the Basilica of Saint John. In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian erected this structure over the grave of the evangelist, John. Upon arrival in Kusadasi, enjoy free time to explore on your own before returning to the ship. The cruise journey continues to Patmos, where you will transfer to the village of Chora. While in this capital, visit the monastery of Saint John the Theologian. This marvelous structure built nine hundred years ago, continues to be supported by the walls of a strong fortification. In addition to the stunning main church that contains outstanding frescoes, you will have the opportunity to view the beautiful courtyard, dining room, and bakery. Visit the small museum, where you will view priceless

ecclesiastical treasures such as books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, textiles, vestments, and jewelry. Board the bus and transfer to the monastery. Visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse believed to mark the spot where John of Patmos received his visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. The silver niches in the wall mark the pillow and ledge were used as a desk by the author. View the three-fold crack made by the voice of God, who emphasized the importance of honoring the Holy Trinity. Your day will culminate with a transfer to the port of Scala. While in this quaint and picturesque harbor, enjoy free time before returning to the ship.

**DAY 7- Monday September 27, 2027: Athens, Corinth**

After your breakfast, you disembark the cruise ship and you will proceed to ancient Corinth. Under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, Saint Paul lived in

Corinth for two years. While here, Saint Paul felt great grief over what the Gentile Church in Corinth had become. As a result, he wrote four letters, all with the overarching theme of love. In Corinth, you have the opportunity to view the remains of the first-century shops, the site of the Saint Paul trial by Gallio, the Fountain of Peirene, and the Temple of Apollo. Following your visit to Corinth, return to the Athens hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 8- Tuesday September 28, 2027: Delphi-Kalambaka**

After your breakfast, you visit the center of the ancient world (navel) of the earth, Delphi. Its prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. Visit the site and the museum and continue to the breathtaking rocks of Meteora. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Kalambaka.

**DAY 9- Wednesday September 29, 2027: Meteora-Veria, Vergina, Thessaloniki**

After breakfast, board the motorcoach for a short drive to the Meteora Monasteries. In the eleventh century, some monks settled in caves. However, as the Turkish occupation increased, the monks were forced to move their settlements higher upon the rocks until they were unreachable by any opposing enemy. These settlements became monasteries by bringing building materials and lifting them with ladders and baskets. Notorious for

preserving the Hellenic religion as well as their academics and arts. During your visit, you will be able to view stunning Byzantine art, as well as the breathtaking scenery that

surrounds the monastery. Traveling northward into Macedonia we visit King Phillip's (Alexander's father) tomb in Vergina, one of the most outstanding finds in all of Greece. A stop will be made in Berea to view the ancient synagogue where Paul spoke, and the Bema will be surrounded by mosaics of Paul and the plaque of scripture regarding the "more noble" church. The New Testament books of I & II Thessalonians will come alive to us today as we arrive in the delightful harbor city of Thessalonica. En route to the hotel, we will view the old city ramparts; the newly excavated Forum, St. George Church, an ancient Roman monument that was transformed into a church, and the Galerius Arch which rises over the famous Via Egnatia. We spend two nights in Thessaloniki.

**Day10- Thursday September 30, 2027: Thessaloniki**

After breakfast, enjoy your free day at Thessaloniki. You can explore downtown, relax on the beach, and for those who would like, enjoy a boat ride along the beach and take in the beautiful view of the coast along Thessaloniki. Afterward, head back to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

**DAY 11- Friday October 1, 2027: Philippi - Kavala – Thessaloniki**

After breakfast, start your journey with the first stop of the day in Philippi. Philippi was the city where Saint Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and, he established the 1st church in Europe. "And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days". (Acts 16:12-18). It is also the site where Saint Paul baptized a woman named Lydia, the first convert to Christianity in Europe. Visit the Roman Forum, where Saint Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling woman. View the prison (now in ruins) where Saint Paul and Silas were thrown into by the owners of the fortune-tellers. Continue to the modern port city of Kavala, which was once the ancient Neapolis. This port is where Saint Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy landed when they sailed

into Europe. After enjoying this city by the sea, return to Thessaloniki for your dinner at the hotel and restful overnight.

**DAY 12- Saturday October 2, 2027: Return Home**

Today you will say your heartfelt farewells to a journey that will last in your memory forever.

Transfer to the Thessaloniki airport for your return flight home


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