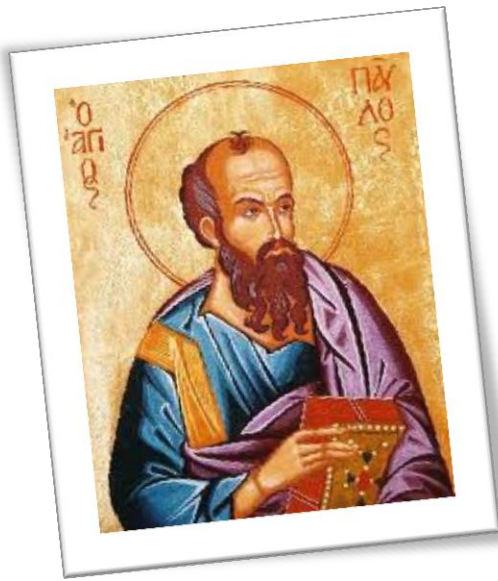


FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL



DAY 1: Transfer to the hotel. Free time for leisure. Overnight in Athens.

DAY 2: Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing of Athens. Visitation at the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Areopagus; where Paul delivered his famous sermon (Acts 17: 15-34). Athens is the capital of Greece. It is the most glorious historical city around the world. It is the city where democracy was born and the wisest men of ancient times. The name of the city was named after the goddess of wisdom, Athena. We will visit the best highlights that depict Athens and this includes passing by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Parliament House, Presidential Palace, Panathenian Stadium (stadium that hosted the first modern Olympic games in 1896), Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Academy, the University and the National Library and the ancient agora (St. Paul's meeting place).

St Paul preaching in Athens (Acts 17:22-28)

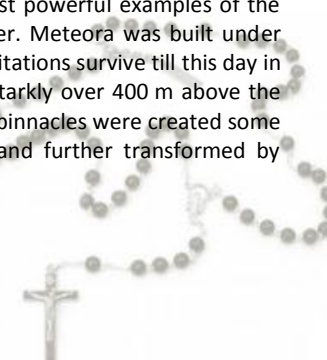
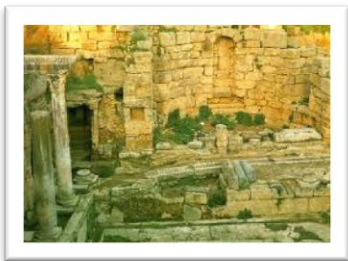
"So Paul, standing in the middle of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being'"

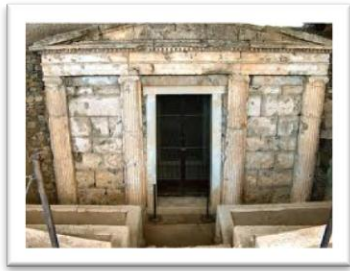
DAY 3: Breakfast at the hotel. We will first head towards Corinth, one of the oldest towns of Greece. St. Paul settled in Corinth after he left from Athens and where he remained for over one and a half-year during his Second Missionary Journey. Some of the most significant sights that we will visit include several unique temples, an archaeological museum, the marketplace (this is where Paul's trial by Gallio took place), the Fountain of Pierene, Temple of Apollo and the Berna. At the end of the day, we may visit Epidaurus or Mycenae. This is an optional choice and it depends on the schedule. Overnight in Athens.

Reading the Scriptures: St. Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-18)

After this he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, lately come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them; and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them, and they worked, for by trade they were tentmakers. And he argued in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all of his household; and many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city." And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

DAY 4: Breakfast at the hotel. Today's destination is Meteora. Meteora in Greek means 'Suspended in the air'. These monasteries represent a unique artistic achievement and are one of the most powerful examples of the architectural transformation of a site into a place of retreat, meditation and prayer. Meteora was built under impossible conditions with no practicable roads. Permanent though risky human habitations survive till this day in Meteora. The monasteries are built on rock pinnacles of deltaic origin which rise starkly over 400 m above the Peneas valley and the small town of Kalambaka. Chemical analysis suggests that the pinnacles were created some 60 million years ago in the Tertiary period, emerging from the cone of a river and further transformed by earthquakes. Overnight in Kalambaka area or Olympic Riviera.





DAY 5: Today's destination is Veria.

The archeological sight of Vergina (Aigai) is one of the most important in Greece, where you can see the Royal tombs and admire the world famous gold findings. A stop will be made in Veria to view the ancient synagogue. The city of Aigai, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, was discovered in the 19th century near Vergina in northern Greece. The most important remains are the monumental palace, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

Reading the Scriptures: St. Paul in Veroia or Berea (Acts 17: 10-15)

As soon as night came, the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived, they went to the synagogue. The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were true. Many of them believed; and many Greek women of high social standing and many Greek men also believed. But when the Jews in Thessalonica heard that Paul had preached the word of God in Berea also, they came there and started stirring up the mobs. The believers sent Paul away to the coast; but both Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. The men who were taking Paul went with him as far as Athens and then returned to Berea with instructions from Paul that Silas and Timothy should join him as soon as possible.

DAY 6: Today will be a full day excursion along the ancient route of Apostle Paul to Amphipolis (Acts 17:1).

Journey to Ancient Philippi, where Paul established the first church in Europe and whom he wrote his letter "to the Philippians" while he was in Rome (Acts 16: 11-40: Philippians). We will then continue to Kavala, ancient port of Neapolis (Acts 16: 9-11), which Paul visited. Kavala is one of Greece's most attractive mainland ports. Some of the most famous philosophers and religious figures visited Kavala. Paul landed here with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. This ancient city of Neapolis was later renamed Christoupolis because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. During our tour, we will see the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis in this beautifully city known since the 5th century as Kavala. We will then continue on to Philippi where Paul preached his first evangelical sermon and baptized the first Christians on European soil. We will view the baptismal site where Lydia surrendered her life to Christ and visit a crypt dating from the Roman period that is thought to have served as a prison for Paul. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

Reading the Scriptures: St. Paul in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)

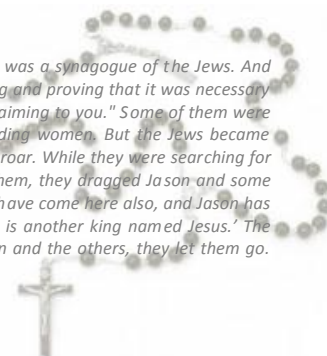
Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia, and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days; and on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul. And when she was baptized with her household, she begged us saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought the mouth and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the stream in which St. Lydia and her household were baptized by the Apostle Paul Lord to him and to all that were in his house...

DAY 7: Breakfast. Sightseeing of Thessaloniki (Acts 17: 1-9). Free time

Thessaloniki is also known as the "pearl of Macedonia". We will explore the city of Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki is 2320 years of age and is named after the wife of Kassandros, founder of the city and step-sister of Alexander the Great. Contemporary Thessaloniki is a modern city of about 1.500.000 inhabitants. It is the second largest city in Greece. It is the economic and cultural center of the entire Northern Greece as well as a crossroad between East and West, North and South. Thessaloniki is a coastal city, rich in Byzantine churches, museums as well as numerous other important historical monuments. The city's most attractive places are: the archaeological and byzantine museum, 'the white tower' (which is the symbol of the city), St. Demetrius cathedral, the Galerius Arch, Rotonda, St. Sophia's church and the old city's glorious walls, called, 'Kastrá'. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

Reading the Scriptures: St. Paul in Thessaloniki (Acts 17:1-12)

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go. (Acts, chapter 17:1-9)



DAY 8: Breakfast and departure



CATEGORY: RELIGIOUS
DURATION: 8 days / 7 overnights
INCLUDED: accommodation on BB, bus transportation, local guides, entrances fees, all taxes
PRICE: Please contact: info@melitours.gr

The tour can be generally rearranged depending on your needs. Arrival and departure are flexibly amended and the duration can also be shortened or extended. More services can be added.

