



Paul's Missionary Journeys in
G R E E C E

October 4 – 16, 2018

Led by Dr. Jeffrey A. D. Weima



Walk in the footsteps of Paul during the day and learn more about the apostle at night! Travel by motorcoach and cruise ship to sites connected with Paul's Second and Third Missionary Journeys: Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessaloníki, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Cenchrea, and Ephesus.

Also see other major sites of biblical, archeological, and cultural interest including Pátmos, Delphi, Metéora, Vergína and the islands of Mykonos, Crete, and Santorini. Most evenings feature a study session on "Paul: His Life & His Letters."

Join host Jeff Weima, professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, for this truly inspirational tour.

LED BY



Dr. Jeffrey Weima is Professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary, where he has taught for the past 25 years. He is a sought-after speaker, able to communicate well the truths of the Bible in an interesting, contemporary, and practical manner. Jeff is the author of numerous scholarly articles, academic essays, and book reviews. He has published five books, including a recently completed major commentary on 1-2 Thessalonians. Jeff is an active member of several academic societies and he lectures and teaches courses around the world, leads biblical study tours, conducts intensive preaching seminars for pastors, and preaches widely in churches in both the USA and Canada. Jeff and his wife, Bernice, have been married for 34 years. They have four children and five very cute grandchildren. This is Dr. Weima's 29th time leading a biblical study tour.

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TOUR COST

\$4,495 per person from Chicago, based on double occupancy.

Round-trip van or bus transfers from West Michigan to Chicago O'Hare will be made available at an additional cost of \$100 to \$160 per person, provided there is sufficient interest.

Register online at

bookings.wittetravel.com

use booking code 100418WEIM

or complete and return the printed registration form.





Tour Highlights

- Air transportation roundtrip from Chicago to Greece
- Land and sea transportation via deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach and by cruise ship
- Hotel accommodations in standard first-class to superior first-class hotels and outside cabins during the cruise
- Breakfast daily, three lunches, and nine dinners
- Greek tour manager to accompany the group during the land portion of the tour
- Sightseeing and admission fees in accordance with the itinerary, along with most shore excursions during the cruise
- Use of personal headsets
- All taxes including hotel, local government, port, and airport taxes, as well as gratuities to cruise personnel during the cruise
- Extensive study materials

October 2018

Thursday, October 4 Departure from the U.S.

Our adventure begins! Before it is possible to follow in the steps of the apostle Paul, we must first travel to Greece. Group members will converge in Chicago, where we'll connect with our transatlantic flight. (D-in flight)

Friday, October 5 Arrive Thessaloníki

After changing planes, we'll connect with our flight to Thessaloníki, the second largest city in Greece and the capital of Macedonia, where our tour manager, Christiana, will show us to the waiting motorcoach. Welcome to sunny and beautiful Greece! We'll check into the hotel, our

temporary "home" for the next two nights, and enjoy a night of well-deserved rest. (B-in flight, D)

Saturday, October 6 Kavála (Neapolis), Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessaloníki

Our first full day in Greece begins with a scenic bus drive, much of it along the Aegean Sea, to Kavála (ancient Neapolis), the port city of Philippi, where Paul landed by boat and thus first brought the gospel to Europe. After exploring the picturesque Old Town of Kavála, we'll travel inland through the Macedonian Plain to Philippi, named after Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. We'll follow the Via Egnatia, the

same ancient Roman road the apostle took into the city. Here at Philippi, Paul preached his first sermon in Europe (Acts 16:13-15) and baptized the first Christian convert on the continent. The Philippian church became one of Paul's favorite congregations and many years later, while under house arrest in Rome, he wrote them a letter (Philippians) expressing his gratitude for their faithful support of his missionary activity. Continue to Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) to view the famous Lion Monument that Paul would have seen as he traveled into this city. Pass by Apollonia (Acts 17:1) and return to Thessaloníki. This evening we'll begin our one-hour evening study sessions on "Paul: His Life & His Letters." (B)

Sunday, October 7 Thessaloníki, Véria (Berea), Vergína, Kalambaka

Today we'll follow the footsteps of Paul in Thessaloníki, named after Thessalonica, the sister of Alexander the Great. The apostle spent a number of weeks here during his Second Missionary Journey, establishing a church (Acts 17:1-9) to whom he would, a short time later, write two letters (1 & 2 Thessalonians). Visit the Roman Agora

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- ① Old city and fortress, Kavála
 - ② Ruins of the Roman Forum of the Agora, Thessaloníki
 - ③ Lion Monument, Amphipolis
 - ④ Philippi
- Cover: Corinth

(marketplace), where a mob was formed against Paul and an ensuing riot started in the city (Acts 17:5). Other impressive sights include the triumphal Arch of Galerius (AD 305-311), remnants of two beautiful Byzantine churches (Hagia Sophia and Saint Demetrius), the ancient ramparts of the city, and the White Tower—the symbol of the city. Following the Via Egnatia again, we'll briefly visit Berea (modern Véria), the place whose Jewish citizens "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11). After viewing the Bema—the spot where tradition has Paul teaching the Bereans—and the beautiful monument dedicated to the apostle, we'll travel the short distance to Vergina (ancient Aigai), the original capital of the ancient Macedonian empire. Spectacular tombs and funerary objects are housed in an impressive modern museum onsite. One tomb with a beautiful façade almost certainly contained the body of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, who died in 338 BC. At the day's end, we will reach Kalambaka, where we will have a worship service and dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Monday, October 8
Metéora, Delphi

Today's sites will take your breath away! Here we find the famous Cenobitic Monasteries that are perched precariously on top of huge columns of rock that rise up out of the ground, thereby giving them the name Metéora, which means "in the air." It was in the 11th century that the first hermits sought refuge in the caves of Metéora, since the solitude and spectacular vistas enhanced the mystic way of life. Eventually the hermits began to group together in



monasteries whose buildings were decorated with frescoes and icons by the great artists of the day. After touring one of these historic and breathtaking monasteries, we'll stop briefly at an icon workshop, where we can witness the skill with which these religious artifacts are made and where we have an opportunity to buy some distinctively Greek souvenirs. End the day by enjoying the scenic drive to Delphi. (B, D)

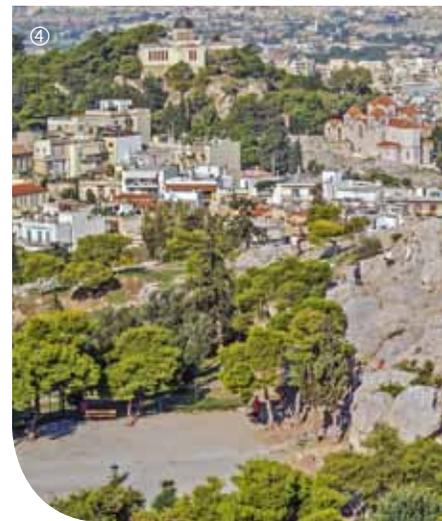
Tuesday, October 9
Delphi, Athens

Today we'll visit Delphi, identified in Greek tradition as the center of the ancient world—the omphalos ("navel") of the earth. Located on the slopes of Mount Parnassos in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, Delphi is the home of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the world-renowned "Delphic oracle." Other impressive ruins include the Temple of Athena, an athletic stadium seating 7,000 people, a gymnasium for physical training, various stoas, and treasuries. It is with

good reason that Delphi is widely acknowledged as the most beautiful ancient site in Greece. Also visit the Delphi Museum, whose collection includes the life-size bronze Charioteer of Delphi (470 BC), one of the prizes of the transitional period of Greek art. The museum also contains an inscription concerning the governor Gallio (Acts 18:12), which plays a crucial role in establishing the chronology of Paul's life and ministry. We reluctantly leave the peaceful splendor of Delphi, comforted that our next stop is Athens with its own extraordinary sights and beauty. (B, D)

Wednesday, October 10
Athens

We have a full day for the magnificent sights in Athens, which Paul visited during his Second Missionary Journey (Acts 17:15-34). Before ascending the Acropolis, stop at the Agora (marketplace) of ancient Athens where the apostle dialogued with the Athenian citizens and philosophers (Acts 17:17) and



also at the Areopagus ("Mars Hill") where he addressed city leaders (Acts 17:19-33). Then go up to the Acropolis, which towers over the city and houses the Parthenon, a building so masterfully created that it has been the subject of architectural study since its creation. This magnificent Doric temple was built to honor Athena, the goddess and patroness of Athens. Equally impressive buildings on the Acropolis include the Erechtheion with its Porch of Maidens, the Temple of Athena

- ① Metéora
- ② Parthenon, Athens
- ③ Erechtheion with its Porch of Maidens
- ④ View from the Acropolis
- ⑤ Photo courtesy Celestyal Cruises



<http://americas.celestyalcruises.com/en/cruise-ship-celestyal-olympia>

Nike (the goddess of "Victory") and the Altar of Augustus as part of the Imperial Cult. The area surrounding the Acropolis houses a number of other striking archaeological sites: the Stoa of Attalos, the Theatre of Dionysus, the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Arch of Hadrian, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. We also plan to visit the New Acropolis Museum, which helpfully explains the rich history of this famous place. In place of our evening study

session, we hope to visit with Rev. George Adam, a pastor in the Greek Evangelical church who will share with us the challenges and opportunities of ministering in a country where 99% of the citizens are Greek Orthodox. (B)

Thursday, October 11
Corinth, Cenchrea, Isthmia, Athens

Leave the hustle and bustle of Athens for the serenity of the Peloponnesus, a huge land mass linked to the mainland of Greece by a narrow isthmus

only about 3.5 miles wide. The city of Corinth, in Paul's day, controlled all traffic crossing this narrow isthmus and contributed to this ancient city's power and wealth. After stopping briefly at the Corinthian Canal, proceed to nearby Cenchrea, one of the two harbors of ancient Corinth. Cenchrea is not only the place from which Paul sailed on more than one occasion (Acts 18:18), but it was also the home of both another early church and an influential Christian woman briefly mentioned by

the apostle (Rom. 16:1). We'll also pass through Isthmia, which housed an impressive temple to Poseidon and the Isthmian Games. These games were celebrated biannually in Paul's day and were second in importance only to the Olympic Games. Spend time visiting ancient Corinth, the place where Paul ministered for 1½ years (Acts 18:1-18) and would later write at least four letters, two of which have survived (1 & 2 Corinthians). The city is located on the slopes of the Acrocorinth, a towering mountain rising 1,886 feet above the sea and crowned in ancient times by the temple of Aphrodite. Extensive ruins of Corinth visible today include several temples, water fountains, shops, various public buildings, the largest Agora (marketplace) in the ancient world and the Bema, where Paul likely met before the governor Gallio (Acts 18:12-17). The Corinthian Museum contains many significant artifacts, several of which have a direct link to events, items, and people mentioned in the New Testament. Return to Athens for another evening study session and dinner. (B, D)

Friday, October 12
Piraeus, Cruise: Mykonos

Depart for the nearby port city of Piraeus where we'll begin a fantastic three-day cruise of the Greek islands and ancient Ephesus in Turkey. Our journey parallels somewhat that of Paul, who traveled across the Aegean Sea on more than one occasion between Corinth and Ephesus. Our first port of call is Mykonos, a fashionable resort that has maintained the simple yet charming life of a Cycladic Island. The whitewashed buildings and windmills of this island have enchanted visitors for decades. (B, L, D)



Saturday, October 13
Cruise: Kusadasi, Ephesus, Pátmos

Arrive early in the morning at the Turkish port of Kusadasi for a short drive inland to the ancient city of Ephesus. Paul visited Ephesus only briefly during his Second Missionary Journey (Acts 18:19-21) but returned to the city during his Third Missionary Journey for a much longer period of two years and three months (Acts 19:1-41). The ancient city of Ephesus is remarkably well-preserved and includes such significant sights as the Temple of Artemis, the Library of Celsus, the two Agoras, the Odeion, the Roman baths, the Marble Road, and the Grand Theater—where a huge riot involving some 24,000 people against Paul took place. After visiting the Ephesus Museum, which exhibits many fabulous finds from the excavations at Ephesus and the surrounding area, we return to the ship for lunch while sailing to the island of Pátmos where John wrote the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:9) while in exile. Though our visit here is brief, we have time to ascend to the island's highest point and visit the Monastery of St. John (founded in 1088) as well as the Grotto of the Apocalypse, the cave where John is believed to have received his vision and recorded his message to the seven churches of Asia Minor. (B, L, D)



Sunday, October 14
Cruise: Crete, Santorini

This morning we'll arrive on the island of Crete, birthplace of the Minoan culture and ministry location of Paul's fellow missionary, Titus. An optional excursion to Knossos Palace will be offered, or we'll have a chance to explore Heraklion on our own. Back on board the ship, we'll spend the afternoon at sea as we travel to the spectacular island of Santorini. This stunningly beautiful place was formed by one of the largest volcanic eruptions in history (around 1450 BC) that created impressive black-rock cliffs on which are perched quaint white-washed homes with brilliant blue roofs. It is still a volcanic island, with the most recent explosion having taken place in 1928, and it is referred to as the "Black Pearl" because of its black, volcanic ash beaches. Return to the ship for our evening worship service and dinner, after which we sail through the night back to mainland Greece. (B, L, D)



Monday, October 15
Piraeus, Cape Sounion, Athens

Our delightful cruise comes to a close with an early morning arrival in Piraeus. We'll travel along the lovely Apollo Coast to Cape Sounion, the outpost of Attica, where a temple to the sea god Poseidon is located. This Doric temple was built between 444 and 440 BC by order of Pericles, and it replaced an earlier sanctuary from the 6th century BC. After taking in the wonderful views, we'll travel to Athens to visit the National Archaeological Museum, which houses a spectacular collection from all of Greece, including items from many of the places we

have seen during the past week. Following this, there will be free time for independent exploration in the city. We'll have a final "debriefing" session and farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, D)

Tuesday, October 16
Return

This morning we'll transfer to the Athens Airport to check in for our flights home. Upon arrival in Chicago, travelers continuing on to other destinations will clear customs before catching a connecting flight. We are confident that *Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece* has been an instructive, inspirational, and memorable trip for you! (B, L-in flight)

- ① Temple of Poseidon, Cape Sounion
- ② Grand Theater, Ephesus
- ③ Santorini