

Operated by:



INVITES YOU TO GREECE & THE HOLY LAND - ISRAEL

Day 1: Departure from US

Today we embark on our Journey to the lands of ancient treasures and Christian history with an overnight flight to Athens. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience. Get some rest on the flight... Tomorrow you will be walking where the apostles walked!

Day 2: Arrive Athens

We arrive in Athens and check into our hotel. You will have the remainder of the day free to relax or take a stroll along the streets of Athens to enjoy the flavor of the city. This evening our group will enjoy the first of many delectable European style dinners.

Day 3: City of Athens

Our day today surrounds Athens, the foundation of democracy. We visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and Erechtheum before viewing Athens atop Mars Hill where Paul stood and preached the truth to the Gentile nation. Additional sites include the Agora (ancient market place and center of Athenian public life), the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Olympic Stadium, and Presidential Palace. An option later this afternoon is a visit to the famous Plaka with a multitude of shops and cafes. Our lodging is in Athens for the next two evenings.

Day 4: Corinth & Mycenae

Following breakfast this morning we depart Athens. We immediately travel west with a rest stop and photos at the Corinth Canal. We then travel to the ancient city of Corinth, another treat for the New Testament scholar. Corinth is the city that inspired many of Paul's most familiar letters. See the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place, the Bema, and the Temples. To enjoy a devotional in the midst of the ruins of the church of Corinth and see the pillars, steps, and public worship place where Paul preached will enhance your understanding and love of I & II Corinthians. The ruins of this important cultural center are fascinating as we walk along the stone path that the Apostle Paul walked. The engineering skill and intellect of these people are evident in the water systems that still flow from ancient to modern day. Our guide will be sure to show you the room dedicated to the medical care of that period. After the visit to ancient Corinth we travel to Mycenae where the remains of the ancient city date back to the Bronze Age to see the famous Lioness Gate, the Tomb of Agamemnon in the shape of a Beehive, and many other sites before continuing back to Athens.

Day 5: Meteora Monastery

From Athens, our tour travels northward past Thermopylae where we learn of the famous Spartan battle of 300. We continue through the mountains to Meteora. Here we see the world famous Byzantine monasteries that are perched precariously on summits of gray rock pinnacles of varied and beautiful shapes. Their history goes back to the 14th century when the monks sought refuge in the cliffside caves

then fled higher to build the original wooden shelters, later transformed into monasteries. Our lodging this evening will be in Meteora.

Day 6: Vergina, Berea, Thessalonica

traveling north this morning, our first stop will be a visit to King Phillip's (Alexander's father) tomb in Vergina, one of the most outstanding finds in all of Greece. We then make the short trip to nearby Berea to view the synagogue where Paul preached. We stop at the Bema 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 which was transformed into a church and the Galerius Arch which rises over the famous Via Egnatia. We spend two nights here.

Day 7: Thessalonica/Philippi/Kavala

We begin the day by following the massive battlement Byzantine wall to the citadel for a panoramic view of the city. Next, we will visit Philippi and Kavala. Kavala is Greece's prettiest mainland port with a most elegant harbor. 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. Imagine walking on the same sod as these men of the Bible! We will see the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis in this beautifully located city, known since the 5th century as Kavala. 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. See the famous Acropolis, the Market Place, Basilica, and the Theatre. We return to Thessalonica and visit St. Demetrius Basilica, dedicated to a distinguished member of the Roman army and a martyred Christian convert, before returning to the hotel for our final night.

Day 8 Greece to -Israel

This Morning embarks on our journey to the Holy Land, a life changing experience. The night flight begins with dinner service and time to fellowship with friends new and old, meditate on the treasures ahead, and catch some shut-eye en-route to Tel Aviv. We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where we will be met by our Israeli guide who will accompany us during our entire stay in Israel. We travel northward to our hotel for one night in the coastal area near Tel Aviv. The remainder of the day is free to walk along the Mediterranean, relax, and have dinner. The time is right for a personal devotional with the sunset over the "Great Sea." Enjoy a time of prayer of thanks for safety and the special blessings ahead, a prayer for the people of this land, and a good night's rest.

Day 9: Caesarea, Armageddon, Cana

After breakfast, travel by private motor coach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to **Caesarea**, the seat of the Roman Procurator of Judea at the time of Christ, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized, and Centurion Cornelius converted. This fortified harbor city was built 2000 years ago by King Herod the Great. See the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct. Then journey on to **Mt. Carmel**, where Elijah hid from King Ahab, and through the **Jezreel** Valley to **Megiddo**, where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization. In the afternoon, continue on to **Cana where Jesus had his first miracle** we will have dinner and overnight in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

Day 10: Capernaum and Mount of Beatitudes. A relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee with easy viewing of the nearby **Golan Heights** brings to life the experiences of the fishermen disciples. Visit the "ancient boat" from the time of Jesus at Kibbutz Ginossar. Continue to visit **Capernaum** visit the ruins of an ancient

synagogue and Peter's home. Then travel on to **Tabgha** the site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes and the **Mount of the Beatitudes** overlooking the Sea where our guide will reenact Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount". Will continue to **Caesarea Philippi (Banias)**, site of Peter's Confession Also visit the ruins of the ancient Capernaum. We will finish our day with a visit to the **Jordan River Baptismal site**.

Day 11: Our Way to Jerusalem,

We will begin our day with a visit to Nazareth, the boyhood home of **Jesus and the Nazareth Village** touring through four rooms with informational displays designed to enrich the understanding of the history of the life & times of Jesus.. Continue our sightseeing with, and then turn southward to **Beit-Shean /Scythopolis** -- The most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. After defeating King Saul and his sons on Mt. **Gilboa**, the Philistines hanged their bodies on the walls of **Beit-Shean**. (1 Sam 31:10-12).Continue to visit the Gideon Springs, Drive along the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem & on the way we will , Enter the city of Jerusalem in a traditional way, arrival to our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 12: Bible Time in Israel

Today we will visit the **Garden Tomb** communion & a short Sabbath Service.

We will enter Jerusalem thru the Lions Gate, to visit the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus cured a cripple, Drive to Mt Zion and visit the **house of the High Priest Caiphas, visit the Church of St Peter Gallicantu**, this is the place where Peter denied his Lord 3 times. Continue on to the last supper room "**Upper Room**" where the disciple whom Jesus loved laid his head on His Breast and where later Thomas cried; "my Lord & my God, **King David's Tomb**.

Day 13: Around Jerusalem, Jesus steps'

The day starts with a drive to Mt Moriah, Descend to **Garden of Gethsemene**, where Jesus spent the last night before he was arrested. Visit the Church of All Nations.

Visit the **Western Wall**, last remanant and then the fascinating **Rabbinical Tunnels** leading us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give a clear understanding of the amazing construction of the Temple Mount, giant stones, water supply and Roman Street where our Lord was led to judgment. Before exiting the tunnel we see the immense cornerstone rejected by the builders.How many have wished to be whisked back in time to get a glimpse of our Lord or hear His voice if only for a moment. To walk between the ancient olive trees, read the scriptures of Jesus' prayer and take time for personal reflection is important here. This afternoon we visit the **Southern Wall Excavations Davidson center** & view of the western wall. This southern side of The Temple was the main entrance for the common folk, whereas the Priests and Levites had their own entrance from the higher eastern side. Parts of the giant stairs, which led to the Temple Mount from the courtyard, have been unearthed along with the purification pools.

Day 14 Jericho, Massada, Dead Sea Scroll, Ein Gedi

Then we start driving to the **Dead Sea;** **we first will stop to visit Jerico**,This was the first city taken by Joshua When the Hebrews returned from Egypt-And the walls fell down, will visit the site Mount of Temptation , continue to **Massada** take a cable car ride to the mountain top fortress of **Massada**. Here our guide will treat us to the history of the famous zealot stand. **We'll visit Qumran Caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. On the way we are able to observe Ein **Gedi**, "spring of the Goat," an oasis on the western shore of the **Dead Sea**. Because of its warm climate and abundant supply of water, the site developed a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves. This is where King David hid from Saul, and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites by praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat. (1 Sam 23:29; 24 Song of Songs 1:14).

Day 15 Jerusalem/Bethlehem After breakfast we will travel to the “little town of **Bethlehem...**” and visit the Church of the Nativity and Milk Grotto. On the way **back to Jerusalem will visit The city of David & the Pool of Siloam**, we will continue to the **modern city of Jerusalem**, the **Israel Museum** to see the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are Kept & the Holy Land walk-around model of the city of Jerusalem as it was in the 2nd temple period (the time of Jesus). **Dinner and Overnight**

Day 16 Arrival at home, with a lifetime experience

ANOTHER OPTION FOR GREECE

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Day 3: Delphi

After meeting your guide in Athens, hear tales about the ancient Greeks and their lives in Delphi while traveling to the lovely mountain region of Delphi - the ancient sanctuary of Apollo. Our first stop is a tour of the Delphi archeological site – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and easily one of the most important digs in Europe. Next we visit the Delphi Archeological Museum and explore this veritable treasure trove at leisure. Home to countless artifacts and intriguing relics, the museum consists of 15 rooms arranged in chronological order from 15th century BC to 4th century AD. Be sure to check out the bronze Charioteer of Delphi and the Sphinx of Naxos. This afternoon we continue southward past Thermopylae and return to the city of Athens, the birth place of democracy.

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