

# CHRISTIAN TOURS IN GREECE AND WORLDWIDE



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Explore, Visit, Discover Religious Places

# mazi TO RELIGIOUS PLACES



## OUR HISTORY



With years of experience in the field, mazi travel & events is your professional partner for organizing and implementing simple, complex and demanding travel services, conferences, meetings, corporate meetings, events and incentive trips, both in Greece and abroad.

Our 30 years of experience with high-quality services to travelers from around the world, with the latest automated process, gives you the opportunity to have complete travel service, easily, quickly, safely for all your business needs.

On our website [www.mazitravel.com](http://www.mazitravel.com) you will find everything about our company and all our proposals worldwide and for all categories of travelers.

Up to date, we have developed an extensive network of associates both in Greece and other countries, aiming to provide you with the best quality of service throughout the range of its activities at the best prices.

## RELIGIOUS TOURISM

With 30 years of experience, our company specializes in religious tourism. An alternative form of tourism that stems from the need of believers to experience the majesty of their faith. Thousands of Byzantine churches, monasteries and places for holy pilgrimage are some of the elements that awe the visitors of religious tourism in Greece and abroad.

Take a look at some of the choices through a wide variety of trips that you can find inside our site. Taking advantage of our many years of experience in the field of tourism and providing high quality services, we are ready to offer complete services.

**Let our experience and credibility travel you to the religious places of Greece and abroad.**

## WE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

We know and keep up-to-date on every destination, sightseeing, people, hotels, restaurants, cultural sites and places of worship, and that it's more about where you want to visit.

30 years of traveling with you all over the world and this experience makes us stand out for the details:

- Qualified guides
- Informational brochures with the excursion program

## Our BUS fleet



We run the largest fleet of tourist buses in Greece. It features 92 luxury buses catering for all transportation needs of our customers and business partners. The fleet consists of modern buses with a capacity of 72, 55, 32, 17 and 12 seats. ... complemented by the most modern tourist coaches ... All vehicles are fully air-conditioned and most of them provide TV, video, bar and toilet facilities. Many buses are equipped with navigation systems, providing valuable and up-to-date information to drivers, such as road maps, information on traffic and daily weather forecast. ... Our organization transfers safely and comfortably more than 1,500,000 passengers per year!



# Byzantine Tradition Of Greece

11 days /9 nights



## > DAY 1 | CANADA - GREECE Fly to Greece

## > DAY 2 | ATHENS

Arrival in Athens airport where we will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure, dinner and overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 3 | ATHENS CITY TOUR / CORINTH / CENCHREA / LOUTRAKI

After breakfast we will go on a city tour to explore the city of Athens. Athens is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. We will visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentle Nation. After that, we will head toward ancient **Corinth**. It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and writing two of the epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. We will visit the ancient Greek port of **Cenchrea**. We will move to Loutraki for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 4 | LOUTRAKI / DERVENI / KALAVRYTA/ NAFPAKTOS

After breakfast we will head towards the **Monastery of Assumption of Panagia the Kyparissiotisa** in Derveni, dating back to the 11th century. View the extremely rare Icons of Angels Gili and Gidail, names from the Old Testament. The most precious treasure of the monastery is the burial head (Karas) of St. Lerotheou. Continue to **Osios Patapios** located high in the Geraneia mountains. After lunch we will continue to **Kalavryta** and its **Mega Spileo & Agia Lavra** monasteries. Mega Spileo Monastery is the oldest Monastery of Greece where you will see the icon of Holy Mary crafted by Evangelist Lucas. The **monastery of Agia Lavra** was constructed in the year 961 at an altitude of 961 meters, housing 961 monks. Continue to Nafpaktos for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 5 | NAFPAKTOS / KALAMBAKA

After breakfast we visit the monastery of **St. Augustine** and **Seraphim Sarof**, built in 1980 and which quickly became known world-wide. Its unique bell tower houses 400 bells and is considered to be one of the largest in the world. We continue our visit to the 11th century Byzantine Monastery of **Osios Loukas**. The Cathedral is decorated with splendid mosaics, and is architecturally one of the finest Byzantine monuments in Greece. Continue to **Kalambaka** for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 6 | KALAMBAKA / THESSALONICA

After breakfast the trip continues with a visit to **Meteora**, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a mountainous region of stunning scenery. On top of huge rocks, during the Middle Ages, monks seeking isolation built inaccessible monasteries. We will visit the most famous of them. We will continue to the biggest city of northern Greece, **Thessalonica** for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 7 | THESSALONICA CITY TOUR

After breakfast the trip continues with exploring the city of Thessalonica, where Paul preached the gospel in the second and third missionary journey. We will visit the Cathedral of **St. Demetrius**, the Church of **Saint Sofia**, the great Church of **Saint George** which is hosted in a medieval building, the Byzantine temple of «**Panagia Chalkeon**», the historical Church of **Prophet**

**Elias**, the **White Tower** and the **Byzantine fortress** of the city. Finally we will visit the **monastery of Vlatadon**, which was founded in 1360. The rest of the day is at leisure, dinner and overnight in Thessalonica.

## > DAY 8 | THESSALONICA / ATHOS / THESSALONICA

After breakfast we will depart from Thessalonica towards Chalkidiki region and arrive to Ouranopolis. Upon our arrival in Ouranopolis the men of the group will visit one of the **Monasteries on Mount Athos**. The women will depart for a cruise around Mount Athos, where they will admire the monasteries from the sea. The group will reunite in Ouranopolis and return to Thessalonica for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 9 | THESSALONICA / VERGINA / VERIA / ATHENS

Following breakfast we will head to **Veria** (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17.10-14). When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more "noble" Jewish community where he preached and created an important Church. We will visit the ancient synagogue where we will see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. According to tradition it was at this place where he preached. Then we will head to **Vergina**, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered as a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great and conqueror of Greek territories which resulted in the expansion of Hellenism. We will then head towards Athens, dinner and overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 10 | ATHENS KAISARIANI MONASTERY AND HISTORICAL CHURCHES

After Breakfast we will begin the day with a visit at **Kaisariani Monastery**. The Monastery is dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. The monastery includes baths from the Byzantine era and preserved frescoes from the 17th and 18th centuries. The tour will continue with a visit of **Byzantine & Christian Museum of Athens** where you can admire relics of the Byzantine era. Then you will proceed on a walk around the historical churches found in Athens. We start with the **Holy Church of Lykodemos Sotira** is one of the oldest and largest Byzantine churches in Athens. The next stop will be located on **Monastiraki Square**, the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, or **Pantanassa**, was once called the Great Monastery, and today is known commonly as Monastiraki. **Kapnikarea Church** will be the final stop and it stands out as a major landmark in Athens' Byzantine past. Dating from the 11th century, the church lies in the middle of Ermou Street and is dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. The church was built atop an older, Christian temple, commissioned in the fifth century AC by the Byzantine empress Eudokia, wife of Theodosius the Younger. Constructed on foundations of the ancient temple of Athena or, perhaps, Demeter, Kapnikarea Church is today owned by the University of Athens. The rest of the day is at leisure, dinner and overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 11 | DEPARTURE FROM ATHENS

According to the schedule of your return flight you will be taken to the airport of Athens.

# On the steps of Apostoles

8 days /7 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO GREECE

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

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 | 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 4 | CITY OF ATHENS

Following breakfast this morning we tour 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. From atop Mars Hill we view the Agora below, the ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life. Additional sites viewed during our panoramic bus tour are, 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 evening.

## > 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 VEROIA, THESSALONIKI

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 | THESSALONIKI/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 | HOMEWARD BOUND

We transfer to the Thessaloniki airport for our flight home.



# On the steps of Orthodox

11 days / 9 nights



> **DAY 1 | CANADA** Fly from Canada to Greece

> **DAY 2 | ATHENS - ARRIVAL DAY**

Arrive in Athens, where you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

> **DAY 3 | ATHENS / EMBARKATION ON THE CRUISE**

Today, admire the architectural miracles of ancient Athens, as you follow your guide to the world famous Acropolis, to see the Propylea, the Erechtheum and the Parthenon. You will then visit Mars Hill, where Paul delivered his ingenious speech on the "Unknown God". You will view the Agora which was the ancient centre of the economic and public life of the city and the place where Paul preached to the sceptical Athenians. During the bus tour, you will also see Constitution Square with the House of Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Temple of Zeus, the Old Olympic Stadium and the Neoclassical Buildings of Athens. After the tour you will be transferred to the port of Piraeus for your embarkation on the cruise boat to join your 7-day cruise.

> **DAY 4 | MORNING AT SEA – AFTERNOON IN ISTANBUL**

Enjoy your morning sailing through the Aegean Sea. In the afternoon, the ship arrives into Istanbul and you can have panoramic tour of Istanbul and visit the famous Istanbul Bazaar with hundreds of shops.

> **DAY 5 | ISTANBUL**

Begin the excursion with a sightseeing drive through the business centre of the modern city, across the Galata Bridge, along the banks of the Golden Horn and under the Byzantine Aqueduct of Valens. On the way, you can see the Sülemaniye Mosque, dedicated to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. In the Old City, you will first visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, which was one of the largest chariot race arenas in the Byzantine Empire. Visit the Sultanahmet Mosque, from where large groups of pilgrims start their pilgrimage to Mecca. It is decorated with 21,000 blue Iznik tiles from where it gets its name, the "Blue Mosque". Walk to the world famous monument of Hagia Sophia, the Byzantine Church dedicated to the Divine Wisdom of God. Return to the ship for lunch on board. After lunch continue the tour with a visit to the Topkapi Palace, the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Evening sailing for the island of Mykonos.

> **DAY 6 | MORNING AT SEA – AFTERNOON IN MYKONOS**

You spend your morning sailing and in the afternoon you arrive at the world-famous island of Mykonos. The town which is a small architectural miracle, with its gleaming white-washed buildings, with the hundreds of churches and windmills, is considered one of the most cosmopolitan places in the world.

> **DAY 7 | MORNING IN PATMOS - AFTERNOON IN IZMIR**

In the morning you will arrive at the island of Patmos, where you will visit the **Monastery of St. John**, crowning the island. You will depart from the port of Scala and enjoy a short drive to the village of Chora, where the Monastery of St. John is built within the walls of a strong fortification. Next, visit the small museum where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles, vestments and

jewellery are housed. Return to your motor coach and continue to the nearby **Grotto of the Apocalypse** and the **Monastery of the Apocalypse** above it. Walk down the steps to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Here you will see the niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of the Revelation and the crack in the rock made by the voice of God honouring the Holy Trinity. Return back to the ship for lunch and in the afternoon the ship will arrive in Izmir, Turkey. You will drive through the colourful countryside to reach **Ephesus**, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Artemis- one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - and later the home of St. John. On your way out walk along the Arcadian Way, where once Mark Anthony and Cleopatra rode in procession. Then back to your coach and as you drive back to Izmir view on a hill above Selcuk, the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by Emperor Justinian. Later you return to the ship for dinner and sailing towards Rhodes.

> **DAY 8 | RHODES**

Today you arrive at the beautiful island of Rhodes. Your tour starts with a scenic drive along the picturesque south-eastern coastline, dotted with white-washed villages, to **Lindos**, one of the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. See how this entire city is guarded by medieval walls. Within them stands the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. Return to Rhodes city and continuing to Mount Smith to see the ruins of ancient Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo and Diagoras Stadium. Afterwards you can start of the walking tour through the medieval city of Rhodes, awarded by UNESCO 1988, follow your guide through the northern part where once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Grand Masters Palace, continue your walk down Chevaliers Road by the Knights' Hospital, to the Marine Gate and return back to the ship. A short visit to a ceramic factory is included.

> **DAY 9 | CRETE – SANTORINI**

In the morning arrive at the town of **Heraklion**, Crete, from where you can enjoy a unique excursion to **Knossos**. Then, you sail north towards the island of **Santorini**, the most popular and breathtaking of all the Greek islands. The exquisite whitewashed villages, including the town of Fira, very impressively cling to volcanic cliffs and are accessible by cable-car, or mule.

> **DAY 10 | DISEMBARKATION – ANCIENT CORINTH**

Today after breakfast you disembark from the cruise ship and start your trip to Ancient Corinth. This is the once glorious city near the Isthmus, where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla and spent a year and a half preaching the Word of God. You will visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples and the famous Bema, where Paul stood before Gallio, accused by the Jews of Corinth. Then, you drive to Cenchreae, the little harbour from where Paul sailed back to Asia, thus ending his second missionary journey. Travel back to Athens for your farewell dinner and overnight at the hotel.

> **DAY 11 | DEPARTURE**

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home and with a new insight into Paul's life and teachings.

# In the Footsteps of St Paul with Greek Cruise

12 days /10 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO GREECE

Fly from Canada to Athens.

## > DAY 2 | ATHENS

Arrival in Athens airport where we will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure, dinner and overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 3 | ATHENS CITY TOUR

After breakfast we will go on a city tour to explore the city of Athens. Athens is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. We will visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentle Nation. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and Overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 4 | ATHENS / PIRAEUS (EMBARKATION) / MYKONOS

Embark on a wonderful 3-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily while on board. Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands, is your first stop. Enjoy free time to explore this little paradise in the middle of the Aegean Sea.

## > DAY 5 | KUSADASI / EPHEBUS / PATMOS

Breakfast and stop at the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the ruins of **Ephesus** where Paul the Saint spent three years during his ministry and where its inhabitants were the recipients of Paul's famous epistle. After this amazing experience we will have lunch and then visit the Basilica of St. John as well as the ruins of the famous Diana's temple with the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Odeon, the Arch of Hercules, the Temple of Hadrian, the Agora and the Greco-Roman theater. Continue your cruise to the island of **Patmos**. During our time there we will visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will see the Holy Grotto as well as priceless icons and manuscripts.

## > DAY 6 | HERAKLION (CRETE) / SANTORINI

In the morning the ship will dock at the port of **Heraklion** on the island of Crete. In Heraklion Paul met the owner and captain of the ship, who warned him about continuing his journey to Rome. You can take a tour (optional) to the Palace of Knossos. After lunch, the ship will travel to the most beautiful island in the Aegean Sea known as the "Black Pearl of the Aegean", the volcanic **Santorini** where we will enjoy the breathtaking Panoramic View.

## > DAY 7 | PIRAEUS (DISEMBARKATION) / ATHENS / THESSALONICA

After early morning disembarkation, we will travel towards the largest city on Northern Greece, Thessalonica which was an early center for Christianity, where Paul visited and preached during the winters of 49-50 A.D. and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. In Thessalonica we will visit the **Museum of Byzantine Culture**. We will have dinner and stay overnight in Thessalonica.

## > DAY 8 | THESSALONICA / PHILIPPI / KAVALA / THESSALONICA

After breakfast we depart for our one day **Philippi** Christian tour. Philippi is the town where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. There the first Christian baptism was performed, of a woman named Lydia. We will visit the Roman Theatre, probable site of the prison where Paul and Silas were arrested. We will continue towards the city of **Kavala** and the ancient city of Neapolis where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. We will visit the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. Dinner and overnight in Thessalonica.

## > DAY 9 | THESSALONICA / VERGINA / VERIA / KALAMBAKA

Breakfast and city tour of Thessalonica. We will visit the Cathedral of St. Demetrius, the Church of Saint Sofia, the great Church of Saint George, the Byzantine temple of «Panagia Chalkeon», the historical Church of Prophet Elias, the White Tower and the Byzantine fortress of the city. Then we will head to **Vergina**, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered as a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Next stop will be **Veria** (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17:10-14). When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more "noble" Jewish community. Depart for **Kalambaka** for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 10 | KALAMBAKA / METEORA / DELPHI

After breakfast the trip continues with a visit the spectacular **Meteora**, the UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see hundred-year-old Byzantine monasteries on top of huge rocks, first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. We will continue to **Delphi** for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 11 | DELPHI / CORINTH / CENCHREA / ATHENS

Breakfast and exploration of Delphi. Delphi is the famous oracle where the priestess of Apollo, Pithia, influenced, with their prophecies the history of cities and states of antiquity. In the same region you will find the famous Monastery of **Osios Lukas**. This is a historic walled monastery and has been listed on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites we. We will continue towards ancient **Corinth**. It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and writing two of the epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. Before ending the tour and return to Athens, we will visit the ancient Greek port of Cenchrea (Acts 18:18) where Paul was during his second missionary journey and the ruin of the early Christian 5th Century basilica. Return to Athens, dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 12 | ATHENS AIRPORT

According to the schedule of your return flight you will be taken to the airport of Athens.



# Biblical Greece

7 days /6 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO GREECE

## > DAY 2 | THESSALONICA

The trip will start with your arrival in Thessalonica airport where we will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Day at leisure, dinner and overnight Thessalonica.

## > DAY 3 | THESSALONICA CITY TOUR / VERIA / VERGINA

After breakfast the trip continues with exploring the city of Thessalonica, where Paul preached the gospel in the second and third missionary journey. For the early Christians of this city he wrote epistles "To the Thessalonians.". We will visit the Cathedral of St. Demetrius, the Protector Saint of the city, the Agora, the Church of Saint Sofia, the White Tower and the Byzantine fortress of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius starting at the Via Egnatia, once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire. Next stop will be Veria (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17: 10-14). When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more "noble" Jewish community where he preached and created an important Church. This is where Paul met Sopatros (or Sosipatros), who would later become a valuable comrade who followed him on his return journey to Asia. We will visit the ancient synagogue where we will see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Then we will head to Vergina, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered as a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great.

## > DAY 4 | THESSALONICA / PHILIPPI / KAVALA / THESSALONICA

Breakfast and trip to Philippi, the town where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. "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 16:11-12). Paul arrived here with Silas and Luke on the winter of AD 49 to AD50. There the first Christian baptism was performed, of a woman named Lydia. Although they were prosecuted and arrested, they received God's help to escape from prison (Acts 16: 25-26) where there was the conversion of the jailer (Acts 16: 31). We will visit the Roman Theatre, probable site of the prison where Paul and Silas were arrested. We will continue towards the city of Kavala, the ancient city of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. It was later renamed Christoupolis, meaning city of Christ, because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will visit the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. Dinner and overnight in Thessalonica.

## > DAY 5 | KALAMBAKA / METEORA

After breakfast drive to Kalambaka. the trip continues with a visit the spectacular Meteora, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a mountainous region of stunning scenery. You will see hundred-year-old Byzantine monasteries on top of huge rocks, during the Middle Ages, first



built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. We will visit the most famous of them, which is now a popular museum, the Great Meteora, to admire superb icons, old manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. We will continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 6 | DELPHI / ATHENS

After breakfast we will continue our tour with exploring Delphi. Delphi is the famous oracle where the priestess of Apollo, Pithia, influenced, with their prophecies the history of cities and states of antiquity. Visit the archaeological site and museum, where you will admire the famous statue of «Bronze Charioteer» the young driver of the sun chariot. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

## > DAY 7 | ATHENS CITY TOUR / CORINTH / CENCHREA

After breakfast we will go on a city tour to explore the city of Athens, including the Agora of Athens (Acts 17:16-34). Athens is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. We will visit the main points of interest in the city: the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentle Nation. After that, we will head toward ancient Corinth (Acts 18.1-18). It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and writing two of the epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. We will see all the sites that are associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's seat, the pillars, stairs, and the place of public worship, where Paul preached. All these visits will certainly enhance the understanding of Corinthians I and II. Before ending the tour and return to Athens, we will pass by the ancient Greek port of Cenchrea (Acts 18:18) where Paul was during his second missionary journey and the ruin of the early Christian 5th Century basilica. Return to Athens, dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 8 | ATHENS AIRPORT

According to the schedule of your return flight you will be taken to the airport of Athens.

# Panorama of Cyprus

9 days / 7 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO CYPRUS

## > DAY 2 | ARRIVAL TO LARNAKA

Meeting with our tour guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel in Limassol.

## > DAY 3 | PAPHOS

Named as 2017 Cultural European Capital, the entire town of Paphos is listed in the UNESCO heritage. First visit of at **Agia Paraskevi**, a five domed basilica which features frescoes dating to the XV century. Once in the town center we head to the church of Panagia **Crysopolitissa**, built in the 13th century over the ruins of the largest Early Byzantine basilica on the island. Within the compound one can see St. Paul's Pillar. Next to the picturesque harbor, in the Houses of Dionysus, we have the chance to admire some of the finest Roman mosaics dating the 3rd to the 5th century AD. Spread over a vast area, these impressive underground tombs date back to the 4th century BC. They are carved out of solid rock with some being decorated with Doric pillars.

## > DAY 4 | NICOSIA

We start our daily visits from the Cyprus Museum: a priceless and fascinating collection of Cypriot antiquities and treasures from the Neolithic Age to the early Byzantine period. We will have time to stroll down the narrow streets of Laiki Ytonia, the historical, popular quarter of the Capital and the famous Ledra Street. In the afternoon we visit the Cathedral of St. John finely decorated with outstanding frescoes and the unique Byzantine Museum which houses one of the largest collection of icons in Cyprus. We will drive then to Famagusta gate one of the three entrances in old Lefkosia (Nicosia) through the Venetian walls. The walls have a perimeter of 4.5 km, with eleven heartshaped bastions and completely encircle the old city.

## > DAY 5 | FAMAGUSTA – SALAMIS

Crossing the "Green Line" we head eastwards to the historical town of Famagusta, once the island's most popular tourist destination. The Old Town, surrounded by one of the best preserved Venetian fortification in the Mediterranean, features plenty of medieval/renaissance buildings. Within the walls we visit the Cathedral of St. Nicholas (converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest and re-named Lala Mustafa Paşa Mosque). Our tour continues to the ancient city of Salamis. Here the Apostles Barnabas and Paul, arriving from the Holy Land, began their journey together to spread the Gospel through Cyprus and Asia Minor. Just opposite, the Monastery of St. Barnabas was founded on the site of the apostle Barnabas, who was born in Salamis, as a reminder of the important role Cyprus played in the history of Christianity in the Mediterranean. On our way back we drive along the infamous "Ghost City", the once touristic pride of Famagusta which has become inaccessible since 1974.

## > DAY 6 | ST ILARION - BELLAPAI - KYRENIA – SANTA SOFIA

Crossing the "Green Line" in Nicosia, we drive up to the St. Hilarion Castle, on the Kyrenia mountains range. It was originally a monastery, named after a monk who allegedly chose the site for his hermitage, with a monastery and a church built there in the 10th century. Under the Byzantines it became one of the island strongholds against the Arab pirates attacking the coast. During the Lusignan period, together with Kantara and Bufavento castles, represented the defensive line to shelter the Crusaders. We stop then at the Bellapais Abbey, a fine example of Gothic architecture of the Lusignan period. The abbey comprises of a church, refectory, dormitory and storage rooms grouped around an inner courtyard. Finally we reach the picturesque coastal town of Kyrenia. Strolling down its harbour we visit the Kyrenia Castle, built in the 16th century by the Venetians over a previous Crusader fortification. Arriving to Nicosia we head to the Selimiye Mosque, originally the Roman Catholic cathedral of Agia Sophia, a fine example of Gothic style with its monumental door and carved façade.

## > DAY 7 | TROODOS: BYZANTINE CHURCHES

Today we head up to the Troodos Mountains. Driving through orchards and vineyards we reach the Church of Agios Nicolao tis Stegis. It is covered entirely in wall paintings dating from 11th to the 17th centuries and is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island. We proceed to Galata village and visit Panagia Tis Pothithou church. Next stop at Panagia Tis Asinou Church, in Nikitari village, one of the ten UNESCO World Heritage churches on the Troodos. Built in a pine-clad area, it has some of the finest examples of Byzantine wall painting on the island.

## > DAY 8 | KOURIUN – KOLOSSI – APOLLO YLATIS – OMODOS

Driving along the coast we head to the prominent archaeological site of Kourion. It is home of a magnificent Greco-Roman Theatre, stately villas and an early Christian Basilica with a baptistery attached to the north face, dating to the 5th century, which probably was the Cathedral of this city kingdom. Then we reach Kolossi and step into its medieval fortress, a fine example of military architecture. Of strategic importance, it was a Crusaders stronghold. As per 1291, It served as the Grand Commandery of the Knights of the order of St. John of Jerusalem. Next stop at the Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates, one of the main religious centers of ancient Cyprus, where Apollo was worshipped as god of the woodlands and protector of the city of Kourion. Finally, we reach Omodos, a beautiful village renowned for its wine. Strolling down its cobblestone street we visit the Monastery of Stavros (Holy Cross).

## > DAY 9 | DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport



# Russia step of Orthodox

8 days /7 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO RUSSIA

## > DAY 2 | ARRIVE IN MOSCOW

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Welcome dinner in the evening.

## > DAY 3 | MOSCOW

Moscow, one of the largest cities in the world, is the symbolic heart and soul of the country. Sightseeing begins at the Red Square, dominated by St. Basil's Cathedral and by the massive red walls of the Kremlin. Visit the Armory Museum; proceed to see the Moscow University and the popular Arbat shopping district. Continue with a drive along the wide boulevards and then stroll through GUM, Russia's largest department store. Rest of the day is at leisure. You may take part in an optional tour by night of Moscow and its subway.

## > DAY 4 | TVER AND NOVGOROD

After an early breakfast, depart for Tver, an ancient trading port nestled on the banks of the Volga River. The city offers fascinating treasures, including Putevoy Dvoretz, built for Catherine II as a resting place on her journeys from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Enjoy a short sightseeing tour of this remarkable city. End the day in historic Novgorod, founded almost twelve centuries ago.

## > DAY 5 | ST. PETERSBURG

A morning sightseeing tour of Novgorod starts at the Kremlin with a visit to **St. Sophia Cathedral**. Then, cross the river via a pedestrian bridge to visit the Yaroslav Court. In the afternoon, travel north to St. Petersburg, the former capital of the Romanov Czars. Upon arrival first enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city starting with the visit of Peter and Paul Fortress, quarter of the City museum and its cathedral, which houses the crypt of the Russian emperors. Next, visit **St. Isaac's Cathedral**.

## > DAY 6 | ST. PETERSBURG

There are not many cities in the world that can match the grace of St. Petersburg. When Peter the Great founded the city in 1703, he hired Europe's best architects, craftsmen and artists to build and decorate it. Spread over 100 islands linked by over 600 bridges, it is often referred to as "Venice of the North". This morning sightseeing tour will feature highlight: the world-famous Hermitage, which houses many treasures from the Czarist era. The rest of the day is at leisure. An optional tour to visit Petrodvorets, Peter the Great's Summer Palace, will be available. In the evening you may take part in an optional tour featuring a folklore performance.

## > DAY 7 | ST. PETERSBURG

Free day for shopping or individual activities. An optional tour to visit private palace & park of Catherine's Palace in Pushkin, will be available.

## > DAY 8 | DEPART ST. PETERSBURG

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departure flight.





# Tour in Israel

8 days / 7 nights



## > DAY 1 | TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Arrive to Israel Ben-Gurion international airport meet our representative and be transferred to the hotel in Tel Aviv. You can book your own flights or use our local air ticket agents.

## > DAY 2 | TEL AVIV / SEA OF GALILEE / TIBERIAS (TIBERIUS)

After breakfast drive for a brief visit of the old city of Jaffa (Joppa – where Jonah took to ship to meet the whale). Take a short walking tour in picturesque alleys of the old, fortified town and marvel at the views from the hill top. Then drive north along the coast to the archaeological site of the port of Caesarea, built by King Herod in honor of Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. Continue to Haifa, for a sightseeing tour including the Bahai Shrine-Persian Garden and Mount Carmel with a panoramic view of the city. Drive to Megiddo - the “Armageddon” of the Book of Revelation. After exploring the fascinating archaeological remains of this ancient city drive towards the Sea of Galilee skirting Mt. Tabor to arrive at Tiberias and check-in to your hotel.

## > DAY 3 | SEA OF GALILEE AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

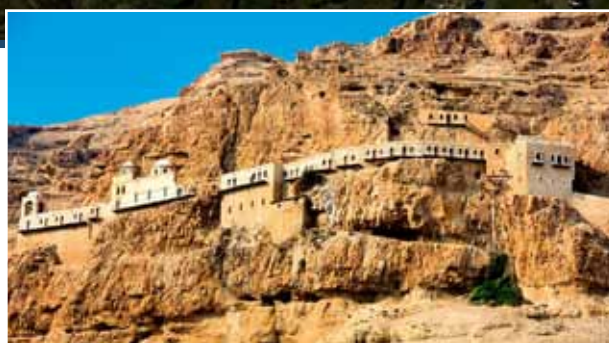
Visit historic Tiberias, drive along the coast of the Sea of Galilee to visit Capernaum and Tabgha, then drive up to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. optional short cruise on the lake for a visit the ancient Jesus boat museum near kibbutz Nof Ginoshar. Ascend to the rugged plateau of the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of the peaks of Mt. Hermon and the green pastoral Huleh valley. Return to Tiberias for another lovely night in town.

## > DAY 4 | SEA OF GALILEE / JORDAN RIVER / JERUSALEM

This morning we travel to Kafar Cana to visit the Wedding Church where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. We proceed to Nazareth, to visit the Church of Annunciation. Continue through the Jordan Valley to the town of Beit Shean with its recently excavated amphitheater and the preserved remains of this beautiful Roman City which was partly destroyed in an earthquake. Then onwards to Jerusalem, to your hotel for overnight.

## > DAY 5 | DEAD SEA & MASADA

In the morning drive through the remarkable sometimes eerie Wilderness of Judea to the shores of the Dead Sea. Nearly 1,300 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on the earth's surface. En route we shall pass the site of the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We continue to Masada citadel which is situated on the top of an isolated cliff in the Judean Desert. the Masada was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001. Ascend by cable car to the Masada fortress on which King Herod built a luxurious palace and which later was the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their war against the Romans. Visit the excavations and marvel at the ancient ingenious water saving installations. Enjoy the breathtaking view of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea. Bring your swim suit. for a dip to float on the salty, mineral rich water will be



possible. Return to Jerusalem for overnight.

## > DAY 6 | JERUSALEM OLD CITY

Jerusalem occupies a unique place in the world. It is holy to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This day's tour starts on Mt. Scopus with a panoramic view of the city from the east. Then to the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane. Walk into the Old City to see and touch the Western Wall (Wailing wall), the only one remnant of the Second Temple. Walk the Way of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, to Calvary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, housing both the traditional site of Crucifixion and the Tomb of the Resurrection. Then turn southwest, just outside the Old City, visit Mount Zion, with the traditional tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. Return to hotel.

## > DAY 7 | JERUSALEM NEW CITY & BETHLEHEM

Visit “Yad Vashem” the official memorial commemorating the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. There's no denying that this is a heart-rending but mandatory experience. We pass by Mt. Herzl the national cemetery named for Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism. Then to Ein Karem a picturesque village known as the birthplace of John the Baptist. We then visit the Israel Museum which houses a detailed model of Jerusalem from the time of the Second Temple and the Shrine of the Book, that contains the Dead Sea Scrolls. Drive by the Knesset (House of Parliament) and the campus of the Hebrew University. Ongoing to visit Bethlehem to see Rachel Tomb and the Church of the Nativity. Back to Jerusalem for overnight.

Optional: A fascinating evening tour of the Western Wall Tunnels that reveal layers of Jerusalem's history.

## > DAY 8 | JERUSALEM

After breakfast free day in Jerusalem & transfer to the airport End of tour.



# Best of Israel and Jordan

12 days /11 nights



## > DAY 1 - 2 | FLIGHT TO JORDAN

Our life-changing journey begins this evening as we board our overnight flight to Jordan.

## > DAY 3 | ARRIVAL JORDAN

We arrive in Jordan and transfer to our lodging for the next two evenings in Amman. Enjoy dinner, retire to your room and be ready for an early departure in the morning.

## > DAY 4 | PETRA

Early this morning we turn southward toward the amazing mountain fortress of Petra. Begin the tour with a walk through the “Siq,” an immense crack in the Nubian sandstone, to the city of Petra carved out of the rose red rock. The Treasury, El Khazneh, is one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. We travel northward on the King’s Highway where to the west we view the hills bordering the Dead Sea. We overnight in Amman this evening.

## > DAY 5 | MT NEBO, MADABA, TEL AVIV

Our morning tour begins in the town of Madaba, the biblical Medeba. Madaba is best known for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics and at the Greek Orthodox Church of **St. George** we view the earliest surviving mosaic map of the Holy land. Crossing the Jordan River into Israel, we drive to Tel Aviv area with the remainder of the afternoon free. You may wish to take a devotional time with the sunset over the “Great Sea,” a time of prayer and thanks for the special blessings ahead, a prayer for the people of this land, and then enjoy a good night’s rest.

## > DAY 6 | CAESAREA, MEGIDDO & NAZARETH

After breakfast, we travel by private motor coach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We’ll see the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct, and then journey on to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Next we travel through the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the Armageddon Battlefield, where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization. We drive through the area of Cana and Nazareth. We will have dinner and overnight lodging for the next two nights in the Tiberias area on the Sea of Galilee.

## > DAY 7 | DAN, CAESAREA PHILIPPI, CAPERNAUM, MAGDALA, SEA OF GALILEE BOAT RIDE, MT. OF BEATITUDES

Following breakfast, our morning travels take us to two valuable northern sites. Dan is where the children of Israel fell to the depths of alternative sacrifice and Caesarea Philippi, the site of Peter’s Confession and pagan worship. We pass the possible site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes in Bethsaida and the Mount of the Beatitudes. Returning to Tiberias we then visit the ancient Fisherman Boat followed by a relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee. In Capernaum we view the excavations of the sea-side village and Peter’s home, followed by a visit to Magdala.

## > DAY 8 | JORDAN RIVER BAPTISM SITE, BETH SHEAN, & DEAD SEA

We begin our day with the opportunity to be baptized at the Jordan River Baptismal site. Next we travel southward to Beit-Shean/Scythopolis, the most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. We pass ancient Jericho and view from a distance this city famed as the oldest in the world. To the east of Jericho along the Jordan River Valley (Qeser El Yehud) is the Israeli side of Bethany Beyond the Jordan. In this area Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Our lodging for the evening is at the Dead Sea – the lowest place on earth. Spend time in the special spa and enjoy a dip in the Dead Sea for a relaxing float before dinner.

## > DAY 9 | MASADA, EIN GEDI, DEAD SEA SCROLLS, ABRAHAM’S TENT

Our day begins with a cable car ride to the mountain top fortress of Masada. Afterwards we proceed to Ein Gedi, “Spring of the Goat,” an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Next, we visit Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. This afternoon we will take part in the Genesis Land/Dinner in Abraham’s Tent. Our lodging for the next three nights will be in Jerusalem.

## > DAY 10 | AROUND JERUSALEM, BIBLE TIMES

On our way into the city we will visit the Wailing Wall and then the fascinating Rabbinical Tunnels leading us through the Second Temple era. We move on to the Judgment Hall of Pilate. This afternoon we visit the Southern Wall Excavations. 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. Those who wish may stay in the city marketplace for shopping, while others may choose to spend the remainder of the day surrounding the birth of Christ with a visit to Bethlehem.

## > DAY 11 | JESUS’ STEPS, LAST DAYS, WAY OF SUFFERING, GARDEN TOMB

Today we walk where Jesus walked; beginning the day with a panoramic view of the city, Mount Moriah and the Dome of the Rock from atop the Mount of Olives and then the Garden of Gethsemane. Passing by the Protestant Cemetery, we visit the “Upper Room” just outside the Zion Gate where the disciple whom Jesus loved laid his head on His breast and where later Thomas cried, “my Lord & my God.” While walking along the Via Dolorosa, we are reminded of His way of suffering along with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Our guide will explain the differing opinions on the route that Christ was led and the actual place of crucifixion and burial is a very interesting study. The climax of the day is the area of Golgotha (place of the skull) and the Garden Tomb, where we celebrate the resurrection with communion and a time of praise.

## > DAY 12 | HOME

A very early morning departure for the Tel Aviv Airport for our flight home-ward will allow for arrival home by early afternoon.



# Moldavia Monasteries

7 days / 6 nights



## > Day 1 | BUCHAREST

Fly at to Bucharest (Tarom Airlines). Overnight Bucharest.

## > Day 2 | BUCHAREST

Visit the National Art Museum with its comprehensive collection of 14th- to 20th-century Romanian art, Stavropoleos Church (1724), a harmonious blend of Renaissance and Baroque features, and the world famous Peasants Museum and its outdoor collection of village houses. Internal flight from Bucharest to Suceava. Drive to Gura Humorului. First of four nights in Gura Humorului.

## > Day 3 | HUMOR, RĂSCA, VORONET

The interior frescoes at the church at Humor (1530) are unsurpassed. Râșca (1540), located in a remote valley, is a charming working monastery and boasts a Ladder of St John on its South wall. Voronet Monastery (1488), considered by many to be the most splendid in Bucovina, offers a magnificent Last Judgement. Overnight Gura Humorului.

## > Day 4 | ARBORE, SUCEVIȚA, MOLDOVITSA.

Arbore's (1501) superbly executed frescoes on the western wall, with a notably green cast, contain scenes from the Lives of St Nicholas, St George and St Paraskeva. In bucolic surroundings, Sucevița (1595) with its beautifully preserved frescoes is the last of the great painted monasteries in Bucovina. Moldovitsa's (1532) remote position and fortifications have protected its frescoes from invaders and marauders alike. Overnight Gura Humorului.

## > Day 5 | DRAGOMIRNA, PUTNA

Dragomirna, now a community of nuns, was founded in 1608 by Anastasie Crimca whose legacy of writing and illumination can be seen in the museum. Putna, built between 1466 and 1481, is where Stefan the Great is buried; it still houses an active community of monks and its museum displays many priceless treasures including superb 16th-century embroideries and intricate ecclesiastical treasures. Overnight Gura Humorului.

## > Day 6 | LAȘI

Drive through Bucovina to explore Iași, the capital of the former Principality of Moldavia. The Church of the Three Hierarchs built by Basil the Wolf in the 17th century and its Cathedral which hosts the relics of St Paraskeva. Overnight Iași.

## > Day 7 | RETURN FLIGHT

Fly early morning via Bucharest.





# Best of Greece and Rome

11 days /10 nights



## > DAY 1 - 2 | DEPART - 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.

## > DAY 3 | CRUISING MYKONOS

We sail this morning from Athens to the quaint isle of Mykonos, called the island of windmills. Experience the waterfront lined and then stroll the charming walkways through a maze of whitewashed buildings before returning to the ship for dinner and evening entertainment.

## > DAY 4 | EPHEBUS AND PATMOS

Docking in Turkey, enjoy an optional tour of **Ephesus**, the city of the Bible and one of the largest restorations still in progress with miles of ancient treasures. Today you can still see the spectacular excavations of the major streets in this ancient city including the Agora, the Odeon, the Library, the marble-paved main Street, the Baths, Trajan's Fountain, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, and Temple of Hadrian. This afternoon we visit the Isle of **Patmos**, under statutory protection as a historic monument. Here we have a optional tour to see the fortified monastery of St. John and the cave claimed to be where John received the Revelation. Back on the ship, enjoy the Captain's dinner before settling in to your cabin for the night.

## > DAY 5 | CRETE AND SANTORINI

Crete is the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands. Take an optional tour to Heraklion and the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. This afternoon visit the island of Santorini which is perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. The town of Thira where white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques cling to steep cliffs, is accessible by foot path, cable-car or mule. You may choose to take an optional tour of sailing around an active volcano crater and swimming in the water heated by hot springs or enjoy this lovely island on foot. Again we return to the ship for dinner and evening entertainment.

## > DAY 6 | DISEMBARK CRUISE – CORINTH & MYCENAE

We disembark the cruise this morning and 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. The ruins of this important cultural center are fascinating as we walk along the stone path that the Apostle Paul walked. 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 we return east to Athens for check in at our hotel followed by dinner.

## > DAY 7 | ATHENS

Following breakfast this morning we tour Athens, the foundation of de-

mocracy. We visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and Erectheum before viewing Athens atop Mars Hill where Paul stood and preached the truth to the Gentile nation. Additional sites viewed during our panoramic bus tour are, 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.

## > DAY 8 | ARRIVE ROME

We fly from Athens to the Rome airport, and transfer to our lodging for the next three nights. This afternoon we will take a tour of the Catacombs where thousands of Christians were buried in a remarkable tiered series of galleries.

## > DAY 9 | FORUM, MAMERTINE, COLISEUM, OSTIA ANTICA

We begin our walking tour at the ancient Roman Forum, where our guide will divulge its secrets. We will visit the Arch of Titus which commemorated the sack of Jerusalem by Titus in AD 70. We will view the Mamertine Prison exterior, where tradition says the Apostle Paul was imprisoned. Next, we visit the Coliseum, where thousands of people and animals perished during gladiatorial games. The Coliseum first opened in AD 80 and within 100 days of its opening, 5000 wild beasts perished here. The slaughter of both humans and animals continued for three more centuries. Historians believe the Coliseum could hold between 40,000 and 80,000 people depending on how close the seating was. The floor has recently had a plank placed over the middle making it accessible for people to walk over the labyrinth of brick cells, ramps, and elevators used to transport animals and gladiators into the arena. Hear the stories of the games that have fascinated people for hundreds of years. We conclude our day at the ruins of Ostia Antica, which provides an excellent example of city life in classical times and the Ostian Gate, today called the Gate of St. Paul.

## > DAY 10 | VATICAN MUSEUMS, ST. PETER'S, SCALA SANTA, ABBEY OF THREE FOUNTAINS, ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALL

After breakfast you will begin a full day of sightseeing. First visit Vatican City where you will see the Basilica at St. Peter, the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museums with stunning works of art at every turn. After some free time for lunch, you will stop at The Abbey of the Three Fountains, the traditional site of Paul's martyrdom and the ancient street that he walked on. Next, visit the 4th century Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the site of Paul's tomb, and the Scala Santa, where Martin Luther made his stand against the practice of indulgences. This fascinating museum houses the Steps from Pilot's Judgment Hall in Jerusalem brought to Rome by Helena, the mother of Constantine. Additional sights include the Arches of Constantine and Titus, Circus Maximus and the beautiful marble monument called the Wedding Cake.

## > DAY 11 | HOME

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

# Croatia - Bosnia - Serbia - Greece

10 days / 9 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO CROATIA

### > DAY 2 | SPLIT

Upon arrival in Split you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Balance out the day at leisure.

### > DAY 3 | SPLIT / MOSTAR / SARAJEVO

Today we will depart towards Sarajevo. The city has been rebuilt after the bombings it suffered during the Bosnian war and is now included in UNESCO's World Heritage list. On the way we will visit the famous **Stari Most Bridge**, a 16th-century Ottoman bridge, designed by the great architect Mimar Hajrudin. Afterwards, we drive to **Sarajevo**, the small but vibrant capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twenty years after the end of a devastating war, the beautiful and interesting city of Sarajevo. Eastern and western occupiers filled the city with minarets, mosques, bazaars and coffee aromas. In the evening, perhaps enjoy a delicious meal in Bascarsija, Sarajevo's old bazaar, where you will find the local specialty called 'bosanski cevapi' (grilled minced meat mixed with mild spices).

### > DAY 4 | SARAJEVO / BELGRADE

This morning, after breakfast, we depart for Belgrade, the Serbian capital famous for its magnificent Orthodox churches and museums. In the evening, do not miss the chance to visit Skadarska Street in the bohemian quarter of Skadarlija to sample some authentic local food and enjoy the lively atmosphere, in a place where Orthodox churches vie for space next to fashionable nightclubs.

### > DAY 5 | BELGRADE

Today, we will visit the city's wide boulevards, its pretty squares and the lush, historic Kalemegdan Park, home to the Kalemegdan Fortress overlooking the Danube River for centuries

### > DAY 6 | BELGRADE TO SKOPJE

Departure for Skopje via Nis, Serbia's third largest city. After a sightseeing tour where we will visit the remnants of its Ottoman past, we will cross the border to FYROM and reach its capital, Skopje, in the afternoon.

### > DAY 7 | SKOPJE

This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the city's center, visiting the Kale Fortress and the Church of the Holy Savior, housing one of the finest samples of traditional walnut woodcarving, the Old Bazaar and the Stone Bridge.

### > DAY 8 | SKOPJE – OHRID - THESSALONIKI

Today we drive to Ohrid, the UNESCO world heritage site known as the 'Jerusalem of the Balkans' due to the large number of churches located in the area. The city is nestled on the shores of a large lake whose waters are world famous for their outstanding clarity. Discover Ohrid's highlights: The church of St. Sofia (11th century), the most eminent medieval monument of the country, full of magnificent Byzantine fresco paintings, and St. Clement Church, where you will see the famous icon of the Annunciation.

## > DAY 9 | THESSALONICA CITY TOUR / VERIA / VERGINA

After breakfast the trip continues with exploring the city of Thessalonica, where Paul preached the gospel in the second and third missionary journey. We will visit the Cathedral of St. Demetrius, the Protector Saint of the city, the Agora, the Church of Saint Sofia, the White Tower and the Byzantine fortress of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius starting at the Via Egnatia, once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire. Next stop will be Veria (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul. When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more "noble" Jewish community where he preached and created an important Church. This is where Paul met Sopatros (or Sosipatros), who would later become a valuable comrade who followed him on his return journey to Asia. We will visit the ancient synagogue where we will see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Then we will head to Vergina, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered as a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great.

## > DAY 10 | KALAMBAKA / METEORA / ATHENS

After breakfast drive to Kalambak. the trip continues with a visit the spectacular Meteora, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a mountainous region of stunning scenery. You will see hundred-year-old Byzantine monasteries on top of huge rocks, during the Middle Ages, first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. We will visit the most famous of them, which is now a popular museum, the Great Meteoron, to admire superb icons, old manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. We will continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 11 | SPLIT / MOSTAR / SARAJEVO

After breakfast we will go on a city tour to explore the city of Athens, including the Agora of Athens. Athens is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. We will visit the main points of interest in the city: the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentle Nation. After that, we will head toward ancient Corinth. It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and writing two of the epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. We will see the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's seat, the pillars, stairs, and the place of public worship, where Paul preached. All these visits will certainly enhance the understanding of Corinthians I and II. Before ending the tour and return to Athens, we will pass by the ancient Greek port of Cenchrea where Paul was during his second missionary journey and the ruin of the early Christian 5th Century basilica. Return to Athens, dinner and overnight.

## > DAY 12 | ATHENS AIRPORT

According to the schedule of your return flight you will be taken to the airport of Athens.



# Byzantine Turkey & Classical Greece

9 days / 8 nights



## > DAY 1 | FLIGHT TO TURKEY

## > DAY 2 | ARRIVAL ISTANBUL

Arrival at Istanbul Airport, meet with our representative and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight in Istanbul. Optional: Bosphorus Dinner Cruise.

## > DAY 3 | FULL DAY OLD ISTANBUL TOUR WITH BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN RELICS

Topkapi palace was the house of Sultans and family since Sultan controlled the empire from there. Topkapi palace transformed into a museum in 1924 and declared as World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985.

Grand Bazaar – Kapali Carsi (1461). It has 4.200 Shops, 65 huge streets and the first bank of WORLD that each day 500.000 people visit and 25.00 people work. Hagia Sophia: Magnificent structure which started building in 532 A.D. under the order of King Justinian. It is a Master church of Orthodox Christianity, following was converted into Catholic Church and into Mosque, then Ataturk (Founder of Turkish Republic) converted it into a Museum. Blue Mosque – Sultan Ahmet Cami. The cascading domes and six slender minarets of the Sultanahmet Mosque (better known as the “Blue Mosque”) dominate the skyline of Istanbul since the 17th century. Hippodrome of Constantinople – Sultanahmet Meydani. After the tour, return at the hotel and evening at leisure. Overnight in Istanbul.

## > DAY 4 | TRANSFER TO THESSALONIKI

After breakfast departure to Thessaloniki by bus, with several stops on the highway, late arrival at Thessaloniki and overnight.

## > DAYS 5 | CITY TOUR AND MUSEUMS OF THESSALONIKI

After breakfast, an experienced guide will lead you on a panoramic tour of the city of Thessaloniki, with luxury buses. We will visit the Arch of Galerius, Byzantine churches such as the Rotunda and St. Sophia, Egnatia, and Aristotelous Square. Our bus will climb to Castles and Ano Poli (old city), where another world with endless beauty unfolds. Following, we will visit the Byzantine Museum with its wonderful exhibits of the Macedonian and Byzantine Culture, the church of St. Demetrios and it's Crypt, and the White Tower, the city's emblem. In the afternoon we will continue our exploration of the city center, where we will visit many of the Byzantine period monuments, the most interesting of which are the churches of the Transfiguration, St. Catherine and others from the Late Byzantine period. We will also try to visit some newer churches with interesting new icons, frescoes and mosaics. Back to the hotel for dinner (optional) and overnight.

## > DAYS 6 | FULL DAY VERGINA

Morning departure from the hotel to Veria, to visit the archaeological site of Vergina. Accompanied by our guide (archaeologist), we will admire the royal tombs and the tomb of Philip II with the magnificent frescoes, which were discovered by Professor Manolis Andronikos in 1977 and are now an UNESCO site of World Heritage. Then we will watch a short video from the archaeological site and we will depart for the beautiful Veria, 12 km away from Vergina. Free time for lunch and we continue our tour to the ruins of



the ancient city of Veria, we will admire the local architecture preserved in the Kyriotissa neighborhood, will visit the Podium of Apostle Paul and the City Park. Late in the afternoon we depart for our hotel accommodation. Optional dinner.

## > DAY 7 | THESSALONIKI/METEORA

After breakfast, departure to Meteora, with several stops at the highway, arrival at Meteora and overnight.

## > DAY 8 | METEORA/ATHENS

Morning sightseeing tour of Athens. The striking contrast between breathtaking monuments of a glorious past and modern elegant structures, is what you will enjoy during your tour of Athens. We will visit the Acropolis, the crowning beauty and glory of Ancient Athens, with its many monuments atop its rocky base, including the awesome Parthenon, the Propylea, the temple of Athena Nike and the Erechtheion with the Caryatids terrace. We will drive before the Roman Temple of Olympic Zeus, the Panathinaic Stadium (site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896), the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament House, on Constitution Square. See views of government buildings and elegant structures of the 19th century. Drive along Panepistimiou Avenue and view the Catholic Cathedral, the Academy, the University, the National Library. In contrast, conclude your tour with a visit to the new Acropolis museum (closed on Monday's), a marvel of architecture with a full exhibition of the glory of Ancient Athens. Afternoon at leisure.

## > DAY 9 | ATHENS/ISTANBUL

Athens/Istanbul



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