



Shrines of Europe

Short Tour "On the Steps of Saint Paul"

With Greece and Turkey • 12 days 11 nights

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Day 01

Depart on an overnight overseas international flight, with dinner and breakfast on board.

Day 02 Athens.

Arrive in Athens, where your guide will meet you. Start your Athens city tour, as you depart from the airport. Admire the architectural miracles of ancient Athens as you follow your guide to the world renowned Acropolis, to see the Propylea, the Eretheum and the Parthenon. Visit Mars Hill, where Paul delivered his ingenious speech on the "Unknown God". View the Agora, the ancient centre of the economic and public life of the city, where Paul preached to the sceptical Athenians. During the bus tour, you see the Square of Constitution with the House of Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Temple of Zeus, the Old Olympic Stadium and the public neoclassical buildings of Athens. Transfer to the hotel. The afternoon is free. Dinner and overnight in Athens.



Day 03 Athens - Delphi - Thessalonica.



Buffet breakfast. Travel to scenic Delphi, one of the most beautiful places on the face of the earth, which in antiquity was believed to be the "navel" (omphalos) of the world. Walk on the Sacred Way to see the Athenian Treasury, the Temple of Apollo, where the oracle delivered her ambiguous

prophecies and the Theatre. Also, visit the Museum with its splendid collection of ancient works of art, including the Sphinx of the Naxians, the Silver Bull, the Column of the Dancers, the "Omphalos" and the pride of the museum, the 5th c. B.C. bronze "Charioteer". Continue to Thessalonica for dinner and overnight.

Day 04 Thessalonica - Amphipolis - Philippi - Kavala - Thessaloniki.

Buffet breakfast. Follow the route of the Via Egnatia and visit, like Paul and his companion, the area of Amphipolis, to see the famous funerary Lion of Amphipolis, and the site of Philippi. There, you visit the Baptistery of Lydia near the river, where Paul baptized her. Lydia was the first convert of Paul on European soil and the jailer



followed. Also, visit the ruins of the Forum of Philippi, the Christian Basilicas, the "Prison of Paul", and the Theatre. Drive to Kavala (Neapolis), a picturesque city-port and view the Byzantine Castle and the Roman Aqueduct. Return to Thessalonica for dinner and overnight.

Day 05 Thessaloniki - Veria - Athens.

Buffet breakfast. In the morning, drive to Veria, where you visit the Bema of the apostle Paul and return to Thessalonica to see the landmark of the city, the White Tower, the Walls of the Byzantine Acropolis, the Roman Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda. Visit two of the city's oldest and most admired Christian churches, the Basilicas of St. Demetrius and St. Sophia (Divine Wisdom). Continue to Athens, for dinner and overnight.

Day 06 Athens - Corinth - Piraeus - Patmos.

Buffet breakfast. In the morning begin your trip to Ancient Corinth. This is the once glorious city near the Isthmus, where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla and spent a year and a half working and preaching the Gospel. You 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 back to Athens to embark on the overnight ship to Patmos. Dinner on the ferry is included. Arrival in Patmos late at night for overnight at the hotel.



Day 07 Patmos.



Buffet breakfast. Your morning is free for exploration of the island. In the afternoon you 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. As you walk uphill towards the entrance of the monastery marvel at this magnificent structure, which was built 900 years ago. View the courtyard, the monks' dining room and the old bakery before you visit the main church noted for its outstanding frescoes



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and interior decoration. Next, visit the small museum where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles, vestments and jewellery are housed. Return to your Motorcoach 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. In the evening you will enjoy a dinner in a very nice traditional restaurant close to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel.

Day 08 Patmos - Kusadasi.

After your breakfast you will be transferred to the port of Patmos for your embarkation on your chartered ship for Kusadasi. Upon arrival to the harbour, at about 02.00 pm meeting of the group at the harbour of Kusadasi Harbour and immediate departure for the visit of the Saint John Basilica.



Under the central dome was the sacred grave of St. John. Pilgrims have believed that a fine dust from his grave has magical and curative powers. Drive up the hills to visit the House of Virgin Mary. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 09 Kusadasi - Ephesus - Izmir.

Buffet breakfast at the hotel and visit to Ephesus, which began as a port on the mouth of the Cayster river. It became one of the leading cities of the world, linking the western end of trade routes in Anatolia with the rest of the Mediterranean. Paul preached and taught in Ephesus for over two years. He had to leave Ephesus following the famous riot agitated by the Silversmith



Demetrius who was concerned that the advent of the new religion would hurt his trade selling silver statues of Artemis. Some authorities believe that following the riot St Paul was imprisoned in the so-called "Prison of St Paul" in Ephesus. Ephesus has been excavated for more than one hundred years; the extensive remains are predominantly from the later roman period. The city was also a cult centre attracting thousands of pilgrims for traditional worship of the great mother first known as Cybele and then as Artemis. You will visit Archaeological the site of Ephesus where you see the great theatre, Celsus library and the fabulous curetes street. Will proceed with the visit to the Archaeological museum. Drive to Izmir which is the third big city in Turkey and visit to Saint Policarp

Church which is the on of the seven churches of the Apocalypse, active also today. (A mass could be celebrated upon the reconfirmed appointment), Orientational tour of the city and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 10 Izmir - Pergamum - Istanbul.

Buffet Breakfast at the hotel followed by a departure to Pergamum, which was the site of one of the Seven Churches, Saint John mention in his revelation. He calls the city the throne of the devil. It is possible that the city had strong pagan cults. The famous Altar of Zeus, Trajan's temple, temple of Isis and Serapis and Temple of Athena were located here. The city boasted an outstanding library that rivalled in importance that of Alexandria and a famous school of sculpture. You will visit Acropolis where there is great Hellenistic theatre and the Trajan's temple. Also visit Asclepion which was a sanctuary and a healing centre, built in the name of the god of healing, Asclepion. We will to Istanbul via Yalova using a regular ferry to cross the Marmara Sea. Late afternoon arrival to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



the largest imperial church in the city. See the Hippodrome, the former centre of sports and political activities of old Constantinople. In the afternoon the guided tour will take you to the Imperial Palace, the Topkapi. Residence of the Ottoman Sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries it contains a world's richest porcelain collection of the Ming dynasty of China, as well as the imperial treasury, the "Spoon maker" diamond, an exciting discovery, unique to Istanbul. The visit of the Harem section of the Palace lacking sufficient time. We will then drive to the Grand Bazaar. It is an old covered construction, a real historical part of Istanbul and has more than 4000 shops for you to look and shop. Hard bargaining is mandatory. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 11 Istanbul.



After breakfast at the hotel, guest will depart from the hotel for a full day sightseeing tour. First stop will be the Blue Mosque, the most famous monument in both the Turkish and Islamic world and the only mosque with 6 minarets. The famous Iznik tiles decorate the interior. Then visit Saint Sophia Museum built between 325-360 A.D.

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Day 12 Istanbul.

In due time, after breakfast, transfer to Istanbul airport. Your tour escort bids you good by. End of GSA services.

Services included:

- Transportation by private 46 seater motor coaches, air-conditioned, reclining seats, in Greece and Turkey. A local bus will be used for the tours in Patmos.
- When needed, the driver's food, accommodation and wages.
- When needed, the tour guide's food, accommodation and wages.
- Fully escorted by tour host-guides in Greece, Athens to Patmos and Kusadasi to Istanbul.
- All entrance fees in Greece and Turkey, as per itinerary.
- Four stars hotels through out the tour with exception of Patmos where a good 3 Stars Hotel will be available. Hotels to be used, or similar:
 - Athens Hotel TITANIA www.hoteltitania.gr
 - Thessalonica Hotel CAPSIS www.capsis.gr
 - Patmos Hotel EFFIE www.effiehotel.gr
 - Kusadasi PINE BAY MARINA HOTEL www.pinebay.com
 - Izmir KAYA PRESTIGE HOTEL www.kayaprestigehotel.com
 - Istanbul KENT HOTEL www.istanbukenthotel.com
- Half-board arrangements throughout the tour, including the dinner on the ferry on the way to Patmos.
- Deck chairs on the Ferry Piraeus to Patmos.
- A chartered boat for the transfer Patmos to Kusadasi.
- Baggage handling in and out of Airports, at the seaport of Piraeus, Patmos and Kusadasi and at all the hotels used for this tour.
- Port tax on arrival at Kusadasi pier.
- Turkish visa

Services available, with a supplement:

- Lunches.
- Beverages at meals.

Services not included:

- Tip to the two drivers and the Tour Escorts.
- Whatever not mentioned in this itinerary.



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