



Footsteps of Saint Paul in Greece: Thessaloniki to Athens

11 days | 15 days with Greek Islands Cruise & Athens extension

In the first century A.D., Paul the Apostle journeyed through modern-day Greece on a mission to bring Christianity to the country's people. On this sweeping tour through the Mediterranean country, you'll retrace his historic route. Highlights include Thessaloniki's Vlatadon Monastery, where he preached the divine word, and the Areopagus in Athens, where he delivered one of his most famous sermons.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Vlatadon Monastery
- Royal Tombs at Vergina
- Meteora monasteries
- Temple of Apollo
- Ancient Corinth
- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Areopagus

Tour pace

You will walk for at least 2 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel Day

Board your overnight flight to Thessaloniki today.

Thessaloniki → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Thessaloniki

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Greece! Get to know your Tour Director and fellow group members at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Thessaloniki

Included meals: breakfast

Visit the places Paul the Apostle lived and preached, along with other historic sites in the city, on a guided tour of Thessaloniki.

- View the Arch of Galerius, a monument commissioned by Roman Emperor Galerius in the fourth century as part of an imperial complex.
- Marvel at protective walls constructed around the city during the early third century.
- Follow the seaside promenade to the White Tower of Thessaloniki, a symbol of the city that has served as a defensive fort, a prison, and a WWI communication center and now houses a museum.
- Enter the Vlatadon Monastery, where Paul the Apostle preached the divine word to the Thessalonians.
- Head to the Brotherhood of Men of Thessaloniki Park, a pilgrimage site where Paul the Apostle is said to have stopped for a drink from a spring that's now known as Apostle Paul's Holy water.

Spend a free afternoon in the city or add an excursion.

+ Thessaloniki Wine Tasting & Lunch

Day 4: Free day in Thessaloniki

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Thessaloniki or add an excursion.

+ A Day in Kavala & Philippi

Meteora Region → 1 night

Day 5: Meteora Region via Veria & Vergina

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Transfer to the ancient cities of Veria and Vergina this morning.

- Start in Veria, where you'll pay a visit to Saint Paul's Tribune, where he preached Christianity at least twice during his lifetime.
- See its impressive murals up close, and learn why it's considered a universal monument of religious and cultural heritage.
- View the remnants of the Jewish Quarter on the terraced foothills of Mount Vernon.
- Visit the Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai and explore the remains of the royal palace at the archaeological museum of Vergina.

Continue to the Meteora region and sit down for an included dinner.

Delphi → 1 night

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of the Meteora Region & transfer to Delphi

Included meals: breakfast

Today, take a guided walking tour of the Meteora monasteries.

- Enter two monasteries, such as the Monastery of Roussanou, the Monastery of Agios Stefanos, or the Monastery of Varlaam.
- Hike up to the monasteries to admire views from 1,000-foot-high pinnacle rocks.
- Meet with local nuns for a chat about the traditions and faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- Learn more about this branch of Christianity, the nuns' lives, and the work they take part in at the monasteries.

This afternoon, transfer through scenic mountain terrain to Delphi. Enjoy a free evening or add an excursion.

+ Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

Nafplio → 2 nights

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Delphi & transfer to Nafplio

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and visit the Archaeological Site of Delphi. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delphi was believed by ancient Greeks to be the Navel of the Earth and a spiritual focal point for all Greeks.

- Embark on a guided tour featuring the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god Apollo once spoke in prophecy to mortals through the voice of the oracle and high priestess Pythia.
- Take time to explore the ancient treasures at the Delphi Museum, including the life-size bronze statue named the *Charioteer of Delphi*.

Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain and hills.

Make your way to the seaside town of Nafplio and explore the charming locale with your Tour Director.

- Stroll through Syntagma Square.
- Soak in the beautiful views of the port and the hilltop Palamidi Fortress.

This evening, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

Day 8: Free day in Nafplio

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Nafplio or add an excursion.
+ Ancient Ruins of Epidaurus & Mycenae

Athens → 2 nights

Day 9: Athens via Ancient Corinth

Included meals: breakfast

Travel to the Greek capital, Athens, making a stop to explore Ancient Corinth on a guided tour.

- See the Agora, where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, and the Bema, where Paul was brought before the tribunal, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.
- Snap a photo of the impressive Corinth Canal, which separates the Peloponnese peninsula from mainland Greece.

Then, continue to Athens.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Athens

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Set out with your local guide to discover highlights of this bustling, ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Make stops at the Olympic Stadium, Syntagma Square, and the Arch of Hadrian.
- View the sixth-century Temple of Zeus.
- See the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Hellenic Parliament, and drive through the Plaka district.
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion.
- Drive to Areopagus Hill just northwest of the Acropolis.
- Choose to climb to the top of the hill where Paul the Apostle gave his sermon in 51 A.D. and take in sweeping views of the city.

Later, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to explore the Greek Islands and Turkey.

+ Greek Islands Cruise & Athens extension

Continue along Saint Paul’s route with a cruise to historical—and scenic—sites throughout the Aegean Sea. Board your vessel in Athens, then sail to your first port of call, sun-soaked Mykonos. From there, you’ll cruise to the ancient Turkish city of Ephesus, which Saint Paul once called home. Next, sail to the Greek island of Patmos to explore the Cave of the Apocalypse, inside of which an exiled St. John is said to have written the Book of Revelation of the New Testament. Fascinating archaeological sites and charming villages await on the islands of Crete and Santorini, your final two ports of call. End your tour back in Athens, where you can while away one last afternoon exploring the city’s ancient archaeological treasures before returning home.

Greek Islands Cruise → 3 nights

Day 11: Cruise embarkation & Mykonos

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Board your ship, get settled in your stateroom, and enjoy an included lunch as you sail to Mykonos for a day on the iconic island.

- Disembark on Mykonos and join your Tour Director for a walk through the island’s charming Old Town.
- See the island’s iconic windmills, Little Venice neighborhood, and Church of Panagia Paraportiani.
- Enjoy free time to explore the labyrinthine alleys.
- Return to the ship this evening and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 12: Kusadasi & Patmos

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Spend the day visiting Kusadasi, Turkey, and Patmos, Greece.

- Disembark in Kusadasi and set off on a guided sightseeing tour of Ephesus, one of the Mediterranean’s best-preserved ancient cities.
- Learn about Ephesus’ first Christian congregation, which was established by Saint John and expanded by Saint Paul.
- Discover many of the city’s UNESCO-listed sites, such as the Library of Celsus, the Odeon Theater, and the House of the Virgin Mary.
- Return to the ship and enjoy an included lunch as you sail on to Patmos, Greece.
- Spend free time on the island, where it’s said St. John penned the Book of Revelations of the New Testament while in exile.
- Visit the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and enter the Cave of the Apocalypse, where Saint John had visions later documented in the Book of Revelations.
- Return to the ship this evening and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 13: Heraklion & Santorini

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Continue sailing along the Aegean Sea and visit two ports of call today.

- Disembark on Crete for free time or book an excursion to visit the ruins of Knossos, where, according to myth, King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth.
- Head back to the ship and enjoy an included lunch before continuing on to Santorini.
- Enjoy free time to visit the iconic hilltop villages of Thira and Oia.
- Return to the ship and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Athens → 1 night

Day 14: Disembarkation in Athens

Included meals: breakfast

Disembark your cruise in Athens. Then, spend a free afternoon in the city or add an excursion.

+ Greek Tavern Evening

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/FPS | 1-800-597-0350

Day 3: Thessaloniki Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$85/\$95* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon, includes dinner)

This afternoon, head south to the Epanomi wine region and visit the Ktima Geroassiliou winery. Join your guide on a walk through the vineyard to learn about the harvest process and to spot bunches of Malagousia and Assyrtiko grapes that are used to create the winery's signature red and white Epanomi wines. Then, tour the production area to see first-hand how freshly picked grapes are turned into wine. After your visit, head to a local restaurant for a traditional Macedonian lunch.

Day 4: A Day in Kavala & Philippi

\$89/\$99* (10 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Make your way through three ancient cities, where you'll learn about Paul the Apostle from a local guide. In Kavala, visit the city's namesake castle and impressive aqueduct, as well as Saint Nicholas church, where you can get a close-up look at an elaborate mosaic that depicts Saint Paul's travels in the city. Then, head to the ancient city of Philippi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home of Europe's first Christian church. In Philippi, Saint Paul established a congregation, members of which he famously addressed in a letter known as the Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Philippians. Philippi landmarks you'll explore include the city's forum, the Baptistery of St. Lydia, and an open-air archaeological museum. Enjoy an included lunch before returning to your hotel in Thessaloniki.

Day 6: Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

\$79/\$89* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This evening, visit Arachova, a picturesque town at the foot of Mount Parnassus. Begin with a visit to the Convent of the Prophet Elias, an abbey that dates back to the 11th century. Examine its ornate Greek ecclesiastical wood carvings, then head back into town. The evening is yours to explore Arachova, stroll its cobblestone streets, and admire its Byzantine churches before capping the day with a traditional Greek dinner at a village restaurant.

Day 8: Ancient Ruins of Epidaurus & Mycenae

\$85/\$95* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Explore the landmarks of Epidaurus and Mycenae on guided sightseeing tours. In Epidaurus, discover Greece's best-preserved open-air theater, which dates back to the end of the 4th century B.C. Then, in Mycenae, explore the mysterious, beehive-shaped Treasury of Atreus, and pass through the magnificent Lion Gate, one of the oldest monumental sculptures in Europe and the burial ground of Agamemnon and his followers.

Extension excursion options

Day 14: Greek Tavern Evening

\$75/\$85* (3 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Spend the evening at a lively, local tavern enjoying a dinner of traditional Greek dishes, such as grilled meats (a.k.a. souvlaki) and octopus, stuffed grape leaves (dolmades), feta, various dips and spreads, and fresh salads.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms