THE FOOTSTEPS OF

St. Paul in Greece

A Journey Through the Biblical World of the Apostle

October 11 - October 21 Greece & Turkey

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." — Romans 1:16

DAY	DATE	DESTINATION
1–2	Oct 11-12	Thessaloniki — Arrival, Roman Forum, Kavala
2	Oct 12	Philippi — Ancient Site & Baptistery of Lydia
3	Oct 13	Pella · Vergina · Meteora · Kalambaka
4	Oct 14	Meteora · Delphi — Temple of Apollo · Athens
5	Oct 15	Athens — Agora · Mars Hill · Acropolis
6	Oct 16	Acro-Corinth · Ancient Corinth
7–10	Oct 17-20	Cruise — Mykonos · Crete · Santorini · Rhodes · Ephesus
11	Oct 21	Return Home — Athens Airport

DAY 1-2 · OCTOBER 11-12

Thessaloniki

Where Paul Preached in the Synagogue

Thessaloniki — Greece's vibrant second city and ancient gateway to the north — holds a central place in the story of early Christianity. The Apostle Paul arrived here on his Second Missionary Journey, around AD 49–50, after being released from prison in Philippi. He entered the Jewish synagogue and, for three Sabbaths, reasoned with the congregation from the Scriptures, proclaiming that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. His preaching sparked both faith and fierce opposition, and he was forced to leave under the cover of night — yet the church he planted here grew into one of the most beloved communities in the New Testament. Paul's deep affection for the Thessalonians is evident in the warmth of his letters to them. Explore the magnificent Roman Forum at the heart of the ancient city, stroll the Byzantine walls, and visit the iconic White Tower overlooking the Aegean. Thessaloniki is a city where ancient stones still echo with the footsteps of the Apostle.

Acts 17:1–4

"When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures."

1 Thessalonians 1:2–3

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love..."

DAY 2 · OCTOBER 12

Kavala / Neapolis & Philippi

Europe's First Christian Baptism

Kavala — ancient Neapolis — was the very port where Paul first set foot on European soil. In a dream, a Macedonian man had appeared to him saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us,' and Paul obeyed without hesitation. Landing at Neapolis, he journeyed inland to Philippi, a leading Roman colony and the site of one of the most tender stories in Acts: the conversion of Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from Thyatira. By the riverside, where Jewish worshippers gathered for prayer, Paul spoke to the women assembled there, and Lydia's heart was opened by the Lord. She was baptized, along with her household, and immediately offered her home to Paul and his companions — becoming the first recorded Christian convert in Europe. The ancient site of Philippi preserves the ruins of the Roman forum, an early basilica, and the traditional Baptistery of Lydia beside the Gangites River. Stand at the water's edge and imagine that extraordinary moment when the gospel crossed from Asia into Europe.

Acts 16:9–10

"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia."

Acts 16:14–15

"One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia... The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home."

DAY 3 · OCTOBER 13

Meteora & Kalambaka

Monasteries in the Clouds

Meteora — whose name means 'suspended in the air' — is one of the most breathtaking landscapes on earth. Towering rock pillars rise dramatically from the Thessalian plain, and perched atop them, seemingly defying gravity, are ancient Eastern Orthodox monasteries that have stood for centuries as places of prayer, solitude, and devotion. Monks first began climbing these pinnacles in the 11th century, drawn by the perfect solitude they offered, and by the 14th and 15th centuries, a flourishing monastic community had taken root in the clouds. Though Meteora is not directly referenced in Paul's journeys, it stands as a powerful testament to the enduring Christian faith that Paul's ministry helped ignite across Greece. The monasteries house priceless Byzantine frescoes, manuscripts, and icons. Also visit nearby Pella — birthplace of Alexander the Great — and Vergina, where the Royal Tombs of Philip II of Macedon were discovered, offering a stunning window into the Hellenistic world that formed the backdrop of Paul's entire mission.

Psalm 121:1–2

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Matthew 17:20

"...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

DAY 4 · OCTOBER 14

Delphi

The Navel of the Ancient World

Perched on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, Delphi was considered by the ancient Greeks to be the very center of the world — the 'omphalos,' or navel of the earth. For centuries, the Oracle of Delphi drew kings, generals, and pilgrims from across the Mediterranean, seeking prophetic guidance in the sanctuary of Apollo. The Sacred Way winds upward past treasuries and votive offerings to the magnificent Temple of Apollo, where the famous inscription 'Know Thyself' once greeted visitors. Paul's world was deeply shaped by this Greek religious culture. His famous sermon on the Areopagus in Athens — where he quoted Greek poets and philosophers — shows how masterfully he engaged with Hellenistic thought to proclaim the one true God. At Delphi, we are reminded that the world Paul entered was steeped in oracles, temples, and the desperate human search for truth. The gospel he carried offered something no oracle ever could: not mystery and riddle, but the living Word made flesh. Visit the Temple of Apollo, the ancient Stadium, and the remarkable Delphi Museum.

Acts 17:22–23

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious... I am going to proclaim to you the God you worship without knowing.'"

1 Corinthians 1:22–24

"Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

DAY 5 · OCTOBER 15

Athens

Paul at Mars Hill — The Unknown God

Athens — cradle of democracy, philosophy, and Western civilization — was the intellectual capital of the ancient world when Paul arrived here, likely around AD 50. Walking through the city, he was deeply troubled by the multitude of idols filling every street and square. He debated daily in the marketplace — the Agora — with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers, who were so intrigued they brought him to the Areopagus, the famous hill of Ares (Mars Hill), to hear his ideas more formally. There, in one of the most remarkable speeches in the New Testament, Paul stood before Athens' leading thinkers and declared that the 'Unknown God' they worshipped in ignorance was in fact the Creator of heaven and earth, who now commanded all people everywhere to repent. Some mocked, but others believed — including Dionysius the Areopagite. Walk the ancient Agora where Paul reasoned with the crowds, stand on the rock of the Areopagus where he delivered his famous address, and gaze up at the magnificent Acropolis — the Parthenon towering above the city just as it did when Paul walked its streets.

Acts 17:16
"While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols."

Acts 17:24–25
"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."

Acts 17:34
"Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus."

DAY 6 · OCTOBER 16

Corinth

Eighteen Months with the Corinthians

Of all the cities Paul visited, Corinth may be the one where he invested the most time — a full eighteen months, longer than anywhere else on his Second Missionary Journey. Corinth was a sprawling, cosmopolitan port city, renowned for its wealth, its strategic location between two seas, and its moral reputation as one of the most permissive cities in the Roman world. It was precisely here that Paul came not with 'eloquence or human wisdom,' but resolved to know nothing except 'Jesus Christ and him crucified.' He lived and worked here as a tentmaker alongside Priscilla and Aquila, preached in the synagogue, and when opposition arose, crossed to the house of Titius Justus next door. The Lord encouraged him in a vision: 'Do not be afraid... for I have many people in this city.' The church Paul built here was large, diverse, and — as his letters reveal — wonderfully messy and deeply beloved. Visit the ruins of ancient Corinth, see the Bema — the judgment seat where Paul was brought before Gallio — and take in the dramatic views from towering Acro-Corinth above.

Acts 18:1–3

"After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus... Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them."

Acts 18:9–10

"One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you... because I have many people in this city.'"

1 Corinthians 2:1–2

"When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom... For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

DAYS 7-10 · OCTOBER 17-20

Greek Islands & Ephesus

Sailing the Apostolic Sea

The Aegean Sea was Paul's highway. He crossed and re-crossed these shimmering waters throughout his three missionary journeys, and many of the islands and coastal cities of this region figure prominently in the story of the early church. Mykonos, with its dazzling whitewashed beauty, recalls the simple faith of island communities that embraced the gospel. Santorini's breathtaking caldera reminds us of God's power in creation. The island of Crete is mentioned in Acts 27, when Paul sailed past it as a prisoner en route to Rome, and Paul later wrote to Titus, whom he had left there to 'straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town.' The crown jewel of this sailing journey is Ephesus — the great Roman city on the coast of modern Turkey, where Paul spent three extraordinary years. He lectured daily in the Hall of Tyrannus, performed miracles, and saw the gospel spread through the entire province of Asia. Walk the magnificent marble streets of Ephesus — the Library of Celsus, the Great Theatre, the Temple of Artemis site — and feel the power of what one man's faith accomplished.

Titus 1:5

"The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you."

Acts 19:8–10

"Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months... He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord."