

12
DAYS

2020

Journey of St Paul

The Acts of the Apostles come alive as we join St Paul and his companions in the places of his Second Missionary Journey and rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. Rekindle our passion for the Gospels as we capture afresh the fervour and spirit of the Church's greatest Evangelist.

COMMENCES TUE 12TH OCT 2020 • 11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Istanbul & Gallipoli Pre-Tour Option. Athens (2) • Epidaurus • Corinth (1) • Hosios Loukas • Meteora (2) • Berea • Kavala (1) • Philippi • Thessaloniki (1) • Aegean Cruise (4): Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini. Malta Post-Tour Option.



**DEACON HAROLD
BURKE-SIVERS**



PREVIOUSLY: ST PAUL & THE EARLY CHURCH

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



HOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Optional 3-Night Istanbul & Gallipoli Pre-tour.
Athens (2) • Epidaurus • Corinth (1) • Hosios Loukas • Meteora (2) • Berea • Kavala (1) • Philippi • Thessaloniki (1) • Aegean Cruise (4): Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini.
Option 3-Night St Paul in Malta Post-tour.

pilgrim highlights

- + Visit several sites of St Paul's Second Missionary Journey through land and sea along the pages of Acts chapters 16-18.
- + Stand in the very places of St Paul's preaching and prayerfully explore the preserved ruins of Ancient Corinth, Philippi and Thessaloniki.
- + Marvel at the living Byzantine Monasteries of Meteora spectacularly suspended atop rocky pinnacles and still occupied by hermits since the 11th century.
- + Spiritually themed focus on the trials and triumphs of Paul & the various people groups and communities of the early church.
- + An intriguing stay in Corinth beside the ancient port of Cenchræe where St Paul embarked frequently on Mission.
- + Enjoy a breathtaking 3-night Aegean cruise through the idyllic beauty of the Greek islands in the footsteps of St Paul.
- + Explore the wonders of Ephesus where St Paul lived and preached for more than three years.

SYMBOLS

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

Ⓣ = Time Out - Planned site for extended opportunity for prayer & reflection

DAY 1: MON 12 OCT 2020 - ARRIVE ATHENS

Athens today is the thriving capital of Greece, but, more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys.

Athens overnight (D)

DAY 2: TUE 13 OCT - ATHENS

The Athenians - Paul came to teach the philosophers that there is in fact a God who is real and can be known!

We begin our pilgrimage with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the Acropolis, the Areopagus and the **Ancient Agora**, Ⓣ where Paul preached about Jesus and the resurrection.

Later we will come to the **New Acropolis Museum** with its celebrated exhibition of Greek antiquities and statues which vividly illustrate the myriad of pagan Gods Paul was battling against. After a rest back at our hotel we will enter the lively Plaka district to dine this evening at a typical **Greek Taverna** with live Athenian music and atmosphere.

Mass Setting: St Denis Cathedral.

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 3: WED 14 OCT - CORINTH

The Corinthians - It was here the Lord spoke to Paul and told him to 'speak ... no one will attack you' (Acts 18:9-10); many were baptized and came to believe.

Set out towards Corinth today as we firstly come to the world renowned **Olive Grove of the Nikolaou Family** dating back to 1833. Learn more about the ancient tradition of olive oil production techniques going back centuries.

Onwards to the great ancient outdoor theatre of **Epidaurus** where we will marvel at the architectural symmetry of this 4th Century BC structure built by the architect Polykleitos.

Enjoy our afternoon exploring **Ancient Corinth**, Ⓣ where Paul lived for two years as a tentmaker. Visit here the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the Rostrum. See the **Peirene fountain**, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting.

We retire this afternoon to our hotel adjacent to the ancient **Port of Cenchræe** where St Paul set

sail for Syria after making a personal vow and shaving his head. (Acts 18:18)

Mass Setting: Outdoors in Ancient Corinth. Corinth overnight (BD)

DAY 4: THU 15 OCT - VIA HOSIOS LOUKAS TO METEORA

We travel north today to spend time at the remarkable **Byzantine Monastery of Hosios Loukas**, built in the 10th century on the slopes of Mt Helikon and overlooking a picturesque valley teeming with olive trees. In 1990 UNESCO included this site on their World Heritage List. On arrival we will celebrate an outdoor Mass here in the grounds of the walled Monastery before being taken on a guided tour of the **Churches, crypt and surrounds** where we admire the amazing frescoes and mosaics with their characteristic gold background dating back to the 11th Century Ⓣ.

We continue north this afternoon to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**.

Mass Setting: Hosios Loukas Monastery.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

"It just brought scripture alive to me. I'm not a holy roller but I could sit there and really appreciate the scriptures, more than I'd ever done in my life!"
— Helen Dingle

DAY 5: FRI 16 OCT - METEORA EXPLORATION

The Monastics - The Meteora monasteries were inspired by the monks' love of God and a life striving to become open to the Fathers heart through monastic life and asceticism.

We spend some time today marveling at this unique phenomenon of nature - 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their cave-like Monastic community of **Meteora**.

Ⓣ We will visit some of these living monasteries by foot and view the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes and other treasures that will certainly make this a remarkable day.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

Mass Setting: Kalambaka.



METEORA



Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 6: SAT 17 OCT - VIA BEREIA TO KAVALA

The Bereans - The Jews 'received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to study the merits of all Paul had preached to them.' (Acts 17:11)

Today we journey north by coach to Berea (modern Veria). The "Bema" - an impressive monument to Paul - is believed to incorporate the steps from the original synagogue from which he preached the gospel to the Jews, who welcomed the word of God and began to study the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-12).

1 A small church was established here and we will also view the 'hidden churches', a collection of about 20 Byzantine structures, camouflaged in the form of barns from the invading Ottoman Turks.

The Thessalonians - St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians.

Our time this afternoon in Thessaloniki will include the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius, as well as the Rotunda where we can see pieces of the pulpit from which Paul preached. View the Roman Agora where he also preached. Nearby we shall visit St Demetrios' Church dedicated to a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity and was later martyred. View its valuable mosaics and frescoes before descending into the crypt where we find the remains of some ancient Roman baths and streets.

Finally travel along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to the port city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis), once named "Christoupolis" after being the first European city to accept Christianity. It was here that St Paul, St Timothy and St Silas first landed from Troas (Acts 16:11), one of the foundational moments in the history of Christianity.

Mass Setting: Thessaloniki.

Kavala overnight (BD)

DAY 7: SUN 18 OCT - VIA PHILIPPI TO THESSALONIKI

The Philippians - Here Paul founded the first European church in Philippi and Lydia was baptised as the first European convert to Christianity.

Journey out to Philippi, named after Philip II,

father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistery of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass in this breathtaking oasis on the River Zygaktis, and to renew our Baptismal vows. Visit the marketplace (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned 1. In the ancient theatre we will hear the story of Paul's arrest, imprisonment and miraculous release.

We depart Philippi and journey east along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul via Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) where we view the ruins of many Christian basilicas.

Mass Setting: Outdoors at Baptistry of Lydia.

Thessaloniki overnight (BD)

"My respect for St Paul was enhanced by his dogged determination and belief in what he was preaching. He was a smart ... determined man."
— Ian Ronchi

DAY 8: MON 19 OCT - EMBARK GREEK ISLAND PILGRIMAGE CRUISE - MYKONOS

Today we fly back to Athens and are transferred to the Piraeus port to board our 4-night Aegean cruise! We then sail to the quaint isle of Mykonos, as we explore the charming walkways and shops through a maze of white-washed buildings.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 9: TUE 20 OCT - CRUISE SHIP - EPHEBUS & PATMOS

The Ephesians - This first Christian community was established by St John and developed by St Paul through his fervent preaching over a 3 1/2 year stay, during which he wrote his letter to the Ephesians.

This morning we arrive into the Turkish port city of Kusadasi, doorway to Ephesus.

Shore Excursion: Ancient Ephesus & House of the Virgin Mary

Our excursion today will include Ephesus, the most famous of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third

missionary journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his greatest and most challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and also succeeded in converting many away from worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived and preached. See the prison of St Paul; 1 walk through the ancient marble streets founded in the 10th century BC and see this most 'complete' Roman city providing us with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. Pass the Temple of Hadrian, the Library of Celsus, and the enormous amphitheatre (Acts 19:29-31), culminating at the House of the Virgin Mary where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life.

Our excursion will culminate at the Covered Bazaar of Kusadasi with some free time for shopping and...bargaining!

We re-board our ship in the afternoon and continue on to the Dodecanese island of Patmos, where St John wrote the Book of Revelation.

The Patmosians - During his time on what is now called the 'Holy Island of Patmos', St John wrote the book of Revelations and composed the Fourth Gospel as a very old man.

Shore Excursion: Patmos

We come to the village of Chora, the traditional settlement and capital of Patmos, where the narrow streets were designed to ward off pirates over the centuries. Ascend to the Monastery of St John the Beloved, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, for a visit. Our exploration of this living monastery will culminate with time in the actual Cave of Revelation where God chose to reveal to St John the mysteries of the last book of the Bible - the Apocalypse. The cave is now at the foot of the monastery, which houses priceless icons and manuscripts, sacred relics, vestments embroidered with silver or gold threads and bejeweled with precious stones.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 10: WED 21 OCT - CRUISE SHIP - RHODES

Today we come to the Island of Rhodes, where St Paul came during his third missionary journey (Acts 21:1). We enter the port, which was once dominated by the Colossus, one of the seven

wonders of the ancient world.

Shore Excursion: Rhodes & Lindos

Lindos is situated 55 km from the city of Rhodes and "bears" above it the **Acropolis of Lindos**, with the ancient **Temple of Athena**, built in 300 BC.

Here and there you will come across the captains' mansions, built between the 16th and 18th century. In the centre of the village lives and breathes the **Church of the Virgin Mary** (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15th century **T**.

From here we can see **St Paul's Bay** where the Apostle landed during a storm.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 11: THU 22 OCT - CRUISE SHIP - CRETE & SANTORINI

The Cretans - St Paul visited Crete following his first imprisonment in early 63AD. He left Titus on the island to assist maturing the Church, some of whose members were the first to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11).

This morning we arrive in Heraklion, Crete, with time to wander or choose from a guided shore excursion on offer.

In the afternoon, we cruise to the isle of **Santorini**, often referred to as the most breathtaking of all the Greek islands. We may disembark here and admire the exquisite whitewashed villages. Optional shore excursion.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 12: FRI 23 OCT - END CRUISE - DEPART GREECE (B)

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	SP0420	
STARTS	Mon 12 Oct 2020	Athens
FINISHES	Fri 23 Oct 2020	Athens
LAND COST	\$4,890 (twin share) *	
AIR & LAND	from \$6,580	
SINGLE ROOM	\$950 [†] Supplement + Cruise TBA	
EXTRA ADD-ONS	Tips on tour / Cruise Gratuities & Port Taxes: \$390 Total	

* Costs have been based on prices as at April 2019 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare or tax increases or minimum group size factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details. † Single Berth cabin are strictly limited and at premium supplement, subject to availability at time of booking.

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation & Meals: Based on Superior Standard / 4-Star accommodation • 11 Dinners / 11 Full Breakfasts
Touring & Transportation: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees.
Other: Fully Escorted by Priest Chaplain • Porterage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Tour Wallet.

**PRE ST PAUL TOUR OPTION
ISTANBUL & GALLIPOLI
3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS**



DAY 1: FRI 9 OCT - ARRIVE TURKEY

Arrive into **Istanbul** – a glorious city uniquely positioned on two continents.
Istanbul overnight (D)

DAY 2: SAT 10 OCT - ISTANBUL EXPLORATION

Full day tour including the **Blue Mosque**, **Hagia Sophia** (meaning 'Holy Wisdom' and once an early Christian church); onwards to **Topkapi Palace**. City cruise on the Bosphorus with majestic views of **Ottoman Palaces**, **Byzantine fortresses**, **Beylerbeyi Palace** and **Suleimans Mosque**.

Our afternoon will include a visit to the spectacular **Grand Bazaar**, with over 4000 shops in the one market place.
Istanbul overnight (BD)

DAY 3: SUN 11 OCT - VIA ANZAC COVE TO CANAKKALE

Departing Istanbul we travel west to the **Gallipoli Peninsula** where 7594 Australian and 2431 New Zealand soldiers lost their lives in battle during World War I.

We tour the relevant landmarks here this afternoon at **Anzac Cove** including the **Lone Pine Cemetery** where we will celebrate Mass. We come in faith to pay tribute and pray for the souls of the heroes of those tragic months of 1915.

Canakkale overnight (BD)

DAY 4: MON 12 OCT - CANAKKALE TO GREECE

Enjoy a restful morning in the ancient seaport of **Canakkale** overlooking the Dardanelles waterway at their narrowest point of entry. Return to Istanbul airport this afternoon for our onward flight to Greece. (B)

COST ADD-ON † \$1,390 twin share

SINGLE ROOM \$350 supplement

PREPAID TIPPING \$14 per person/per day

† Including Inter-Europe airfare from Istanbul to Athens.



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Why not extend your trip to experience this once in a decade spectacle?

**POST ST PAUL TOUR OPTION
ST PAUL IN MALTA
3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS**



DAY 12: FRI 23 OCT - ARRIVE MALTA

Upon arrival at Malta International Airport we will be met and transferred to our hotel for check-in. *Christianity has existed almost 2,000 years in Malta, brought to the island by no less than the Apostle Paul himself in 60 AD.*

Malta overnight (BD)

DAY 13: SAT 24 OCT - VALLETTA • ST PAUL'S ISLAND • RABAT • MDINA

This morning we walk into the city of **Valletta**. Visit the **Auberges** built by the Knights and **St John**. We enter **St John's Co-Cathedral** and view the impressive and miraculous **Crucifix** at **Ta'Giezu Church** – the head of which is said to be made by angels. Continue to the **St Paul Shipwreck Church** where we will view two relics of **St Paul**.

Proceed to **St Paul's Bay** where a short boat trip takes us to the island where the Apostle was shipwrecked. Return to the mainland where we view **St Paul's Bonfire Church**.

En route to **Rabat** visit the miraculous **Church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Mosta** where during World War II a 500 kilogram bomb penetrated the dome and hit the inside of the church. Continue to **Rabat** to enter **St Paul's Grotto** where **St Paul** lived during his short stay in Malta. We celebrate Mass here and visit the catacombs dedicated to him.

After a short walk into **Mdina**, visit **St Paul's Cathedral** which will be another highlight of our day's trip.

Malta overnight (BD)

DAY 14: SUN 25 OCT - GOZO DAY TRIP

Travel by ferry to the sister island of **Gozo**. Visit the **Church of St John La Rotunda** and walk up the steps to the **Gozo Citadel** which is a medieval city and the capital of Gozo.

Visit **St George's Basilica**, then on to the miraculous **Ta'Pinu Shrine** for Mass.
Malta overnight (BD)

DAY 15: MON 26 OCT - DEPART MALTA (B)

COST ADD-ON † \$1,790 twin share

SINGLE ROOM \$540 supplement

PREPAID TIPPING \$14 per person/per day

† Including Inter-Europe airfare to Malta.



BOOK NOW

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