

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.



Accompanied by
FR DAN SERRATORE MGL

COMMENCES TUE 16TH JUN 2020 • 11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Athens (2 Nights) • Epidaurus • Corinth (1) • Hosios Loukas • Meteora (2) • Berea • Kavala (1) • Philippi • Thessaloniki (1) • Kos Island • Patmos Island (2) • Ephesus (2) • Kusadasi. *Optional Oberammergau Passion Play Extension (2 Nights)*



PREVIOUSLY: ST PAUL & THE EARLY CHURCH

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



Athens (2 Nights) • Epidaurus • Corinth (1)
• Hosios Loukas • Meteora (2) • Berea •
Kavala (1) • Philippi • Thessaloniki (1) •
Kos Island • Patmos Island (2) • Ephesus (2)
• Kusadasi • *Optional Oberammergau*
Passion Play Extension (3 Nights)

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 Cenchreae where St Paul embarked frequently on Mission.
- + Enjoy a privileged 2 night stay on the Holy Island of Patmos and enter the actual cave where St John wrote the Book of Revelation.
- + 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: TUESDAY 16TH JUNE - 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: WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE - 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: THURSDAY 18TH JUNE - 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 Cenchreae** 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: FRIDAY 19TH JUNE - 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. Ⓜ

"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

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)

DAY 5: SATURDAY 20TH JUNE - 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 marvelling 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.
Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 6: SUNDAY 21ST JUNE - 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).

ⓘ 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 in to 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: MONDAY 22ND JUNE - 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 Baptistry of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass in this breathtaking oasis on the River Zygaktis, and to renew our Baptismal vows. Visit the market place (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. In the ancient theatre we will hear the story of Paul's arrest, imprisonment ⓘ and miraculous release.

"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

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)

DAY 8: TUESDAY 23RD JUNE - VIA ISLAND OF KOS TO PATMOS

Return to Athens this morning and fly to the beautiful Island of Kos rich in Greek and Roman landmarks and boasting a quaint harbour dominated by the Neratzia Castle.

Visited by St Paul on an overnight stop on route from Miletus to Rhodes, Kos had a reputation as a Centre of Healing evidenced here by the archaeological site of Asklepiion (the god of healing) founded by Hippocrates in the 3rd Century BC. ⓘ During our afternoon visit, we will see the Church of the Visitation,

Monastery of St John, the Church of the Lamb of God among other sites.

Enjoy some free time to wander through the streets of the Old City to catch a bargain before a meal in a local Taverna together. In the evening we will take a passage by Ferry to arrive later into the Holy Island of Patmos for our privileged two night stay.

Mass Setting: Church of the Lamb of God, Kos.
Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 9: WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE - PATMOS DAY (Rev 1:4)

We begin our tour with a walking tour of the main square of the village of Chora. This is 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 and celebration of Mass.

ⓘ 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.

Enjoy a leisurely afternoon before a lively night in a Greek Taverna as we soak in the atmosphere of this amazing island.

Mass Setting: Monastery of St John the Beloved.
Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 10: THURSDAY 25TH JUNE - PATMOS TO KUSADASI

Depart Patmos today by private Charter Vessel to Kusadasi, gateway to Ephesus and the Churches of Revelation.

Mass Setting: Patmos.
Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 11: FRIDAY 26TH JUNE - EPHEBUS DAY (Acts 18:19-21)

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

We travel directly to Ephesus this morning, the most famous of the Seven Churches of

Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in his missionary journey. Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived and preached. See the **prison of St Paul**; 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. See the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Library of Celsus**, the enormous **amphitheatre** (Acts 19:29-31). We ascend the hill to the **House of the Virgin Mary** where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. We celebrate our group Mass here in one of the chapels. Finally, we visit the restored remains of the 6th century **Basilica of St John at Celcuk** where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist.

Mass Setting: *House of the Virgin Mary, Kusadasi overnight (BD)*

DAY 12: SATURDAY 27TH JUNE - DEPART TURKEY (OR EXTEND) (B)



PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| TOUR CODE | SP0520 | |
| STARTS | Tue 16 Jun 2020 | Athens |
| FINISHES | Sat 27 June 2020 | Izmir |
| LAND COST | \$4,790 (twin share) * | |
| AIR & LAND | from \$6,980 | |
| SINGLE ROOM | \$1,350 Supplement | |
| PREPAID TIPS | \$14 per person / per day | |

* 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.

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.

POST ST PAUL TOUR OPTION OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY 2 NIGHTS / 3 DAYS



DAY 12: SATURDAY 27TH JUNE - FLY TO GERMANY

Today we will be transferred to the airport for our flight connections to Germany. On arrival at **Munich** airport we will be met and transferred to **Oberammergau**, home to the world-renowned **Passion Play**.

*Every ten years affords pilgrims the great privilege of witnessing the world-renowned Passion Play of Oberammergau. For **over 300 years** this picturesque village in the Bavarian Alps has re-enacted the **passion of Jesus**, and people of every religious denomination have been drawn to this cherished spectacle.*

Oberammergau Region overnight (BD)

DAY 13: SUNDAY 28TH JUNE - OBERAMMERGAU - THE PASSION PLAY

The history of the Oberammergau Passion Play begins in 1633. During the Thirty Years' War, after much suffering and also many deaths caused by the plague, the surviving population of Oberammergau vowed that they would perform the "play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years if they were spared from extinction. At Whitsun in 1634 they kept their promise for the first time. As early as the middle of the 18th Century spectators came to Oberammergau from all parts of Germany, attracted by the great power and mystique of the play. In 2020 the village will perform the play for the 42nd time, maintaining the continuity of this unique world-famous event.

Over 2000 participants bring the story of Jesus of Nazareth to the ears and eyes of the audience in a five-hour presentation on the imposing open-air stage. Almost half of the inhabitants of Oberammergau enact with great devotion the story of Jesus, whose message gives billions of people hope and strength. The play covers the period of Jesus entering Jerusalem and continues up to his death on the Cross and his resurrection.

Today is the highlight of our pilgrimage when we attend the **Passion Play**.

Oberammergau Region overnight (BD)

DAY 14: MONDAY 29TH JUNE - DEPART GERMANY

Transfer to Munich for our flight connections.

2020 PRICES

| | |
|---|---------|
| COST ADD-ON † twin share | \$1,790 |
| SINGLE ROOM supplement | \$730 |
| PREPAID TIPPING per person/per day | \$14 |

† Plus Inter-Europe airfare from Istanbul to Munich.



BOOK NOW

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