

**10 Day Pilgrimage to Greece
In the Footsteps of St. Paul
visiting Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Vergina, Veria, Pella,
Thessaloniki, Amphipolis, Phiippi, Kavala**

October 29 – November 7, 2007

Tour No. PAU1029

Mon, Oct 29th: Depart JFK or Newark on your overnight flight to Athens. Dinner served in flight,

Tue, Oct 30th: Morning arrival in Athens and transfer to your hotel. Remainder of the day is free. (D)

Wed, Oct 31st: Athens

We begin our tour of **Athens** with Mass at the Cathedral of Athens. After Mass, we visit the Acropolis to see the Parthenon. The Parthenon was a Christian Church dedicated to the Our Lady for over a thousand years, longer than it was a temple to the ancient goddess Athena. Next we visit the Areopagus where St. Paul delivered his first sermon to the Athenians. We end our day with a visit of the 11th c. Kessariani Monastery on Mount Hymettos. (B,D)

Thu, Nov 1st: Corinth

This morning we travel to the ancient city of **Corinth**, where St. Paul lodged with a Roman Jewish couple, Priscilla and Aquila. It was in Corinth that Paul stopped preaching solely in synagogues and decided to begin his missionary work among the Gentiles. We visit the ancient temple of Apollo, the agora, the Roman Odeon and see Gallio's seat, the chair from which the Roman governor Gallio refused to condemn St. Paul. We visit Cencreae, where St. Paul shaved his head "because of a vow he had taken" and then see the old harbor from which St. Paul sailed on to Ephesus. Several years later, St. Paul wrote two letters to the "Church of God which is in Corinth." Late afternoon return to Athens. (B,D)

Fri, Nov 2nd: Delphi

After breakfast we depart to **Delphi** where we visit the Monastery of Ossios Loukas (St. Luke of Steiris) a 10th c. monk. This monastery is famous for its ancient Byzantine mosaics. Next to Delphi on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Here we visit the ancient ruins of the temple of Apollo and the museum. We also see the Castilian Fountain, the Tholos of the Rotunda and the remains of a Christian Basilica at the entrance to the archeological site. We return through the mountain village of Arachova to Athens. (B,D)

Sat, Nov 3rd: Vergina/Veria/Pella/Thessaloniki

Morning departure to **Thessaloniki**. En route we stop at **Vergina, Veria** and then to **Pella**, the ancient capital of Macedonia and the birthplace of Alexander the Great. Next we continue to Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. St. Paul preached in Thessaloniki in 49-50AD and would later write two letters to the Thessalonians. (B,D)

Sun, Nov 4th: Thessaolniki

This morning we visit the St. Demetrios Cathedral in the heart of the old city to venerate the relics of the patron saint of Thessaloniki. Demetrios was a Roman military commander and a Christian in secret who refused to follow the orders of the Emperor Maximian (286-305AD) to begin rounding up, arresting and executing the Christians of Thessaloniki. For his insubordination, St. Demetrios was arrested and eventually executed. Next we visit the Church of St. George which was built as a temple dedicated to Zeus and was converted into a Christian church by the Christian Roman emperor Theodosius (379-395); the Church of the Icon made without Hands, built in the early 5th c. and one of the four oldest churches in all of Greece; the Church of the Holy Wisdom with its magnificent 8th and 9th c. mosaics. We end our tour with a visit of the White Tower Byzantine Museum and view the excavations of the Roman market, theatre and baths. (B,D)

Mon, Nov 5th: Amphipolis/Phiippi/Kavala

After breakfast, we begin our journey east, arriving at **Amphipolis**, a city established in the 5thc. BC to view the extensive archeological sites. Sts. Paul and Silas traveled through Amphipolis on their way to Thessaloniki. We continue to **Philippi** (a city named after the father of Alexander the Great) where St. Paul preached the Gospel for the first time on European soil. It was here that Lydia and her household were converted to Christianity. We explore the archeological site at Philippi, as well as the crypt where tradition states that Paul and Silas were prisoners. From Philippi, we travel to **Kavala**, the ancient city of Neapolis for a brief sightseeing tour of the city. (B,D)

Tue, Nov 6th: Thessaloniki/Athens

After breakfast, depart to Athens. Along the northern border of Thessaly, the valley of the River Peneios narrows into a dark and mysterious gorge. Sit back and enjoy the changing scenes on your way to Athens. Late afternoon arrival in Athens. (B,D)

Wed, Nov 7th: Athens/USA

Morning departure to Athens airport for our return flight to the USA. (B)

Pilgrimage Price: \$ 2,299.00 per person Double \$ 2,699.00 Single

Pilgrimage Includes: Air Fare from JFK or Newark Airport, Four Star Hotels, Deluxe Motorcoach, Sightseeing as per itinerary, Continental Breakfast & Dinner Daily, Daily Mass and Rosary, Porterage (one piece of luggage) at hotels, Taxes and Service Charges.

Travel Insurance for this Pilgrimage is \$ 185.00
If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take
Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking.