

# Greece: In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle

*featuring a 3-night Greek Islands & Turkey Cruise*

October 12 – 22, 2016



## Highlights....

Athens • Taverna Dinner Show • 3-Night Cruise •  
Mykonos • Ephesus • Patmos • Santorini •  
Thessaloniki • Kavala • Philippi • Meteora •  
Delphi • Corinth • Acropolis

**11 Days • 20 Meals: 9 Breakfasts • 3 Lunches • 8 Dinners**

Inside Cabin Rates: **Double \$3,989.00 pp ; Single \$4,489.00 pp**

Outside Cabin Rates: **Double \$4,089.00 pp ; Single \$4,689.00 pp \* (see terms)**

**Included in Price:** Cruise Taxes and Fees, Port Charges, Round Trip Air from Washington, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

**Not included in price:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$350 per person

**Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare**

Additional rate of: Business Class \$4,290

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:** Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. **(See registration form for consent.)**

### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Paul the Apostle, the prolific writer of the New Testament letters, was one of the first Christian missionaries. Trace his journey through the ancient cities and pastoral countryside of Greece and Turkey.

### Day 2: Athens, Greece - Tour Begins

Your tour begins in Athens, Greece's lively capital. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in Athens' historic district – the Plaka – a lively historic neighborhood nestled at the foot of the Acropolis. Feast on local cuisine and enjoy fine wine in a traditional taverna while Greek entertainment creates a wonderful ambiance around you. *Today dinner will be included.*

### Day 3: Athens - Piraeus\* (Embarkation) - Mykonos

Embark on a wonderful 3-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily while on board. **Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands, is your first stop.** This charming, mountainous island is known for the hundreds of tiny chapels, whitewashed buildings and beautiful windmills that dot its landscape. Don't miss Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. Enjoy free time to explore this island paradise. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

### Day 4: Kusadasi, Turkey - Patmos, Greece

Visit the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the ruins of Ephesus where Paul the Apostle spent three years during his

ministry and where its inhabitants were the recipients of Paul's famous epistle. Visit the House of Mary, where she is said to have spent her last days. A visit to the ruins includes the Agora, the great theater, and the stadium where chariot races took place and gladiatorial combats were held. It is said that Paul himself fought here against wild beasts. Continue your cruise to Patmos, the "Jerusalem of the Aegean." **Visit the Monastery of John and the Cave of the Apocalypse where John the Evangelist, inspired by God, wrote the Book of Revelation during his exile.** *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

### Day 5: Heraklion (Crete)\*\* - Santorini

Arrive early this morning in Heraklion, Crete. Time is allowed for an optional excursion to Knossos, one of the most extraordinary archaeological sites in the western world and the center of the 4000 B.C. Minoan civilization. Explore the site and visit the world-famous Knossos Archaeological Museum. **Later, arrive on the fabled island of Santorini, known as the "Black Pearl of the Aegean."** Accessible by foot, cable car or donkey, enjoy free time to visit the cliff-top village of Fira for one of the world's most breathtaking panoramas. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.*

### Day 6: Piraeus\* - Disembark Cruise Ship - Athens - Thessaloniki

After an early morning disembarkation, travel north. Make a picture stop at Thermopylae, famous for its heroic defense by Leonidas and his courageous Spartans against the Persian army. Your day ends in Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city. Founded in 315 B.C., Thessaloniki was an early center for Christianity, where Paul visited and

preached during the winters of A.D. 49-50, and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Visit the Museum of Byzantine Culture, one of the finest museums in the world devoted to Byzantine art and civilization with an impressive collection of many Byzantine and early Christian frescoes, icons and artifacts. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 7: Thessaloniki - Kavala - Philippi - Thessaloniki**  
**Travel to the coastal town of Kavala where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot on European soil.** In nearby Philippi, Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, planting the seeds of Christianity. Join a local expert for a guided tour of this historic town featuring the archaeological site and monuments spanning the Ancient, Roman and Byzantine eras. See the dungeon where Paul was held prisoner and the site where he baptized Lydia, the first Christian in Europe. *Today breakfast will be included.*

**Day 8: Thessaloniki - Meteora - Kalambaka**  
Proceed through the fertile Thessalian Valley – the breadbasket of Greece – to spectacular Meteora, a UNESCO World Heritage site. These dark, sandstone pinnacles rise abruptly from the plain of Thessaly, with six historic monasteries perched upon their peaks. Beginning in the 10th century, hermits, monks and ascetics sought solitude and spiritual solace in these dramatic crags. Visit two amazing Meteora monasteries\*\*\* which are renowned for their intricate construction and exquisite Byzantine art. Overnight in Kalambaka. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 9: Kalambaka - Delphi**  
Travel through scenic mountain terrain to Delphi, one of the most moving sites of the ancient world. Once considered the “navel of the world,” Delphi

is nestled on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty. Pilgrims once came from all over the ancient world to consult its mysterious oracle. **A guided tour takes you along the Sacred Way to see the Doric Temple and the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasuries, and the intriguing Archaeological Museum with its staggering collection of ancient artifacts including the 5th-century bronzed Charioteer.** *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 10: Delphi - Corinth - Athens**  
**Travel to Corinth where Paul wrote two epistles, lived and preached for two years.** Explore ancient Corinth on a guided tour featuring 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. **In Athens, see the hill of Areopagus (Mars Hill) – where Paul delivered his famous “Men of Athens” speech – and visit the incomparable Acropolis.** This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a marvelous trip. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

**Day 11: Athens - Tour Ends**  
You’ve explored the ancient land where Paul the Apostle made missionary journeys. You’ve seen the places to which he sent his famous epistles – Thessalonians, Philippians and Corinthians – and seen many of the places described in the Acts of the Apostles. Return home inspired by the incredible, soothing landscapes and the words and deeds of Paul the Apostle. *Today breakfast will be included.*

#### YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day	1	Overnight Flight
Day	2	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
Day	3 – 5	Celestyal Cruises, Piraeus
Day	6, 7	Capsis Hotel, Thessaloniki
Day	8	Famissi Eden Hotel, Kalambaka
Day	9	Domotel Anemolia Resort & Conference, Arachova
Day	10	Holiday Inn Athens, Athens

On some dates alternate hotels/vessels may be used.

**"Religious Tours"** are competitively priced journeys that focus on the needs of our faith-based travelers. Featuring three star hotels and more modest meals, these packages are designed to capture the reflective and humble surroundings of the world-famous spiritual sites they visit. With an emphasis on religious inclusions, these tours also include other culturally appropriate attractions and the services of a professional Tour Manager.

**Cruise-Land:** These combine the best of land and sea. These tours feature all the qualities of our traditional escorted tours, including a Tour Manager; and include high quality cruise ships that feature various amenities.

#### Please Note:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Gratuities for the cruise portion of your tour are not included in the land only price. At the time of booking, \$30 USD per guest will be collected to cover service charges (gratuities). You will not be asked to pay any additional service charges (gratuities) unless you wish to do so but never directly to the crew. The only exception is the beauty parlor and health spa services. It is customary to tip these skilled workers after services are rendered.

Port taxes and fees of approximately \$110 USD (subject to change without advance notice), quoted at time of printing, per person will not be included in the land only tour cost. Single cabins, if confirmed, are higher.

Please note that single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Triple accommodations are limited and will be confirmed upon request and availability from the cruise line.

Order of ports may be changed by the cruise line.

\*Port of embarkation/disembarkation can be either Piraeus or Lavrion. Please check your final travel documents for the correct listing.

\*\*Sailings during Greek Easter periods (May 1, 2016; April 16, 2017), Crete may not be available as a port of call. Instead, more time is spent in Patmos and Santorini.

\*\*\*In order to enter the monasteries in Meteora, women must wear skirts that cover the knees and men must wear long trousers; for both sexes, shoulders must be covered.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing Collette airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at prescheduled times.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected with observance of religious or local holidays.

Optional shore excursions are available for purchase directly from the ship upon embarkation.

Cruise ships have a limited quantity of cabins available in each cabin category. We will make every effort to accommodate your cabin category preference at the time of booking. If the cabin category preferred is not available at the time of booking, the next closest category available will be offered and a surcharge may apply.

Celestyal Cruise Lines cabin categories are based on the following: IC (inside superior cabin) and XB (outside cabin).

Prior to full payment for the program, the cruise line reserves the right to impose a supplemental fuel charge. Should this occur, you will be notified of the additional charges.

Due to flight schedules, a pre or post night may be required at an additional cost to you.

In Mykonos Island, round trip transfers by bus to/from the ship to/from Mykonos Town are included in the land price of the program.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline’s terms and conditions.

Your cruise ship provides a “blanket visa” when visiting Ephesus, Turkey. There is no need for you to buy a Turkish visa as long as you travel with the group to/from Ephesus.

This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

Many activities in this itinerary include walking on uneven terrain, or require significant walking at times. Some of the unique experiences, such as visiting historical areas, mean accessing locations by foot because motorcoaches are restricted. If you require a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may not be able to access some of these areas and may want to consider an alternate Collette vacation. Our travel counselors can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

For more information contact

Kevin Downey • St. Francis of Assisi Parish • (703)221-4044 • frkevin@stfrncis.org