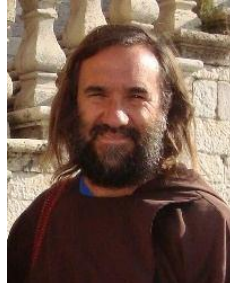


10 Day Pilgrimage to Greece in the Footsteps of St. Paul



**Spiritual Director
Rev. David Beaumont**

September 27th – October 6th, 2018

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from New York
- 5 Star Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily (except dinner in Athens on October 4th)
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Visit the major Orthodox Basilicas in Thessaloniki - St. Demetrius, St. Sofia and St. George Church
- Visit the Vlatadon Monastery to see the house of Jason where St. Paul lived in Thessaloniki
- Visit Kavala, ancient Neapolis and Philippi
- Visit the Prison where St. Paul and Silas were imprisoned
- Visit the Creek where St. Paul Christened Lydia, the first convert in Europe
- Visit ancient Macedonia, where Alexander the Great was proclaimed King
- Travel along the via Egnatia the road St. Paul followed to Veria
- Visit the Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus and Saint Stephen Monastery in Meteora this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the ancient Sanctuary of Delphi this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Walking Tour of Nafplion
- Visit Corinth where St. Paul preached to the Corinthians
- Stop at Cenchreae port where St. Paul took a ship to Ephesus at the end of his Second Journey
- Tour of Athens & Cape Sounion
- And much, much more!!!

Pilgrimage Price: \$ 3,399.00 per person double or single Single Supplement \$ 700.00

ITINERARY

Thu, Sept 27th: New York/Thessaloniki - Depart on your overnight flight to Thessaloniki.

Fri, Sept 28th: Thessaloniki - Arrival in [Thessaloniki](#) and transfer to hotel. Remainder of the day is free.

Sat, Sept 29th: Thessaloniki/Kavala/Philippi - After breakfast, we have a tour of Thessaloniki. Our drive around the city takes us to the most important Orthodox churches including the Basilicas of St. Demetrius, St. Sofia and St. George Church. Next to the upper old town for a panoramic view of the entire city. We have a short visit in the Vlatadon Monastery, where we see the house of Jason. **St. Paul stayed in this house with Jason while he was in Thessaloniki. Next we depart to Kavala which is the city, in the bible, called Neapolis. We visit the Bema. After lunch (on our own) we depart to Philippi. Our drive takes us past the Amphipolis, where St. Paul stopped on his journey. Next we stop where St. Paul preached his first sermon. We continue to the Prison where St. Paul and Silas were imprisoned. We visit the ruins and one of the largest churches ever constructed. It is here that the earthquake occurred, which released St. Paul and all prisoners from imprisonment. Next we follow the Via Egnatia where we see the ancient market (Agora). We continue to the creek where Lydia, the first Christian convert in Europe, was baptized. After our visit, we return to Thessaloniki.**

Sun, Sept 30th: Thessaloniki/Ancient Macedonia/Veroia/Vergina/Kalamabaka - Vergina is best known as the site of ancient Aigai, the first capital of **Macedonia**. It was here in 336 BC that Philip II was assassinated and Alexander the Great was proclaimed king. At the beginning of the 4th century BC, the Macedonian capital was transferred to Pella on the central Macedonian plain. It was here that Philip II was attending the wedding of his daughter Cleopatra to King Alexander of Epirus when he was murdered by his bodyguard in the theatre. His funeral was the most lavish funeral ceremony of historic times. Laid on an elaborate gold and ivory deathbed wearing his precious golden oak wreath, the king was surrendered, like a new Hercules, to the funeral pyre. After we visit the museum, we continue to **Veroia**.

Paul and Silas walked along the via Egnatia changing their route close to Pella en route to Veria. Veria was a very busy city with great population and had a flourishing synagogue. As soon as they arrived, Paul and Silas visited the synagogue. Among the attendants were people from the upper classes of Veria, Hebrews and converts and a great number of women. The spot in Veria where it is said that Paul stood and preached, the so called "Apostle Paul's Podium" is now an imposing monument.

After our visit, we continue to **Kalambaka** for overnight.

Mon, Oct 1st: Thessaloniki/Meteora/Delphi - The **Metéora** is a formation of immense monolithic pillars and hill-like huge rounded boulders which dominate the local area. It is also associated with one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Greece, second in importance only to Mount Athos. Here the tradition of Orthodoxy is continued uninterrupted for over 600 years. We visit the Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus and Saint Stephen Monastery. All these monasteries are on the top of Meteora rocks. After our visit, we continue via Thermopylae (the battlefield of Leonidas and the 300 Spartans) to Delphi.

Tue, Oct 2nd: Delphi/Nafplion - Today we visit **Delphi**. Delphi is famous as the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of Pythia, the oracle consulted about important decisions throughout the ancient classical world. Moreover, the Greeks considered Delphi the navel (or center) of the world, as represented by the stone monument known as the Omphalos of Delphi. Delphi occupies an impressive site on the south-western slope of Mount Parnassus, overlooking the coastal plain to the south and the valley of Phocis. It is now an extensive archaeological site with a modern town nearby. We visit the Oracle of Apollo and the Archeological Museum. We stop in the little village of Delphi for lunch on our own before continuing to, beautiful, Nafplion.

Wed, Oct 3rd: Nafplion/Mycenaene/Athens - We start our day with a Walking Tour of **Nafplion**. We stop by the bay to see the Palamidi Castle. After our tour we drive to **Mycenae**, the city of Agamemnon, the leader of the Greeks in Troy. Mycenae was a fortified late Bronze Age city located between two hills on the Argolid plain of the Peloponnese, Greece. The acropolis today dates from between the 14th and 13th century BC when the Mycenaean civilization was at its peak of power, influence and artistic expression.

Situated on a rocky hill commanding the surrounding plain as far as the sea 15 km away, the site of Mycenae covered 30,000 square meters and has always been known throughout history, although the surprising lack of literary references to the site suggest it may have been at least partially covered. First

excavations were begun by the Archaeological Society of Athens in 1841 and then famously continued by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876.

Inhabited since Neolithic times, it is not until 2100 BC that the first walls, pottery finds and pit and shaft graves with higher quality grave goods appear. From 1600 BC there is evidence of an elite presence on the acropolis: high-quality pottery, wall paintings, shaft graves and an increase in the surrounding settlement with the construction of large tholos tombs. From the 14th century BC the first large-scale palace complex is built as is the celebrated tholos tomb, the Treasury of Atreus, a monumental circular building with corbelled roof. Fortification walls, of large roughly worked stone blocks, surround the acropolis of which the north wall is still visible today. The Lion Gate added to the overall splendor of the complex. After our tour we continue to [Athens](#).

Thu, Oct 4th: Corinth - We start our day at the Corinthian Canal. Although the idea for a canal across the isthmus was first considered in the 7th century BC and various Roman Emperors from Julius Caesar to Hadrian began preliminary feasibility studies, it was Nero who actually began the project in 67. However, on the emperor's death, the project was abandoned after three months and was not resumed until 1881. After our photo stop, we continue to [Corinth](#). Located on the isthmus which connects mainland Greece with the Peloponnese, Corinth was an important city in Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman times. First inhabited in the Neolithic period (c. 5000 BC), the site became more densely populated from the 10th century BC. The historical founders of the city were the aristocratic descendants of King Bacchis, in 750 BC. These replaced the long line of kings which stretched back in time before historical records. The Bacchiadae ruled until 657 BC.

Corinth suffered badly in the First Peloponnesian War, for which it was responsible after attacking Megara. The Corinthians were also instrumental in causing the Second Peloponnesian War, when they felt their regional interests centered in Corcyra were threatened by Athens in 433 BC.

A brighter period returned to the city when Julius Caesar founded his colony at the site in 44 BC and organized the agricultural land into organized plots for distribution to Roman settlers. The city was once more flourishing by the 1st century and became an important administrative and trade center. In addition, **following St. Paul's visit between 51 and 52, Corinth became the center of early Christianity in Greece. In a public hearing, the saint had to defend himself against accusations from the city's Hebrews that his preaching undermined the Mosaic Law. The pro-consul Lucius Julius Gallio judged that Paul had not broken any Roman law and so was permitted to continue his teachings.**

The site today, first excavated in 1892 by the Greek Archaeological Service, is dominated by the Doric peripteral Temple of Apollo, originally with 6 columns on the façades and fifteen on the long sides. A particular feature of the temple is the use of monolithic columns rather than the more commonly used column drums. Seven columns remain standing today. **The majority of the other surviving buildings date from the 1st century CE in the Roman era and include a large forum, a temple to Octavia, baths, the Bema where St. Paul addressed the Corinthians, the Asklepeion temple to Asclepius, and a center of healing, fountains - including the monumental Peirine fountain complex, a propylaea, theatre, odeion, gymnasium, and stoas. There are also the remains of three basilicas.**

Next we drive to Cenchreae port, where St. Paul took boarded his ship to return to Ephesus to end his second journey. After our visit, we return to Athens for a free afternoon to explore Athens on our own. [Dinner on your own this evening.](#)

Fri, Oct 5th: Tour of Athens & Cape Sounion - Visit the Acropolis and the Acropolis museum. We have a scenic drive by all the most important highlights of Athens. Marble stadium, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, National library etc. We stop for lunch on our own in the Plaka, the old town of Athens. This afternoon we have a scenic tour to [Cape Sounion](#) where we see the temple of Poseidon. Our drive takes us along the Athenian Riviera!

Sat, Oct 6th: Athens/New York - Morning departure to Athens airport for our departure to the USA.

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