



## *Footsteps of Paul Tour*

April 20-May 1, 2026

### Updated Tour Itinerary

Unfortunately, the cruise portion of our Footsteps of Paul tour through Greece has been cancelled. This cancellation is due to the cruise ship, The Celestyal Discovery, being delayed in the Strait of Hormuz as a result of the Middle East Conflict. This ship repositions each year in October for cruises in the Middle East and was scheduled to return to Athens on March 3. As you know, the strait remains closed to maritime traffic at this time, with approximately 2,500 ships stranded.

In lieu of the cancelled cruise portion of the tour, we have planned four amazing days visiting the Peloponnese region of Greece known for its stunning landscapes, rugged coastline and charming towns. This region is home to some of Greece's most significant historical sites including Ancient Olympia (birthplace of the Olympic Games), the Mycenae citadel and the theatre of Epidaurus - we will visit all of these! We will also enjoy a one-day "island hopping" cruise to the islands of Hydra, Aegina, and Poros.

The itinerary change does not affect the arrival or departure flight times.

Greece remains safe for travelers to visit and has not been affected by the Middle East conflict. The current state department travel advisory is Level 1 = exercise normal precautions.

Listed below is a reminder of the flight information and the contact information for the hotels. Also included is the revised itinerary for the tour.

#### **Group Flight Info**

Monday April 20

United Airlines #2402- Depart Houston- Bush @ 9:40am/arrive Newark @ 2:17pm (3.5-hour flight)

United Airlines #124 - Depart Newark @ 4:00pm/arrive Athens @ 8:10am (April 21 – (10-hour flight)

April 21 - Aegean Airlines #114 – Depart Athens @11:25am/arrive Thessaloniki @12:20PM (1 hour flight)

#### **Friday, May 1:**

United Airlines #983 – Depart Athens @ 11:45am/arrive Washington Dulles @ 3:45pm (11-hour flight)

United Airlines #2217 - Depart Washington Dulles @ 5:38pm/arrive Houston @ 8:12pm (3.5-hour flight)

**If flying with the group**, you will not be able to check in ahead of time for your flight. On Monday, April 20 by 7:00am, you will meet Barry Wilson or Mark Terry at the United Groups Check in Desk at Bush Intercontinental airport, Terminal C lower level (near doors 102 & 105 near elevators facing baggage carousel #12.) Upon arrival, you will present your passport to the ticket agent to check in and receive your boarding pass and check your luggage. **For this flight, your destination is ATHENS, GREECE. We will collect our luggage in Athens and receive another boarding pass for Thessaloniki.** If applicable, verify your global entry number and/or your United mileage plus number with an agent to be sure it is linked to your ticket. Also, it is recommended to inquire about your seats for the flights. The airlines assign seats with groups and it is not always what was requested. Once you have tagged and dropped your checked bag and have seen Barry or Mark, you are free to proceed through security to the gate. Upon arrival at all airports, the group is encouraged to gather immediately upon disembarking and move together to the next gate. Proceeding to the next departure gate with few stops is recommended to ensure you have ample time to board the next flight. Many international airports can be confusing and require extra time to walk between gates and/or terminals.

**Upon arrival to Athens**, we will pass through passport control, collect our luggage and proceed to the Aegean Airlines ticket counter (as a group) to retrieve our boarding pass for our next flight to Thessaloniki. After checking our baggage, we will proceed through security to our gate. It is recommended to eat an early lunch at the Athens airport since we will enjoy a city tour of Thessaloniki upon arrival before checking into the hotel around 3:30pm.

**If you are not flying with the group** – the tour officially begins with the group’s arrival at Thessaloniki airport on Tuesday, April 21 @ appr 12:30pm. We will enjoy a guided city tour of Thessaloniki before checking into the hotel at approximately 3:30pm. Dinner will be served at the Hotel MonAsty in Thessaloniki @ 7:00PM. If your flight arrives within 30 minutes of the group flight you are welcome to meet the group in the baggage claim area of the Thessaloniki airport and ride the motorcoach with the group to the hotel. If you have arrived early and are already at the hotel and would like to join the city tour, please be in the lobby of the hotel by 1:30PM and the motorcoach will stop and pick you up. On the departure day, you are welcome to ride the motorcoach to the airport for your departing flight.

### **Hotels**

April 21-23	Hotel MonAsty, Thessaloniki: +30 231 027 4545	2 nights
April 23-24	Divani Meteora Hotel, Kalambaka: +30 2432 023330	1 night
April 24-27	Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens: +30 21 0928 8400	3 nights
April 27-29	The Grove Seaside Hotel, Nafplion: +30 2752 092020	2 nights
April 29-30	Europa Hotel, Olympia: +30 2624 022650	1 night
April 30 - May 1	The Stanley Hotel, Athens: +30 21 1990 0900	1 night

**The Footsteps of Paul through Greece**  
**Daily Itinerary**  
**April 20 - May 1, 2026**

Day 1: Mon, April 20

**Depart Houston Bush Airport** for our overnight flight

Day 2: Tues, April 21

Upon our mid-day arrival into Thessaloniki, we will be met by our tour guide and motor coach and enjoy a **city tour** before checking into our hotel. If you arrived early and are already at the hotel, please be in the hotel lobby by 1:30pm if you would like to join the city tour. This evening, we will enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant. *Overnight Thessaloniki - MonAsty Hotel (D)*

Day 3: Wed, April 22

After breakfast, we will tour **Thessaloniki**, a city that is over 2,300 years old and the second-largest city in Greece. Our tour will include the sites visited many times by Paul – the **Roman Market, theatre and baths**. We will continue to the ancient colony of **Philippi** built in 356 B.C. by Alexander's father, Philip II. This is where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe and baptized Lydia, the first Christian convert in Europe. We will also see the **Roman forum** and the **prison where Paul and Silas** were held. We continue into the modern port city of **Kavala**, ancient **Neapolis**, where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. Tonight, we will enjoy dinner at traditional restaurant with live music. *Overnight Thessaloniki - MonAsty Hotel (B)(L)(D)*

Day 4: Thurs, April 23

After breakfast, we will drive to **Berea** where Paul established a small church and we will view the reconstructed steps of the bema. We will visit the modern Jewish synagogue which is built over an ancient synagogue from Paul's day. We continue on to spectacular **Meteora**, the famous Cenobitic Monasteries that are perched precariously on top of huge and precipitous columns of rock that rise up out of the ground thereby giving rise to the name, Meteora, which means "in the air".  
*Overnight Kalambaka - Divani Meteora Hotel. (B)(L)(D)*

Day 5: Fri, April 24

This morning we depart for **Delphi**. **The oracle at Delphi** is a figure of great historical importance that was, and still is, shrouded in mystery. Pythia, the priestess of the god Apollo answered questions for the Greeks and foreign inquirers about colonization, religion and power. Delphi was considered "the navel" – in Greek, "the omphalos" - of the ancient world. After visiting the archaeological site and the museum in Delphi we will continue to Athens. *Overnight Athens - Royal Olympic Hotel (B)(L)(D)*

Day 6: Sat, April 25

This morning we will enjoy a guided tour of Athens which will include **Panathenaic Stadium**, the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble. We will also visit the world-renowned **Acropolis** with the ruins of the **Parthenon**. We will climb **Mars Hill**, where Paul preached the famous sermon of the Unknown God. Following some free time in the Plaka (shopping area), we will have a guided visit to the Acropolis Museum. The remainder of the day is at your leisure before we enjoy dinner at a traditional restaurant. *Overnight Athens - Royal Olympic Hotel (B)(D)*

Day 7: Sun, April 26

After breakfast, we will embark on an unforgettable **mini cruise through the Saronic Gulf**, a hidden gem of Greece. Our journey begins with the island of **Hydra**, a tranquil oasis where you can wander through its charming, car-free streets. Donkeys are used to transport goods, adding to the island's traditional charm.

Next, we sail to lush **Poros** with its breathtaking views of the Peloponnese coast. Our final destination is **Aegina**, renowned for its world-renowned pistachio orchards. These nuts are prized for their intense sweetness, aroma, and unique emerald-green color. Lunch will be served on board and there will be time for swimming or enjoying the Sea. *Overnight Athens - Royal Olympic Hotel (B)(L)(D)*

Day 8: Mon, April 27

This morning, we depart for **Mycenae** to explore the ruins of its ancient citadel and the iconic Lion's Gate, the Tomb of Agamemnon (Treasury of Atreus), and the extensive archaeological site. We will also visit the **Mycenae Archaeological Museum**, where important artifacts from the site are exhibited. We then continue to **Nafplion**, one of the most picturesque towns in the country and the first capital of the modern Greek state (1828–1833). Upon arrival, we will enjoy a sightseeing train tour, followed by free time to explore the picturesque streets of the city. *Overnight Nafplion - The Grove Seaside Hotel (B)(D)*

Day 9: Tues, April 28

Today will be a real treat as we visit an **Olive Farm** to tour the facilities and learn about the production process of extra virgin olive oil. At the end of the visit, there will be a tasting of the products including extra virgin olive oil, Kalamon olives, and Kalamon olive paste. We then depart for the UNESCO World Heritage site of the **Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus**, one of the best-preserved ancient theatres in the world dating back to the 4th century BC. We will also visit the **Archaeological Museum of Epidaurus**, which houses important artifacts from the ancient sanctuary of Asclepius including statues, inscriptions, and ancient medical instruments. *Overnight Nafplion - The Grove Seaside Hotel (B)(D)*

Day 10: Wed, April 29

After breakfast, we will depart for Ancient **Olympia**, the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games. We will walk through the archaeological site and visit the ruins of the **Temple of Zeus Olympia**, the **Temple of Hera Olympia**, the **Philippeion**, and the **ancient Olympic Stadium**. Afterwards, we will visit the **Archaeological Museum of Olympia**, home to the renowned statue of Hermes by Praxiteles and many other significant artifacts from antiquity. *Overnight Olympia - Europa Hotel (B)(D)*

Day 11: Thurs, April 30

This morning we will drive to **Corinth** which was home to Paul for eighteen months. We will visit the Archaeological Museum, the Bema, the Market Place and the Temples. After lunch we will have a brief stop at the **Corinth Canal**, which separates the Peloponnese region from the Greek mainland and connects the two seas (Ionian and Aegean). Before returning to Athens, we will visit **Cenchreae**, a significant bustling seaport of ancient Corinth known for its early Christian church and as the place where Paul the Apostle cut his hair to fulfill a vow as recorded in Acts 18:18. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant to reflect on our tour as we traced Paul's missionary journeys through Greece. *Overnight Athens - Stanley Hotel (B)(D)*

Day 12: Fri, May 1

This morning we will disembark and transfer to the airport for flight home. United Flight 983 departs @ 11:45am (B)