

## Suggested Greece Itinerary – Students

14 Days

### Day 1/2 – USA / Thessaloniki

We depart the USA and arrive in the province of Macedonia, Greece and settle in our our time in the second largest city of the country, Thessaloniki. After our introductions, we enjoy dinner in a local taverna and stroll the promenade along the coastline. Overnight Thessaloniki.

### Day 3 – Thessaloniki

Cultural orientation and introduction to the life of the Apostle Paul. Basic Greek language lesson. Tour of Thessaloniki including the White Tower, Arch of Galerius, Kapani Market, Rotunda, Basilica of St. Demetrios, Roman forum, and cruise of the Thermaic Gulf. Overnight Thessaloniki.

### Day 4 – Philippi

Following breakfast, we depart for Philippi. In Philippi we visit the site of Lydia's baptism followed by a tour of the archaeological site: bema, forum, basilicas, theater, city walls, and traditional location of Paul's imprisonment. While on site we have our lunch. We then make our way to the port of Philippi, the biblical city of Neapolis (today called Kavala) and tour the port, aqueduct, and mosaic of Paul. After touring, we return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

### Day 5 – Berea / Vergina

Today we travel to Berea to see the Rostrum of Paul and the Jewish Quarter with its Synagogue. Our emphasis is upon Paul and his Synagogue Sermon (Acts 13). We continue our travel to Vergina, site of the Royal Tombs of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. We explore the museum and the Macedonian Tombs with their priceless artifacts, wall paintings, and edifices. In the afternoon we arrive in Litohoro on the foothills of the Mt. Olympus range for a hike on the mountain. Overnight in the village of Litohoro.

### Day 6 – Meteora

Departing Macedonia, we travel to Thessaly and central Greece to visit the Eastern Orthodox monasteries of Meteora perched high atop towering rock formations. As part of our experience, we read through the liturgy of the Orthodox Church and comment on its historical significance. After lunch, via the Thermopylae Pass of Spartan fame, we continue to the ancient sacred site of Delphi for overnight.

### Day 7 – Delphi

This morning we proceed to the archaeological site of Delphi, once the most important religious center of classical Greece. We visit the sanctuary of Apollo, Delphic Pythia, Agora, Sacred Way, theater, and stadium. We also tour its significant museum with its bronze Charioteer before our afternoon travel to the Peloponnese Peninsula. Dinner and overnight in Nafplio.

### Day 8 – Mycenae / Epidavros

In the morning we visit the palace citadel of King Agamemnon, leader of the Trojan War, at Mycenae. We tour the bronze age site, including the underground cistern and beehive tomb of Clytemnestra. We then continue to the ancient healing center of Epidavros as we learn about medicine in ancient Greece. We use the opportunity in the adjoining magnificent theater of Epidavros, the best preserved from ancient Greece, to explore Greek drama and comedy in its original setting. Return to Nafplio for dinner and overnight.

### Day 9 – Sparta / Mystras

Heading into the heart of the Peloponnese, we have the unique opportunity to explore the 14<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine city of Mystras. This ruined city, dotted along a large hill, contains numerous wonderfully preserved Orthodox churches, including a functioning nunnery. Here we learn about daily life in this Christian empire at the time just before the fall of Constantinople. We then see the scant remains of ancient Sparta as we recreate the council of Sparta from Thucydides' *History* to decide whether or not to declare war on Athens. We return to Nafplio for a dinner in the heart of the town.

### Day 10 – Hydra

With a short voyage in the morning, we'll make our way to the nearby island of Hydra for a day enjoying the beauty of the Aegean. Save for a few municipal trucks, this island has no motorized vehicles, and students will be on their own to explore meandering paths, sample local cuisine, and partake of traditional Greek island life. A few beaches also await us for dips in the crystal clear waters!

### Day 11 – Nafplio / Corinth

We explore the picturesque town of Nafplio, including the square where Greece declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire before exploring the expansive ruins of the Venetian-built Palamidi Fortress, high above Nafplio. We continue to the archaeological site of Corinth, which was the most important city in Greece during Roman times and where Paul lived and taught for a large portion of his ministry. We recreate the different factions within the tenuous Christian community of the day and share in a eucharistic celebration together. We then have the opportunity to hike through the haunting fortifications of Acrocorinth, located high above the site. We

continue to the greatest city of both ancient and modern Greece: Athens. Here we check into our hotel located in the heart of this legendary city.

### Day 12 – Athens / Acropolis Museum / Parthenon

This morning we make our way to the outstanding Acropolis Museum for our orientation to its monuments—the Theater of Dionysius, Erechtheion, Temple of Athena Nike, Propylaea, and the world renown Parthenon. Our next stop is the majestic Parthenon, sanctuary to the pagan goddess Athena. We also spend time in worship on the Areopagus (Mars Hill) as we hear once again the sermon of the Apostle Paul that he delivered to the Athenians. We continue into the Plaka for a local taverna lunch. We stroll through the Plaka for an orientation to the Historic District. Overnight in Athens.

### Day 13 – Athens / Ancient City Sites

Our second day exploring Athens takes us to many of the other sites throughout its renowned history. We'll start our walking tour visiting Hadrian's Arch, delineating the old from the new city, as well as the Temple of Zeus, which stood uncompleted for over 600 years. We then make our way to the Panathenaic stadium, home to the ancient Athenian games as well as the site of the first modern Olympics in 1896. After a stroll through the National Gardens, we'll see the stoic Evzones guarding the tomb of the unknown soldier in front of the national parliament. A quick hop on the Athens metro will then take us to our lunch just outside the National Archaeological Museum. The Museum houses the treasures of Greece, from the "mask of Agamemnon" to the Antikythera Mechanism to the famous statue of Poseidon. We'll join together for a farewell feast on our final night together near the magnificent Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounio.

### Day 14 – Departure Greece / USA

Our bus takes us to catch our morning flight as we make our way back to the States with our faith enriched through the study of God's work throughout the history of Greece.