

GREECE

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

Ancient Greece, monasteries, landscapes, Athens and the islands

12 days

March to November 2024



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES



GREECE

In the Footsteps of St. Paul From Thessaloniki to Athens - 12 days

Welcome to a 12-day scenic tour following St Paul's route from landing in the northern port of Neapolis to preaching his famous sermon introducing the unknown God in Athens. We travel the length of Greece visiting Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens and Corinth and offer optional worship in some ancient and very special locations. As well as the Pauline sites and the history of Ancient Greece we see stunning landscapes as we journey through the Pindus Mountain Range to the engineering marvel of the Corinth Canal and stay in the heart of Athens with the opportunity to explore nearby islands.

Highlights include an introductory tasting tour in Thessaloniki; experiencing a living monastery, where the sisters are always happy to

discuss their monastic way of life; a wine tasting on the southern foothills of Mount Olympus; Delphi where the Oracle was consulted by both states and individuals and highlighted the religious background to St. Paul's preaching of the gospel; from the Acropolis walk down to the site of St. Paul's sermon on Mars Hill (Aeropagus) where Paul had a mixed reception in making known the 'Unknown God'. We then visit Agora the centre of public life in Athens at the time of Paul.

With time taken to take in the ancient sites, absorb the story of St. Paul and how Christianity started to spread west from Asia into Europe, relax with some free afternoons to sit back and contemplate as well as enjoy the Greek way of life.

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

The cost is based on sharing a double or twin-bedded room and includes nearly excursions and most expenses.

Flights are possible direct with **British Airways** from London Heathrow or with easyJet direct from **London Gatwick** to Thessaloniki and returning from Athens. Flights to London from some UK regional airports can be arranged for a supplement.

As well as flights and hotels, half-board, eight lunches, drinks with some meals, guides, entrance fees, all gratuities and more are included.

For full details of departure dates, prices and what's included see page 6.

Not included...

Travel insurance: this is essential. We require all travellers to have adequate cancellation and medical coverage for their journey. We recommend the policy with Holiday Extras who offer a comprehensive policy as well as yearly policies that also cover short UK overnight stays. See the back cover for details.

Completing your booking form: please ensure that we have your full name (as in your passport) correct address, email address and contact telephone numbers as soon as your booking is confirmed. We will need your passport details no later than ten weeks before departure.

Special requests: should be noted on the booking form and sent to us promptly.

Final travel documents: will be posted to you two weeks before departure.



Travelling alone?

Double rooms for single use are available at a supplement (see page 6). If required please state when booking and if available the supplement will be added to your balance.

To confirm your place on this holiday, please contact our team by phone or email to arrange payment of your £350 deposit. Your final balance will then be due 12 weeks before you travel. To view our booking conditions, please visit our website: www.mccabe-travel.co.uk

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Flight information

Fly direct

Direct flights are available from Heathrow with **British Airways** and from Gatwick with **easyJet** to Thessaloniki, returning from Athens. Regional flights to London from some UK airports can be arranged at a supplement. An overnight stop may be required which we can assist you with. Please enquire at time of booking.

Outbound

Flight departs Heathrow: 07:55

Arrives Thessaloniki: 13:15

Inbound

Flight departs Athens: 14:30

Arrives Heathrow: 16:30

Length of flight to Thessaloniki: **approximately three hours**

Flight times are subject to change and confirmed with your final paperwork

Financial Security

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. The McCabe ATOL number is 2920. McCabe is also a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators and abides by the Association's code of conduct.



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Travel to Thessaloniki (D, DR)

Meet your fellow travelling companions and Tour Leader at the UK airport and check-in for your flight to Thessaloniki.

Afternoon: on arrival you will be met at Thessaloniki Airport by our expert Local Guide who will be with you throughout and transfer to your hotel to check-in for a three-night stay.

Evening: welcome drinks get-together with an introductory talk, on the ancient sites that lie ahead and the story of St. Paul's time in Greece, from your local guide followed by dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 2 – Walking and tasting tour of Thessaloniki (B, L, D)

Morning: a day to get to know one another and begin a little immersion into Greek culture and food as you walk through the Kapani and Modiano markets to taste local delicacies and other Greek products. Also, see the flower stalls of the Louloudadika area and beautiful Athonos Square with its artists and narrow paved streets with carpenters, cobblers and machine shops. We visit part of the 4km Byzantine city walls that surround the central area and the Church of Hagia Sofia one of the oldest churches in the city and listed by UNESCO.

Afternoon: included lunch in a local taverna followed by a free afternoon to explore the old centre of Thessaloniki under your own steam.

Evening: dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 3 – Kavala – Neapolis – Church of Philippi (B, L, D)

Morning: drive to the town of Kavala, the principal seaport in eastern Macedonia and the first place St. Paul stepped foot on the Greek Mainland. We continue to Neapolis where St. Paul and Silas were imprisoned and visit the Church of Philippi, the most supportive of all to St. Paul. We take **worship in these inspiring surroundings.**

Afternoon: included lunch in a local taverna prior to visiting the stream and church in the village of Lydia, where Lydia of Thyatira was baptised, the first recorded baptism in Europe.

Evening: dinner in a local taverna with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 4 – Pella Museum, Veria (Berea) and Vergina (B, L, D)

Morning: depart Thessaloniki and visit Pella the capital of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia and birthplace of Alexander the Great. Over one thousand tombs have been discovered, some containing elaborate artefacts from ceramics to precious metals, weapons and jewellery.

Afternoon: after an included lunch in a local taverna we continue to Veria (Berea) where Philip II was assassinated and Alexander the Great became king. Paul and Silas' visit here saw that its inhabitants were the first Christians in Europe. After, continue to your hotel in Vergina for an overnight stay.

Evening: dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 5 – St. Pauls Monument, wine tasting, Agia Paraskevi – Larissa (B, L, D)

Morning: depart for Larissa and visit the spot in Veria where it is said that St. Paul stood and preached. The so called "Apostle Paul's Podium" is now an imposing monument. Later, we visit the 13th century Byzantine Castle of Platamon at the foot of Mt Olympus amidst stunning scenery.

Afternoon: we continue for lunch and an included wine tasting at Rapsani on the southern foothills of Mount Olympus, the home of the gods in Greek mythology. The mountainous, sunny terrain in this part of Thessalia is well suited to the production of red wine and vineyards are scattered across the landscape. After, we continue to Larissa with a stop at the Holy Shrine of Paraskevi in Tempe for optional worship. The shrine is built into the rock and reached by an ornate bridge crossing a picturesque river setting. After, arrive in Larissa and check-in to your hotel for a three-night stay.

Evening: dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

Key to symbols: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, DR = Drink

DATE & PRICE

DATE	12 DAY PILGRIMAGE COST
March to November	£ 2,999.00

Double room for single use supplement - £659

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Thessaloniki: local produce market tour
- Neapolis and Church of Philippi
- Church in the village of Lydia, where Lydia of Thyatira was baptised
- Pella; capital of the Greek kingdom of Macedonia, birthplace of Alexander the Great
- St. Pauls monument in Veria
- Wine tasting at Rapsani on the southern foothills of Mount Olympus
- Meteora monasteries
- Ancient site of Thermopylae
- Delphi with optional worship in the ancient amphitheatre
- Hosios Loukas Monastery
- Athens city tour and the acropolis
- Kingdom of Korinthos and Epidaurus

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

None! All excursions and extras as listed above and below are included!

INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Hotel baggage portorage
- Local guide and drivers' gratuities
- All restaurant, hotel and many small local gratuities
- Personal audio guiding system
- Services of a knowledgeable Local Guide

INCLUDED MEALS & DRINKS

Meals: all breakfasts, which will be buffets in the hotels, and all evening meals are in the hotels and some will be in atmospheric local tavernas normally within walking distance of your hotels. Also, eight lunches are included, one is a packed lunch and all others are in local tavernas during your sightseeing visits.

Drinks: welcome and farewell drinks are included and drinks with the farewell gala dinner evening. All other included meals will include water and tea or coffee.

YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS

This holiday includes a qualified local guide to bring the history of Greece and St. Pauls time in Greece as well as the wonders of Ancient Greece to life. They will be staying with you and escorting you throughout.

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 6 – Kalabaka and the great Meteora Monasteries (B, D)

Morning: visit the Natural History and Mushroom Museum before continuing to the extraordinary Meteora Monasteries perched high on gigantic rocks. The monastic history of Meteora dates back to the 11th century and the monasteries themselves date back to the 14th century. We shall visit at least three of these unique locations.

Afternoon: visit a local church for a coffee break, take in the scenery and take optional worship before returning in the late afternoon to Larissa.

Evening: dinner in a nearby local taverna with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 7 – Farsala, Ancient Thermopylae & Delphi (B, L, D)

Morning: depart Larissa and pass the lower slopes of Mount Parnassos to Farsala, an agricultural town famous as the birth place of Achilles, before continuing to the ancient site of Thermopylae where the Greeks fought the Persians in 480 BC at this scenic and truly narrow mountain pass, with hordes of Persians on the one side and a handful of Greeks on the other. You can almost hear the clash of steel and the screams of the wounded! Today Thermopylae has become a byword in Greek history for heroism and glory, and of dying for the idea of freedom.

Afternoon: an included late lunch at Bralos Village where in October 1917, during World War I, the 49th Stationary Hospital was established along with rest and recuperation camps for Allied troops. It remained in use until April 1919. Many of the dead from the hospital—chiefly from the influenza epidemic—are buried in the British Cemetery. Bralos was also the site of fighting between British Commonwealth troops and the Germans in the Battle of Thermopylae (1941). Later check in to your **hotel near Delphi for a two-night stay.**

Evening: dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 8 – Pilgrim walk in Delphi and the Temple of Apollo (B, L, D)

Morning: deeply engraved on the record of Greek history, Delphi was a place of incalculable religious and political importance which attracted pilgrims from all over the Hellenic world. Here the Oracle was consulted by both states and individuals; it highlights the religious background to St. Paul's preaching of the gospel. Walk around the sights and be guided as your guide brings this ancient site to life.

Afternoon: included lunch in a local taverna followed by optional worship in the setting of the ancient amphitheatre. After return to the hotel in the mid-afternoon to relax.

Evening: dinner in a nearby local taverna with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 9 – Hosios Loukas Monastery – Athens (B, L, D)

Morning: depart from Delphi for the drive to Athens stopping first at the Hosios Loukas Monastery meaning “Esteemed Saint Luke”, not built in honour of Luke the Evangelist, but was established by the Greek monk Loukas. He was buried in the crypt of the monastery when he died in AD 953. Attached to the abbey is a large church, Katholikon, which in its turn is attached to a smaller temple, or Theotokos, erected between 997 and 1011 to honour the Virgin Mary. The temples are beautifully decorated with numerous frescoes and mosaics, all perfectly preserved.

Afternoon: included lunch in a local taverna in this mountain region before continuing for the afternoon drive to your hotel in Athens and check-in for a four-night stay.

Evening: dinner in the hotel with water and tea or coffee included.

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 10 – Half day Athens city tour and the Acropolis (B, D)

Morning: a later breakfast before your tour on coach and foot taking in the Hellenic Parliament with the “Evzones” Presidential Guard found outside the Hellenic Parliament. They have become synonymous with the city of Athens and were originally founded in 1868 as a regiment of the Greek army. We then continue to the historical neighbourhood of Plaka, a labyrinth of streets with neoclassical architecture clustered around the northern and eastern slopes of the Acropolis. known as the "Neighborhood of the Gods" due to its proximity to the Acropolis and its many archaeological sites. We continue to the Acropolis, the Temple of Athena Nike, the foremost site of Classical Greece, with the Parthenon. We walk down to the site of St. Paul's sermon on Mars Hill (Aeropagus) where Paul had a mixed reception in making known the 'Unknown God'. We then visit Agora the centre of public life in Athens at the time of Paul.

Afternoon: free leisurely afternoon to enjoy lunch (at own cost) wander the Plaka to shop, maybe visit the National Archaeological Museum of Greece or numerous other museums or head to the waterfront and marina in Piraeus. Your guide as always will advise of plenty of options.

Evening: dinner in a local restaurant with water and tea or coffee included.

DAY 11– Kingdom of Korinthos and Epidaurus (B, L, D)

Morning: we head out of Athens for the day and cross the Corinth Canal making a stop to view this engineering marvel. We then visit the ancient town of Corinth where St. Paul stayed for 18 months and wrote two letters to Corinthians, which are mentioned in the New Testament, of whom he is the patron saint. An impressive church has been built in his honour. The remains of the city include the marketplace and Temple of Apollo and clearly show the importance of Corinth in ancient times. After, we make a short stop at the site of the ancient port of Cencreae from where St. Paul departed for Ephesus.

Afternoon: an included lunch of simple and fresh local produce before continuing to Epidaurus with its Great Theatre with its great acoustics, Sanctuary of Asclepius and join together in optional worship at this great location.

Evening: dinner in a local restaurant close to your Athens hotel with water and tea or coffee included.
Airport for your direct flight back to the UK.

DAY 12 – Depart for the UK (B)

After breakfast transfer to Athens Airport for the return flight to the UK, bid farewell to your Local Guide, Tour Leader and fellow travelling companions.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION IN THESSALONIKI



THESSALONIKI – PLAZA HOTEL (3*Superior) **Three nights**

Situated in the heart of the 'Bride of the North', in the famous area Ladadika, opposite the Port, the Plaza Hotel has been a constant reference point for visitors for many years. With refurbished facilities and constantly renewed high quality services, it welcomes its guests and offers comfortable, pleasant and quiet accommodation, with modern facilities and direct access to all parts of the city.

Hotel facilities: a 24-hour front desk service, room service and drinks and afternoon coffee can be taken in the relaxing surroundings of the Ristretto Café bar.

Your room: air-conditioning/heating, flat screen TV, safe, fridge, iron and ironing board and complimentary WiFi.

Your bathroom: bath or shower, hairdryer, slippers and complimentary soap, shampoo and shower gel.

After Thessaloniki you will stay one night in Vergina at the Hotel Makedonia., A simple property for the overnight stay but with similar room amenities as all other hotels.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION



LARISSA – HOTEL DIONISOS (3*)

Two nights

Dionysos Hotel is located in the city centre, a short distance from the two central city squares and the shopping centre. There are 84 comfortable, bright and contemporary rooms.

Hotel facilities: a 24-hour front desk service, room service and drinks and afternoon coffee can be taken in the bar.

Your room: air-conditioning/heating, balcony, flat screen TV, safe, fridge, tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary WiFi.

Your bathroom: bath or shower, hairdryer, slippers and complimentary soap, shampoo and shower gel.

FEDRIADES HOTEL (3* Superior)

Two nights—depicted above

Ideally located in the heart of Delphi, the friendly family-run Fedriades Delphi Hotel offers incredible views of the Corinthian Gulf from almost every angle. The panoramic sea view and the olive groves of Pleistos valley become your daily background, embracing them into the splendour of Delphi and all the archaeological wealth of the surrounding area.

Hotel facilities: Epikouros Restaurant serves a variety of Greek and Mediterranean dishes with views of the Corinthian Gulf. A Greek breakfast in buffet style is prepared daily. There is a piano at the lobby area that can be used by guests.

Your room: air-conditioning/heating, balcony, flat screen TV, safe, fridge and complimentary WiFi.

Your bathroom: bath or shower, hairdryer, slippers and complimentary soap, shampoo

YOUR ACCOMMODATION IN ATHENS



ATHENS – ACROPOLIS SELECT HOTEL

(3* Superior) – Three nights

Conveniently located in the heart of Athens and only a short walking distance to the Acropolis pedestrian walkway, leading to many of the city's main sights and attractions, the Acropolis Select Hotel is the perfect home away from home, for your next visit to Athens. A short five minute stroll from the hotel will bring guests to the ancient site of the Acropolis, the New Acropolis Museum and the Plaka District, while other major landmarks such as Syntagma Square, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Monastiraki Market, as well as, the city's shopping hotspots of Hermou Street and Kolonaki are all within easy

reach. Just a few meters from the property you will find metro, light railway and bus stations, making traveling around the city and its beach suburbs extremely convenient.

Hotel facilities: the 180 degree West Lounge Restaurant has an unforgettable and stunning view of the Parthenon and the Zeus Bar with its comfortable seating areas is open daily from 07:00 to 23:00.

Your room: air-conditioning/heating, flat screen TV, safe, fridge and complimentary WiFi.

Your bathroom: bath or shower, hairdryer and complimentary soap, shampoo and shower gel.

More information about your holiday

Entry requirements: British Citizen and EU Citizen Passport holders can currently enter Greece freely with no restrictions or other documentation required. Stays within the EU can be up to 90 days (can be spread over multiple visits) within any 180-day period.

Please note your passport must be valid for three months after your return from Greece.

Full details of entry requirements and any required vaccinations will be detailed in your final paperwork 14 days before departure.

For the latest and most up to date travel advice including entry requirements please consult the Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office travel advice website.

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Health & wellbeing: for travel within the EU you should ensure that you have the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which is free of charge. You can apply for the GHIC card by calling 0191 218 1999 or applying on line at...

www.nhs.uk/ghic

The level of cover offered by the GHIC card varies by country visited and is only applicable in state-run health facilities. In some countries coverage may just be a partial contribution.

Adequate insurance cover will be required for all hospital emergencies and doctors' visits.

Time Zones: Greece is two hours ahead of the time in the UK (GMT/BST + 2 hours)

Climate: in Thessaloniki and Athens the average daily lowest and highest temperature range during your tour in April/October is 12-18 degrees, May 14—22, June 17-26, July/August 19-28, September should be around 17-26 degrees centigrade. When travelling in the Pindus Mountains temperatures will be a few degrees cooler particularly in the mornings and evenings. Rainfall is rare at this time of year and usually just the odd short thunderstorm.

Currency: visitors will normally receive a better exchange rate for the Euro in Greece than in their home country, but the following guidelines should be observed:

The simplest means of obtaining currency in Greece one which also ensures a good rate overall, is to withdraw Euros from a cash machine (ATM). These accept debit and credit cards backed by Visa, MasterCard, EuroCard, American Express and Maestro. You normally receive an excellent exchange rate, although your card provider may charge you a fee. So it is best to withdraw larger amounts.

How much spending money will I need? We recommend changing £100 into Euros prior to your trip and taking additional means of payment with you. €400 in total should be more than enough to cover drinks and sundries for the duration of the holiday. Shops will accept payments by card but some smaller shops and market stallholders may only accept cash.

This is correct at time of going to print, prices can change due to local circumstances and

currency fluctuations.

Gratuities: all gratuities are included in the cost of your stay for your convenience such as guides, drivers, restaurant staff, baggage porters and all hotel gratuities. However should you still wish to thank anyone who has served you well, or gone the extra mile, with a personal tip this is happily accepted.

When enjoying meals or drinks at your own cost, in general 10 percent is normal to tip. However, when paying in a bar or restaurant, saying 'thank you' when handing over money is as good as saying 'keep the change' so always say thank you once you have received the change and leave your gratuity on the table.

Clothing: dress is cool and casual throughout your time in Greece. You may wish to take one or two smarter items for the evenings. Casual clothing is recommended in the day-time with evenings being smart/casual. As this tour requires a certain amount of gentle to intermediate walking, we suggest you take a pair of lined shoes or boots with decent grip. Sports shoes or trainers are fine as well as walking boots. It is advisable to bring just a couple of warmer items for the evenings as well as coastal walks where the wind may reduce the temperatures.

Mobility: there is a certain amount of walking, light undulations with just one or two steep sections but a number of stairs involved on a daily basis during your time in Greece so please make sure you pack comfy footwear for this so that you are prepared. Your Local Guide will keep you updated on a daily basis with what to expect the following day. If you are finding it difficult to keep up then please make sure you tell your Local Guide who can help you to find places to rest and relax and then you can re-join the group at a later stage.

Some streets in towns and villages that you will visit will be cobbled and ancient sites can have

some uneven ground. We suggest you take a pair of comfortable shoes with good grips or trainers. You must be prepared to be on your feet for up to 90 minutes without the necessity to sit down and walk up to a mile miles unaided. Hiking sticks are fine.

Luggage allowances: as airline regulations can change your permitted baggage allowances and baggage dimensions will be confirmed with your final details approximately two weeks before departure. In most cases your allowance will be one suitcase of 23 kilos in weight and one piece of hand luggage plus a small personal item such as a handbag.

Voltage: 230 volts AC, 50Hz. Round European two-pin sockets are in use. We recommend you take an international plug adapter with you. Hotels have a very limited supply of these (if any) should you encounter any problems.

Useful bits to pack: coffee/English tea bags (if you want a cuppa in your room) and of course a travel kettle as not all hotels will have tea & coffee making facilities in the rooms.

An adaptor plug (as mentioned above), camera, tissues & antibacterial hand wash.



These things should make your trip more comfortable.

GET OFF TO A FLYING START!



Award winning travel insurance

Ensuring that your holidays are appropriately protected is one of our main priorities. That's why we have specifically chosen Holiday Extras as our *preferred travel insurance provider to ensure that you are protected before and whilst you are travelling.

Holiday Extras offer insurance that has been independently rated 5-stars by Defaqto and are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. They have also been awarded "Best Travel Insurance Provider" at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards for the past fourteen years. Holiday Extras provides a range of services...

- **Holiday insurance** - annual and single trip policies with cover for pre-existing conditions and all ages.
- **Airport parking** - including meet and greet and valet parking services.
- **Airport transfers** - travel in comfort with a door-to-door service.
- **Airport hotels** - never worry about getting to the airport in time. Travel the day before and relax.
- **Airport lounges** - enjoy refreshments in a comfortable and calm atmosphere before your flight.

For more information or to obtain a quote please go to their website

<https://www.holidayextras.com/travel-insurance.html?agent=WU987>

Or call them on **0800 083 3551** to speak to a friendly advisor.

Please quote **AG628** upon calling to receive the best rates

McCabe Travel acts as a referral partner of Holiday Extras. For all queries regarding insurance cover and claims please contact the Holiday Extras insurance team.