

Sacred Steps

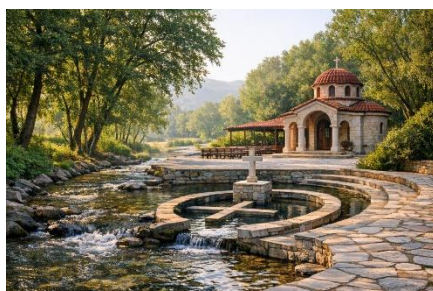
Sacred Steps: Faith Walks

A global travel series exploring biblical history, Christian tradition, and living faith through immersive sites, cultural connection, meaningful reflection, and shared discovery across sacred landscapes.

Paul's Greece: Journey of Awakening

Athens • Corinth • Delphi • Berea • Thessaloniki • Philippi • Kavala

Day	Meals	Morning		Afternoon		Evening	
1	Sat	AIR	Overnight travel to Greece; meals in flight				
2	Sun	D	Arrive Athens; clear Customs, meet Tour Director, transfer to Hotel, Check-In & Refresh		Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing	Athens City Orientation Tour & Plaka Discovery Walk	Greek Welcome Dinner
3	Mon	B, D	Ancient Athens: Acropolis, Mars Hill (Areopagus), Ancient Agora & Stoa of Attalos		The Acropolis Museum	Greek Pottery Workshop	Dinner & Free Time
4	Tues	B, D	Travel to Corinth	Archaeological Site & Museum, Bema, Temple of Apollo, Lechaion Road & Cenchreae	Olive Oil Tasting Class	Epidaurus & the Ancient Theatre	Nafplio Seaside Walk, Dinner & Gelato
5	Wed	B, D	Travel to Delphi	Temple of Apollo & Delphi Archaeological Museum	Arachova Village	Greek Dancing Lesson	Local Dinner & Greek Mythology & Storytelling
6	Thur	B, D	Travel to Berea	Mosaic of Paul & Second Mosaic	Thessaloniki: Vlatadon Monastery (UNESCO), Ancient Agora, Jason's House, St. Paul's Church & Early Christian Quarter Walk		Greek Cooking Class
7	Fri	B, D	Travel to Philippi	Lydia's Baptismal Site & Philippi Archaeological Site	Kavala Waterfront, Greek Tile-Stamping & Return to Thessaloniki	Thessaloniki's Ladadika District	Local Taverna Dinner
8	Sat	B, D	Travel to Vergina	Royal Tombs of Philip II & Ancient Macedonia - UNESCO World Heritage Site	Travel to Athens	Hotel Check-In & Free Time	Athens Riviera Dinner & Dance Cruise
9	Sun	B	Transfer to Athens International Airport; travel Home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an "example" of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

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**STEM
STUDY TOURS**
TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we manage the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team



This series is dedicated to the legacy of Daryl Hall, a dear friend whose unwavering commitment to missions, humanitarian outreach, and faith-driven service continues to inspire communities around the world.

Day 1: Takeoff Into the Journey

Dinner in flight

Travel on an overnight flight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2: First Steps in Greece

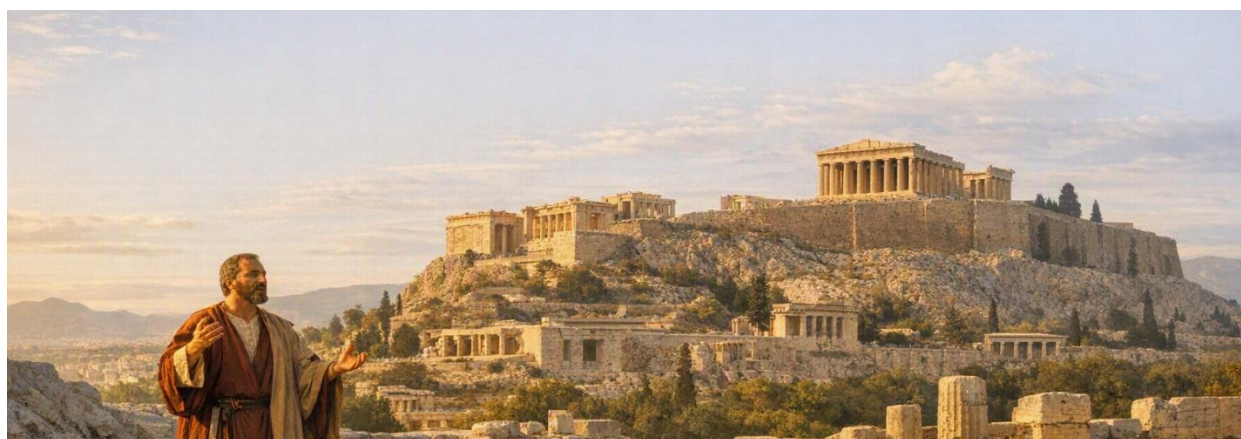
Breakfast in flight, lunch on own, dinner included



Paul's Greece – Journey of Awakening

A Land Where the Gospel First Took Flight: Greece opens its story across sunlit coastlines, ancient forums, and the very roads where Paul first carried the Gospel into Europe. From the sweeping views of Athens to the quiet ruins of Philippi and the vibrant waterfront of Thessaloniki, each place reveals a moment where faith took root and began to grow. Students stand where early believers gathered, walk through cities shaped by centuries of culture and conviction, and experience the landscapes that witnessed the beginnings of the Christian movement. This itinerary turns Greece into a living classroom - where history, Scripture, and discovery meet - and invites travelers to see the early church not as distant history, but as a story unfolding right beneath their feet.

A Journey That Illuminates the Early Church: This experience leads travelers into the heart of the places where Paul taught, encouraged, and built communities that shaped the future of Christianity. From reflecting beside the river where Lydia first heard the Gospel to exploring the bustling streets of Thessaloniki and the dramatic cliffs of Delphi, each day offers moments that deepen understanding and spark curiosity. Students encounter sites where courage was tested, letters were written, and faith became action. Through guided learning, hands-on cultural experiences, and meaningful time at sacred locations, participants gain more than historical insight - they gain a renewed sense of how the Gospel traveled, transformed lives, and continues to inspire purpose today.



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Did You Know?

- › **Paul's first steps into Europe happened in Kavala.** Ancient Neapolis - today's Kavala - was the port where Paul first set foot on European soil, marking the beginning of Christianity's spread across the continent.
- › **Lydia was the first recorded Christian convert in Europe.** Her baptism took place along the river outside Philippi, and her home became one of the earliest house churches.
- › **Thessaloniki has been continuously inhabited for over 2,300 years.** It's one of the few cities Paul visited that still thrives as a major cultural center today.
- › **The Bema in Corinth is the actual platform where Paul was brought before Gallio.** This moment is documented both in Scripture and in Roman historical records.
- › **Mars Hill (Areopagus) was Athens' ancient debate stage.** Paul's message there was delivered in the same place philosophers once gathered to discuss truth, ethics, and the nature of the world.
- › **Philippi was a Roman colony with special legal status.** Citizens there enjoyed the same rights as those living in Italy - something that shaped Paul's interactions and protections.
- › **The Royal Tombs at Vergina belonged to the family of Alexander the Great.** The golden larnax discovered there is one of the most significant archaeological finds in Greek history.
- › **Delphi was considered the "center of the world."** Ancient Greeks believed the omphalos stone marked the earth's midpoint, making it one of the most spiritually charged places in antiquity.

After landing in Athens, we'll transfer to our hotel for check-in and a chance to refresh after the long journey. During our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing**, our local team will introduce you to Greece, outline the week's plans, and share helpful tips for navigating local customs and staying safe throughout your travels. Please note that lunch is not included today to accommodate varying arrival times. If your group arrives early enough for lunch, we'll gladly guide you to a great nearby spot, payable on your own.

Today's activities include:



Athens City Orientation Tour & Plaka Discovery Walk - Students step into Athens with an energetic city orientation that brings the capital's history and modern rhythm to life. As they explore iconic neighborhoods, they'll see lively squares, colorful markets, and the everyday bustle that makes Athens one of Europe's most vibrant cities. The walk continues into Plaka, a charming maze of narrow lanes, bright storefronts, and inviting cafés tucked beneath the Acropolis. It's the perfect first taste of Greek culture - warm, welcoming, and full of discovery at every turn.

Walking through Athens sets the stage for understanding Paul's time in this city, where he observed temples, marketplaces, and the daily life of its people before speaking at Mars Hill. Seeing Athens up close helps students imagine the world Paul encountered and the cultural crossroads where he shared the message of Christ. It's a reminder that faith often begins in everyday places, among real communities, just like these streets.

Day 3: Legends, Hills & Big Views

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



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Acropolis & Parthenon - Students ascend the Acropolis, Athens' most iconic hilltop, where sweeping views stretch across the modern city and the Aegean beyond. As they walk among the marble columns of the Parthenon, they'll see firsthand the architectural mastery that has inspired civilizations for centuries. The site comes alive with stories of ancient worship, civic pride, and the cultural achievements that shaped Western thought. Standing here offers a powerful sense of place - one that blends history, beauty, and awe in a single unforgettable moment.

Visiting the Acropolis helps students imagine the world Paul encountered when he arrived in Athens - a city filled with temples, altars, and philosophical debate. Seeing the Parthenon up close highlights the contrast between the city's devotion to many gods and Paul's message of the one true God. It's a reminder of how boldly the Gospel entered a culture rich with ideas and beliefs.



Mars Hill (Areopagus) - Students climb the rocky steps of Mars Hill, a famous outcrop overlooking the city and the Acropolis above. From this vantage point, they can take in sweeping views of Athens while imagining the conversations, debates, and ideas that once filled this ancient gathering place. The site feels both historic and alive, with locals and travelers pausing to enjoy the breeze, the skyline, and the sense of standing where philosophers once shaped the world's thinking. It's a moment that blends scenery, culture, and curiosity in one unforgettable stop.

Mars Hill is where Paul delivered his message to the thinkers of Athens, speaking about the "unknown God" and introducing the hope of Christ in a city full of altars and ideas. Standing here helps students picture the courage it took to share faith in a place known for debate and intellectual challenge. It's a reminder that the Gospel often enters spaces where questions are welcome and conversations open doors.



Ancient Agora - Students step into the Ancient Agora, once the bustling heart of Athenian daily life. As they wander through the open pathways, shaded trees, and scattered ruins, they'll see where merchants traded goods, citizens debated ideas, and communities gathered for everything from festivals to public decisions. The space feels surprisingly peaceful today, offering a quiet contrast to the lively city surrounding it. Exploring the Agora gives students a vivid sense of how ancient Athenians lived, worked, and shaped the world around them.

The Agora is where Paul spent time observing the culture of Athens and speaking with people about faith and truth. Walking through this marketplace helps students imagine the conversations and encounters that prepared Paul for his message at Mars Hill. It's a reminder that meaningful ministry often begins in everyday places—among ordinary people going about their lives.



Stoa of Attalos - Students explore the Stoa of Attalos, a beautifully reconstructed colonnade that once served as one of Athens' busiest gathering places. Inside its long marble hallways, they'll find artifacts that reveal how ancient Athenians shopped, traded, and interacted in everyday life. The building's elegant columns and open design make it easy to imagine the Agora at its peak - full of merchants, conversations, and civic activity. Walking through the Stoa offers a vivid window into the rhythms of ancient society and the spaces where community life unfolded.

The Stoa stands within the same marketplace where Paul spent time speaking with locals and learning about Athenian culture. Seeing this space helps students picture the kinds of conversations and encounters that shaped Paul's ministry in the city. It's a reminder that faith often grows through simple interactions - listening, engaging, and meeting people where they are.



The Acropolis Museum - Students explore the Acropolis Museum, a stunning modern space designed to showcase the treasures of ancient Athens. As they move through bright galleries filled with sculptures, friezes, and artifacts, they'll see how the Acropolis once looked in its full glory. The museum's glass floors reveal ongoing excavations beneath their feet, while panoramic windows frame the Parthenon just outside, creating a powerful connection between the artifacts and the site itself. This visit helps students understand the artistry, engineering, and cultural identity that shaped one of history's most influential civilizations.

Seeing the museum's collection helps students picture the religious world Paul encountered - a city filled with temples, idols, and artistic expressions of devotion. Understanding this cultural backdrop brings new depth to Paul's message at Mars Hill, where he spoke of the "unknown God" in a place surrounded by visible symbols of worship. It's a reminder that the Gospel entered a world rich with beauty, belief, and questions.



Greek Pottery Workshop - Students dive into Greek creativity with a hands-on pottery workshop led by local artisans. As they shape and paint their own pieces, they'll learn how pottery was used in daily life - from storing olive oil to decorating homes - and how designs often reflected myths, traditions, and community identity. The studio atmosphere is relaxed and fun, giving students a chance to slow down, enjoy the process, and connect with Greek culture in a tactile, memorable way. By the end, each traveler leaves with a personalized keepsake that captures both artistry and adventure.

Working with clay offers a meaningful reminder of the biblical image of God as the potter and humanity as the clay. As students shape their creations, they can reflect on how faith forms and transforms us over time - much like the careful molding of pottery. It's a simple, creative moment that echoes a deeper truth about being shaped with purpose.

Day 4: Corinth Coastlines & Ancient Echoes

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Corinth Archaeological Site & Museum - Students step into ancient Corinth, one of the most influential cities of the classical world, where wide stone streets, towering columns, and carefully preserved ruins reveal the scale and sophistication of this bustling Roman center. As they explore the archaeological site, they'll see the remnants of marketplaces, public buildings, and temples that shaped daily life in Paul's time. The museum deepens the experience with artifacts that bring Corinth's culture into focus - intricate pottery, inscriptions, statues, and everyday objects that help students imagine what life looked like nearly 2,000 years ago.

Corinth is one of the most important places in Paul's ministry, and walking through its ruins gives students a tangible sense of the world he lived in. Here, Paul spent a year and a half teaching, encouraging new believers, and building a thriving Christian



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community. Seeing the city's scale and diversity helps students understand why Corinth became the backdrop for some of Paul's most passionate letters - messages about unity, courage, and living out faith in a complex world.



The Bema (Judgment Seat of Gallio) - Students stand before the impressive stone platform known as the Bema, the very place where public trials and official announcements were delivered in ancient Corinth. This raised structure anchors the city's forum, and its size and prominence help students imagine the tension and drama of civic life in a bustling Roman center. As they explore the area, they'll see how the Bema overlooked the marketplace and main streets, making it a focal point for legal decisions, public debates, and community gatherings.

This is one of the most vivid "Paul moments" in Greece. According to Acts 18, Paul was brought before Gallio, the Roman proconsul, right here at the Bema. Standing in this spot allows students to picture the scene - early believers defending their faith, local leaders debating Paul's message, and Gallio dismissing the charges. It's a powerful reminder that the Christian story unfolded in real places, among real people, and that courage and conviction often took center stage in the public square.



Temple of Apollo - Students approach the striking columns of the Temple of Apollo, one of Corinth's most iconic landmarks and a powerful reminder of the city's ancient religious life. Its massive Doric pillars rise above the archaeological site, offering a glimpse into the grandeur and influence of Greek worship traditions. As students walk around the temple's foundations, they'll see how its commanding position shaped the city's skyline and symbolized Corinth's cultural identity. The surrounding area reveals layers of history - market stalls, civic buildings, and open spaces that once bustled with merchants, travelers, and worshippers.

For Christian travelers, the Temple of Apollo highlights the contrast between the world Paul encountered and the message he carried. Corinth was filled with temples, idols, and competing philosophies, yet Paul preached a faith centered on one God and one hope. Standing before Apollo's towering columns helps students understand the courage it took to share the gospel in a city devoted to many gods. It's a vivid reminder of Paul's call to live differently, even when surrounded by powerful cultural influences.



Lechaion Road - Students walk along Lechaion Road, one of Corinth's main thoroughfares, where merchants, travelers, and local residents once moved through the heart of the city. This wide, stone-paved street connected the bustling forum to the port of Lechaion, making it a vital artery for trade and daily life. As students explore its length, they'll see shop fronts, drainage systems, and architectural details that reveal how organized and vibrant Corinth was in its prime. It's one of the best places to imagine the rhythm of an ancient city - voices calling out from market stalls, carts rolling over stone, and people from across the Mediterranean passing through.

Walking this road helps students picture the world Paul navigated during his long stay in Corinth. He would have traveled these same stones, meeting people from every background and sharing the message of Christ in a city full of competing ideas and cultures. It highlights how the early church took shape in the everyday spaces of Corinth - along busy streets, inside workshops, and among the crowds that animated the city's daily life.



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Cenchreae (Port of Corinth) - Students arrive at the quiet, scenic harbor of Cenchreae, the eastern port of ancient Corinth where trade ships once crossed the Aegean and travelers moved between cultures, ideas, and distant cities. The gentle curve of the shoreline and the remains of ancient structures make this stop feel peaceful and reflective - an easy contrast to the busy archaeological site in Corinth. As students walk along the water's edge, they'll see how this port connected Corinth to the wider Mediterranean world, shaping the city's identity as a crossroads of commerce and conversation.

*Cenchreae is one of the most meaningful biblical locations in Greece because it's directly tied to Paul's ministry. Acts 18 describes Paul departing from this very port after completing his work in Corinth, and Romans 16 honors **Phoebe**, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae who carried Paul's letter to the Roman believers. Standing here gives students a powerful sense of continuity - Paul's journey continuing across the sea, and early Christian leadership emerging from this small coastal community. It's a quiet place with a big story, and a beautiful moment for reflection.*



Olive Oil Tasting Class - Students step into a warm, welcoming space where local experts introduce them to Greece's most treasured ingredient—extra virgin olive oil. During this hands-on tasting, they'll learn how olives are grown, harvested, and pressed, and how factors like soil, climate, and traditional methods shape each oil's flavor. Guided by a professional, students sample a variety of oils, noticing differences in aroma, color, and taste while pairing them with fresh bread, herbs, and simple Greek bites. It's a sensory experience that highlights the craftsmanship and cultural pride behind one of Greece's oldest traditions.



Epidaurus & the Ancient Theatre - Students travel to Epidaurus, one of Greece's most serene and beautifully preserved archaeological sites, surrounded by rolling hills and fragrant pine forests. The highlight is the Ancient Theatre, a masterpiece of classical architecture renowned for its perfect acoustics and elegant symmetry. As students climb the stone tiers and test the sound from the stage, they'll experience firsthand how a whisper can carry all the way to the top row - a phenomenon that continues to amaze visitors and scholars alike. The site also includes healing sanctuaries, temples, and quiet pathways that reveal Epidaurus's role as a center of wellness and culture in the ancient world.



Nafplio & Seaside Walk - Students explore Nafplio, one of Greece's most charming coastal towns, known for its winding alleys, neoclassical architecture, and sparkling views across the Argolic Gulf. As they stroll along the seaside promenade, they'll pass cafés, fishing boats, and the iconic Bourtzi fortress rising from the water. The gentle pace, ocean breeze, and colorful harbor create a relaxing break from archaeological sites, giving students time to enjoy the beauty of Greece's landscape and connect with the country's modern culture. It's a refreshing, scenic moment that balances the trip's historical depth with simple, memorable enjoyment.

Day 5: Mountain Views & Mythic Moments

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

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Delphi: Temple of Apollo - Students explore the Temple of Apollo, the centerpiece of ancient Delphi, where leaders and travelers once sought guidance from the Oracle. Set high on Mount Parnassus, the sanctuary's dramatic views, stone pathways, and remaining columns help students imagine how influential this place was in shaping decisions, beliefs, and cultural identity across the Greek world. The setting feels both grand and contemplative, giving students a sense of why Delphi was considered the spiritual heart of ancient Greece.

Delphi offers students a window into the spiritual and philosophical landscape Paul later encountered in cities like Athens and Corinth. The Oracle's authority and the Greek search for divine insight highlight the contrast between ancient beliefs and the message Paul carried - one rooted in a personal God who invites relationship rather than riddles.



Delphi Archaeological Museum - Students explore the Delphi Archaeological Museum, home to the remarkable artifacts that once filled the sanctuary outside. Inside, they'll see treasures such as the Charioteer of Delphi, intricate votive offerings, and detailed friezes that reveal how people expressed devotion, power, and identity in the ancient world. These objects help students connect the ruins on the hillside with the real people who traveled to Delphi seeking guidance, healing, or favor from the gods. The museum's collection brings the site to life, offering a clear, tangible look at the artistry and beliefs that shaped Greek culture.



Arachova Village - Students stop in Arachova, a charming mountain village perched along the slopes near Delphi. Known for its stone houses, colorful shops, and lively main street, Arachova offers a warm glimpse into modern Greek life. As students wander through the village, they'll find local textiles, handmade crafts, and small cafés serving regional treats. The crisp mountain air and scenic views make this a refreshing, relaxed break between major archaeological sites, giving students time to enjoy the beauty and culture of Greece in a simple, memorable way.



Greek Dancing Lesson - Travelers join a lively Greek dancing lesson led by local instructors who specialize in teaching traditional village dances to visiting groups. The session is upbeat, welcoming, and designed for beginners, so everyone can jump in right away. Instructors break down the steps, guide students through simple patterns, and build the energy as the group moves together in a circle. The music, rhythm, and shared movement create a joyful atmosphere that feels authentically Greek and wonderfully memorable. It's a fun cultural highlight that brings students together and adds a burst of celebration to the evening.



Greek Mythology & Storytelling Evening - Back at the hotel, students gather for a relaxed storytelling session led by their guide who brings Greek mythology to life through engaging narration. The atmosphere is cozy and low-key, with students settling in as they listen to memorable tales of gods, heroes, and ancient beliefs that shaped Greek imagination. The guide keeps the stories light and accessible, focusing on fun characters and making it an enjoyable cultural moment at the end of the day.



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Day 6: Macedonia Moves You

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Berea: Mosaic of Paul & Second Mosaic - Students visit Berea, a peaceful town known for its connection to Paul's journey through Macedonia. Here, they'll see two vibrant mosaics that depict Paul's arrival and teaching in Berea. The artwork is colorful and expressive, giving students a visual way to connect the biblical narrative to a real place. Standing before these mosaics offers a quiet, reflective moment in the itinerary and helps students imagine how the early believers might have received Paul's message.

Berea is remembered in Acts for its thoughtful and sincere response to Paul's teaching. The Bereans listened eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily, becoming a model of curiosity and discernment. Visiting these mosaics allows students to reflect on that spirit of openness and the importance of seeking truth with both enthusiasm and care.



Thessaloniki: Vlatadon Monastery - Travelers visit the Monastery, a peaceful hilltop sanctuary overlooking Thessaloniki. The monastery's quiet courtyards, shaded walkways, and views across the city create a reflective atmosphere that feels worlds away from the busy streets below. Its blend of history, stillness, and sweeping scenery makes it an inviting place for students to slow down and settle into the moment. As part of Thessaloniki's UNESCO World Heritage designation for its Paleochristian and Byzantine monuments, the site carries a recognized cultural and historical significance that teachers especially appreciate.

Tradition holds that Paul preached in this area during his time in Thessaloniki, making Vlatadon one of the most meaningful ministry stops in the city. Standing here helps students imagine Paul teaching the Thessalonians with clarity and conviction, encouraging them to remain steadfast in faith despite pressure and opposition. It's a moment that connects Scripture to place in a way that feels both grounded and deeply personal.



Thessaloniki Ancient Agora / Roman Forum - Students explore the Ancient Agora, the Roman heart of Thessaloniki where daily life, trade, and civic activity once unfolded. The open plaza, surviving arches, and excavated walkways help students imagine the rhythm of a bustling first-century city. Standing among the ruins offers a vivid sense of place - an environment shaped by movement, conversation, and community - making it easier to picture how early believers lived within a real, functioning urban world.

Paul spent time in Thessaloniki during his second missionary journey, teaching in the synagogue and engaging with both Jews and Greeks who were curious about the gospel. The Agora would have been part of the city he moved through, a space where ideas spread quickly and where the message of Christ began taking root despite opposition. Visiting this site helps students connect Paul's ministry to the everyday life of the city, grounding the biblical narrative in a tangible setting that feels historically authentic and spiritually meaningful.



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Jason's House Area (Acts 17) - Students visit the area traditionally associated with Jason's house, the place where Paul and Silas stayed during their time in Thessaloniki. While the exact home is not preserved, the neighborhood itself is identifiable, offering a meaningful way to connect the biblical narrative to a real location. Walking through these quiet streets helps students imagine the early Christian community living out their faith in the midst of a bustling Roman city, creating a powerful sense of proximity to the events described in Acts.

In Acts 17, Jason's house becomes the center of tension when a mob forms in response to Paul's teaching. Jason's willingness to shelter Paul - and to face accusations because of it - reveals the courage and conviction of Thessaloniki's earliest believers. Standing in this area allows us to reflect on the cost of discipleship and the boldness of those who supported Paul's ministry, grounding the story in a tangible place that deepens both understanding and empathy.



St. Paul's Church (Agios Pavlos) - Travelers visit St. Paul's Church, a modern hillside basilica dedicated to honoring Paul's ministry in Thessaloniki. The church overlooks the city, offering a wide, beautiful view that helps students take in the scale of the region where the early Christian community first formed. Its bright interior, peaceful grounds, and simple iconography create a welcoming space for reflection, giving students a quiet moment to pause during a full day of ministry-focused learning.

Although the church itself is contemporary, it stands as a tribute to Paul's time in Thessaloniki and the believers who first received his teaching with both enthusiasm and resilience. Visiting this site helps students connect the biblical narrative to the living faith of the city today, reminding them that Paul's message didn't remain in the first century - it continued to shape communities, inspire courage, and strengthen believers across generations.



Early Christian Quarter Walk - Students take a short walk through the area traditionally associated with Thessaloniki's earliest Christian community. The neighborhood's narrow lanes, stone pathways, and mix of old and modern buildings help students imagine what daily life might have looked like for the first believers who lived, worked, and worshiped here. Moving through this quiet part of the city offers a gentle shift in pace, giving students space to reflect on how faith took root in an ordinary urban setting long before churches or monuments marked the landscape.

Paul's ministry in Thessaloniki sparked a community that continued to grow despite pressure and opposition, and this walk helps students connect that story to a real environment. As they move through the area, they can picture the early believers gathering in homes, encouraging one another, and learning to follow Christ in a city full of competing voices. It's a simple but meaningful moment that ties Scripture to place, reminding students that the earliest church was built through relationships, hospitality, and everyday faithfulness.



Greek Cooking Class - Students take part in a hands-on Greek cooking class that brings the flavors of the region to life. In a local kitchen, they learn how to prepare traditional dishes using fresh, local ingredients - chopping herbs, mixing doughs, and tasting spices that have shaped Greek cuisine for centuries. The experience is lively and collaborative, giving students a chance to work together, laugh, and enjoy the process of creating something delicious from scratch. By the end, they sit down to share the meal they've made, celebrating the joy of hospitality that is so central to Greek culture.



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Day 7: Philippi Paths & Seaside Moments

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Philippi: Lydia's Baptismal Site - Students visit the peaceful riverside site traditionally associated with the baptism of Lydia, the first recorded convert to Christianity in Europe. The gentle sound of flowing water, shaded trees, and simple outdoor chapel create a quiet, reflective atmosphere that feels set apart from the busier pace of travel. It's a beautiful place for students to pause, breathe, and take in the landscape where one of the most meaningful moments in early Christian history unfolded. The setting naturally invites stillness, making it easy for students to imagine the scene described in Scripture and to appreciate the significance of this riverside gathering.

Acts 16 describes Paul meeting Lydia, a worshiper of God, whose heart opened to the message he shared. Her baptism here marks a turning point in the spread of the gospel into Europe, and standing at this site helps students connect that moment to a real place. It's a powerful reminder of how faith often begins in simple settings and how Lydia's openness became the foundation for the Philippian church. This stop gives students a chance to reflect on calling, courage, and the quiet beginnings of ministry that can shape entire communities.



Philippi Archaeological Site - Students explore the expansive archaeological site of ancient Philippi, a place where layers of history unfold in every direction. Walking through the Roman Forum, the remains of grand basilicas, and the stone-paved stretch of the Via Egnatia gives students a vivid sense of what life looked like in this important Macedonian city. The open spaces, surviving columns, and partially reconstructed structures make it easy to imagine merchants, travelers, and officials moving through the city's daily rhythm.

Philippi is central to Acts 16, where Paul and Silas were imprisoned after casting out a spirit from a slave girl. Standing near the traditional site of the prison allows students to picture the dramatic moment when an earthquake shook the foundations, opening the doors and setting the stage for the jailer's conversion. This visit ties the ministry story directly to the physical landscape, helping students understand how courage, worship, and faith shaped the early church even in moments of hardship.



Kavala Waterfront - Students take a break along Kavala's scenic waterfront, where traditional fishing boats, the sweeping harbor, and the historic Kamaretsi Aqueduct create a vivid snapshot of northern Greek coastal life. This stop gives the group time to stretch their legs, enjoy the fresh air, and take photos in one of the region's most picturesque seaside settings before continuing to the next activity. It's a simple, refreshing moment that helps reset the group's energy after a full morning of exploration.



Greek Tile-Stamping Workshop - A local artisan leads a hands-on tile-stamping activity, inviting students to press traditional Greek geometric patterns into soft clay and learn how these motifs have been used for centuries in Greek design. This short, interactive workshop gives students a chance to create something themselves, connect with local craftsmanship, and experience Greek culture in a meaningful, memorable way.



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Thessaloniki's Ladadika District - Travelers explore Thessaloniki's colorful Ladadika District, a lively pedestrian neighborhood filled with bright facades, cobblestone lanes, and the easy evening energy that makes this area a favorite for groups. This visit offers a relaxed, low-effort way to unwind after a full day - giving students time to stroll, enjoy the atmosphere, and take photos in one of the city's most charming historic quarters. The district's welcoming vibe and compact layout make it an ideal, teacher-friendly stop that adds joy and movement without adding complexity to the evening.

Day 8: Macedonian Treasures & Athens Farewell

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Royal Tombs of Philip II & Ancient Macedonia - UNESCO World Heritage Site -

Explore one of Greece's most extraordinary archaeological museums, where the underground exhibition reveals the royal tombs of Philip II and other members of the Macedonian dynasty. The dramatic lighting, preserved frescoes, golden wreaths, armor, and burial treasures offer a vivid look at the artistry and ceremonial traditions of ancient Macedonia. This immersive experience helps students understand the powerful cultural world that shaped the region long before Paul's ministry, providing valuable context for the historical backdrop of northern Greece.



Athens Riviera Dinner & Dance Cruise - Celebrate your final evening with a special dinner and dance cruise along the Athens Riviera, sailing past the city's illuminated coastline as the sun sets over the Saronic Gulf. The evening features a relaxed onboard dinner, open-air decks for photos, and a fun, supervised dance atmosphere that gives students a joyful way to end their journey together. Gentle music, sea breezes, and the glow of the Aegean create a memorable, cinematic finale that feels celebratory. It's a perfect closing experience that brings the week's learning, friendships, and shared moments together in a beautiful and unforgettable setting.

Day 9: Carry the Light Forward

Breakfast, dependent upon travel times

As the journey comes to a close, travelers enjoy a quiet final morning at the hotel, with breakfast available depending on the group's departure time. This gentle pause offers space to reflect on the week - on the places where Paul preached, the early churches they learned about, the ancient roads and cities that shaped the spread of the Gospel, and the moments of worship and wonder shared together. As they head to the airport, students carry home more than memories; they take with them a deeper understanding of Scripture, a renewed sense of faith, and the hope that the experiences of this week will continue to shape their walk with Christ long after they return home.



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Goodbye Greece

May the peace you found here and the presence of Christ travel with you.



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Weather in Greece

Spring (March–May): Bright Skies & Blooming Hillsides

- › Temperature: 55–70°F (13–21°C)
- › Vibe: Fresh, sunny, and ideal for exploring ancient sites and coastal towns.
- › Highlights: Wildflowers cover the hills of northern Greece, archaeological sites feel comfortable to explore, and the Aegean breeze keeps days pleasant.
- › Packing Tips: Light layers, a breathable jacket, and comfortable walking shoes for varied terrain.

Summer (June–August): Sun-Drenched Days & Aegean Energy

- › Temperature: 75–90°F (24–32°C), warmer inland.
- › Vibe: Bright, lively, and full of classic Greek summer atmosphere.
- › Highlights: Long daylight hours make Athens' monuments glow, coastal evenings are vibrant, and island breezes help balance the heat. Perfect for outdoor activities and sunset views.
- › Packing Tips: Sunglasses, lightweight clothing, sunscreen, and a refillable water bottle for long walking days.

Fall (September–November): Golden Light & Comfortable Exploring

- › Temperature: 60–75°F (16–24°C) early fall, cooling later.
- › Vibe: Crisp, calm, and beautifully photogenic.
- › Highlights: Archaeological sites are quieter, temperatures are ideal for walking, and the sea stays warm into early fall.
- › Packing Tips: Layers for changing temperatures, a light rain jacket, and sturdy shoes for cobblestones and uneven paths.

Winter (December–February): Quiet Cities & Cozy Evenings

- › Temperature: 45–60°F (7–16°C)
- › Vibe: Peaceful streets, atmospheric ruins, and mild coastal weather.
- › Highlights: Smaller crowds at major sites, warm cafés, and dramatic winter skies over Athens and Thessaloniki. Indoor museums and cultural experiences shine during this season.
- › Packing Tips: Warm layers, a medium-weight coat, waterproof footwear, and an umbrella for occasional rain.

Cultural Tips

Language & Courtesy

- › Learn a few Greek basics: Kaliméra (Good morning), Parakaló (Please), Efcharistó (Thank you), Yássas (Hello/Goodbye).
- › Use polite tone and warm greetings, especially with elders or professionals.
- › Saying goodbye when leaving shops or small businesses is appreciated.

Pace of Life

- › Embrace Greece's relaxed rhythms - meals linger, conversations stretch, and schedules may flex.
- › Expect midday closures (1–4 PM) in smaller towns and villages.

Respect for Nature & Heritage

- › Stay on marked paths, greet fellow walkers, and keep noise low in natural areas.
- › Be mindful in historic sites: no littering, respectful photography, and quiet behavior.

Student Engagement

- › Curiosity is welcomed - locals often enjoy sharing stories with respectful students.
- › Dress modestly for formal visits (churches, monasteries, research centers).

Faith & Tradition

- › Greek Orthodox heritage is visible everywhere - icons, chapels, bells, and local customs.
- › Sundays often slow down, with reduced business hours and a more reflective pace.



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Taste of Greece – Local Favorites to Try

Greece offers some of the Mediterranean's most iconic, easy-to-love foods - perfect for quick bites or relaxed meals during free time. Students will find familiar favorites alongside regional classics that make Greek cuisine unforgettable.

1. *Gyros & Souvlaki* – Warm pita, seasoned meat, and fresh toppings; quick, affordable, and universally loved by student groups.
2. *Greek Pies (Pites)* – Spanakopita, tiropita, and other savory pastries that are flaky and filling.
3. *Greek Yogurt & Honey* – Thick, creamy, and often topped with local honey; an easy afternoon treat.
4. *Street Food Favorites* – Koulouri (sesame bread rings), bougatsa (custard or cheese pastry), and other quick bites found throughout Greek cities.
5. *Fresh Seafood Dishes* – Especially common along the coast, simple grilled fish and seafood pasta.
6. *Classic Greek Sandwiches* – Simple, reliable options with fresh bread, cheese, and vegetables.
7. *Loukoumades* – Light, warm Greek dough bites drizzled with honey; a fun, sweet treat students love.

Entry Requirements for Greece

Travel Entry Requirements for Greece & the Schengen Area

Entry requirements for Greece and other Schengen Area countries can change, and all travelers are responsible for checking the most current information during planning and before departure. The guidelines below are accurate at the time of writing but are subject to change without notice. Always verify requirements through your government's travel authority and the official Schengen/ETIAS websites prior to travel. *(Note: EES and ETIAS are upcoming systems. Their launch dates may shift, so travelers must check for updates before departure.)*

General Requirements (All Travelers)

- ✓ A valid travel document (passport or national ID for eligible EU/EEA/Swiss citizens)
- ✓ Proof of sufficient funds for your stay
- ✓ Proof of accommodation (hotel, program lodging, or invitation)
- ✓ Proof of onward or return travel
- ✓ No active alert in the Schengen Information System (SIS)

Non-EU Travelers (Including U.S., U.K., Canadian, Australian, and others)

- ✓ **Passport Validity:** Must be valid for at least three months beyond your intended departure date from the Schengen Area.
- ✓ **Purpose of Stay:** You may be asked to show documentation of your travel purpose and accommodation.
- ✓ **Return/Onward Travel:** You must demonstrate intent to return home or continue travel.
- ✓ **EES (Entry/Exit System):** The EU is implementing a new biometric entry/exit system. Once active, non-EU travelers will provide fingerprints, a facial image, and passport details upon entry for short stays (up to 90 days in any 180-day period).
- ✓ **ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System):** The EU is also introducing a pre-travel authorization system. Once active, non-EU travelers will need to obtain ETIAS approval online before visiting any Schengen country.

EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens

- ✓ **Travel Document:** A valid passport or national identity card is sufficient for entry.



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Paul's Greece: Journey of Awakening

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Roundtrip international flights to/from Athens, Greece
- ✓ 7-nights' accommodation – 3-nights Athens, 1-night Nafplio, 1-night Delphi, 2-nights Thessaloniki
- ✓ Breakfasts & dinners starting with dinner on arrival, ending with breakfast on departure (dependent on flights)
- ✓ Airport transfers & transportation to activities shown in itinerary
- ✓ Athens City Orientation Tour & Plaka Discovery Walk
- ✓ Ancient Athens: Acropolis, Mars Hill (Areopagus), Ancient Agora & Stoa of Attalos
- ✓ The Acropolis Museum
- ✓ Greek Pottery Workshop
- ✓ Corinth Archaeological Site & Museum, Bema, Temple of Apollo, Lechaion Road & Cenchreea
- ✓ Olive Oil Tasting Class
- ✓ Epidaurus & the Ancient Theatre
- ✓ Delphi: Temple of Apollo
- ✓ Delphi Archaeological Museum
- ✓ Arachova Village
- ✓ Greek Dancing Lesson
- ✓ Greek Mythology & Storytelling Evening
- ✓ Greek Tile-Stamping Workshop
- ✓ Mosaic of Paul & Second Mosaic
- ✓ Vlatadon Monastery (UNESCO)
- ✓ Thessaloniki Ancient Agora, Jason's House, St. Paul's Church & Early Christian Quarter Walk
- ✓ Greek Cooking Class
- ✓ Lydia's Baptismal Site
- ✓ Philippi Archaeological Site
- ✓ Royal Tombs of Philip II & Ancient Macedonia - UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ✓ Athens Riviera Dinner & Dance Cruise
- ✓ Personal Tour Director
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ⊗ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ⊗ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required (if traveling from abroad, generally one bag is included per person)
- ⊗ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ⊗ Transportation to/from your local airport or transportation/activities not shown in the itinerary
- ⊗ Lunches or snacks/beverages other than at meal times
- ⊗ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions and vegetarians/vegans); beverages other than table water (pay on own for extra beverages)
- ⊗ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ⊗ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ⊗ Hotel incidental deposits nor any personal expenditures
- ⊗ **Gratuities for your Driver, Tour Director & Local Guides**
- ⊗ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or service charges levied by the governments or our suppliers
- ⊗ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)

Our staff are available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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