

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE



Father George Dahdouh

August 29 – September 09, 2024

Package Price! \$4,690.00 From Houston, TX (IAH)

Other Cities Available

Package Price Includes:

- * **Roundtrip Airfare**
- * **All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels**
- * **Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily**
- * **9 days sightseeing in modern air conditioned private bus**
- * **English speaking government licensed tour guide on duty**
- * **4 day cruise**
- * **2 Shore excursions (Kusadasi & Patmos)**

Good Shepherd Travel

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In the Footsteps of St. Paul Itinerary

August 29 – September 09, 2024

Sample day-by-day Itinerary

Athens – Mykonos – Kusadasi Ephesus - Patmos – Santorini – Mt. Athos
Thessaloniki – Philippi- Kavala- Veria – Vergina- Kalambaka Meteora – Ancient Corinth

Day 1/THURSDAY – DEPARTURE TO GREECE

Depart for your overnight flight to Greece, meals served on board.

Day 2/FRIDAY – ARRIVAL THESSALONIKI (D)

Arrive in Thessaloniki where you will be met outside baggage claim and escorted to your vehicle for a transfer to the hotel. Later this afternoon, meet your guide for a short Orientation Tour. Enjoy a welcome dinner with fellow travelers this evening. **Overnight Thessaloniki**

Day 3/SATURDAY – THESSALONIKI (B/L/D)

Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city with a population of some 1 million and a vital cultural, industrial, and commercial city, lies amphitheatrically on the Thermaikos Gulf, on the slopes of Mount Chortiatis. Founded by the Greek Macedonian King Kassander, he named the city Thessaloniki after his wife who was also the half-sister of Alexander the Great. During the Roman period, it was the capital of Macedonia Secunda and during the Middle Ages, it was the second city of the Byzantine Empire. For 400 years it was occupied by the Ottoman Empire until it was finally freed in 1912. We start our excursion with a transfer to the village of Ouranoupolis for taking the boat for a pilgrimage, 3 hours cruise of Mount Athos. The ship heads to the southwestern part of the peninsula and in about 10 minutes, it reaches the sea borders of the monastic state and its territory. From there, it arrives in 15 minutes in the area of the first Russian cloister and after sailing on unique beaches, it arrives in the area of the first monastery, Iera Moni Dochiariou, in around 40 minutes. Another 7 monasteries follow then, as well as the Holy Mount's central port, Daphni, and finally the cloisters, small villages, where groups of monks live in every house. Lunch is served onboard the ship. After this, you will board your bus and return to Thessaloniki continuing with a tour of the city viewing the White Tower, a historical landmark before continuing on to visit the Archaeological Museum which houses interesting finds from the Archaic, Classical, and Roman periods, with findings of the Sindos area and a stunning exhibition of golden jewels. Stop for a typical Greek lunch. From here, drive by the International Trade Fair grounds and the Aristotelion University, which was established in 1926 and today is the largest of all universities in Greece. Next, make your way up to the once upon a time, Acropolis, located in the upper part of the city. It is here, where you will have a superb panoramic view of the entire city with the Thermaic Gulf and Mount Olympus in the background. A further visit to St. Demetrios Basilica which was erected in the 5th century AD. The five aisled basilicas suffered a tragic fire in the year 1917 but were later restored in 1948. Marvel at the beautiful mosaics, dating back from the 5th to 9th Centuries. From here, follow your guide to the area located under the basilica, where you will see the famous crypt, which according to tradition, was once the confinement for an officer by the name of Demetrius who was later executed by the Emperor Gallarius. Today, St. Demetrius is the patron Saint of the city. Return to your motorcoach and drive along the modern street, Egnatia, named after the famous Roman road, Via Egnatia. While driving, view the Arch of Gallarius and St. George's Rotonda. The tour will end by passing by the well-preserved Byzantine Basilica of St. Sophia, an 8th Century structure, rich in mosaics and frescoes. **Overnight Thessaloniki Lunch Onboard cruise ship to Athos**

Day 4/SUNDAY – THESSALONIKI – KAVALA – PHILIPPI – THESSALONIKI (B/L/D)

Kavala, the ancient site of Neapolis, founded in the 7th Century BC, is the very same place where St. Paul set foot on the European Continent during his second missionary journey, establishing a thriving Christian church in the nearby city of Philippi. The famous Egnatian road, which once ran from the Adriatic Sea to Constantinople, passed by this city. On the way to Philippi, you will have the opportunity to view the St. Sylas Monastery named after one of St. Paul's companions. Arrive at the famous city of Philippi, one of the most interesting biblical and historical ancient cities. The city once known as Krinides, was renamed "Philippi" after King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It is this place where Brutus and Cassius were defeated by Mark Antony and Junavian Augustus, granting the City of Philippi a great many privileges. From here, drive a short distance to the Baptistery and the River, where Lydia, the first European convert was baptized by St. Paul. Return to the archaeological site for a guided tour through the excavations, marveling at the upper and lower parts as well as the Forum, the Walls, the two Basilicas, and the Theatre. Your guide will also point out the traditional prison, which once held St. Paul and St. Silas. After lunch in Kavala, we will do a short orientation tour of Kavala (Ancient Neapolis) and then drive back to Thessaloniki. **Overnight Thessaloniki**

Day 5/MONDAY – THESSALONIKI – PELLA – KALAMBAKA (B/L/D)

Your tour starts with a 45-minute drive to Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, where you will explore the site on foot. Pella was the second capital of ancient Macedonia, founded by king Archelaos who had built the magnificent palace, its walls being decorated by the famous painter Zeuxis and made it to the seat of the Royal Family. Being situated at the riverside of Ludias, which was once navigable, was developed into an important port. Euripides was at Pella to see his plays produced and performed there and Aristotle was appointed to educate young Alexander. We start our visits here first with the Archaeological Museum. Being small but very important, due to its rich collection of clay figurines, the classical black, and red-figured vases, the pebble floor mosaics, and the fine reconstruction of the interior architectural part of the Greek house with its stucco decoration. We start visiting the excavations with the huge Greek houses bearing the central courtyards and being surrounded by big rooms, walk along the streets facing the shops of the big market and admire the still existing floor mosaics. Continue to visit the Royal Tombs of Vergina (Land of Alexander the Great) we will have lunch at Elia Restaurant in Veria, overlooking the valley Aliakmon. The tour includes a visit to the newly completed exhibition bearing the finds of all 3 Tombs, one of them famous as the Tomb of King Philip the II, Father of Alexander the Great. Make your way inside the subterranean structure, accompanied by your guide, and feast your eyes on some of the most important objects, which once belonged to Philip II – the King's shield adorned with ivory and gold the King's gold-trimmed iron breastplate, Gold Diadems of unparalleled craftsmanship, the Golden Wreath of oak leaves, the gold plated collar and the Silver Burial Urns. Listen carefully, as your guide explains how inside the tomb of King Philip, a Golden Chest was discovered, containing the King's bones, washed with wine and wrapped in purple cloth. After a short coffee break, we will drive towards the town of Kalambaka. **Overnight Kalambaka**

Note: While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.

Day 6/TUESDAY – KALAMBAKA – METEORA – ATHENS (B/L/D)

Today we will visit the monasteries of Meteora. One of the most remarkable sites in Greece: is a group of monasteries perched atop pinnacles of rock up to 600 meters high. A rare geological phenomenon, a quirk of nature as it were, created these looming rocks which thrust skywards from the plain of Thessaly, as if striving to come closer to God. These peculiarly impressive natural sculptures are known as Meteora because they do indeed seem to hang or hover (meteoro in Greek) above the plain. Their summits totally isolated from the rest of the world were a refuge for many hermits from as early as the 11th century. Three hundred years later the first monasteries were founded. Access to the monasteries and settlements was made by ladder and rope. Once we arrive at the monasteries you will admire the brickwork of the Byzantine workmanship. The Churches house the spectacular frescoes, ivory carvings, manuscripts, and the fine work of art previously supported by the emperors at the time. Included in the tour is the visit to two monasteries, Grand Meteora or Varlaam Monasteries (depending on the day of the week) as well as the Monastery of Agios Stefanos (Nuns). ***You are kindly requested to observe the strict clothing restrictions of the monasteries i.e. long skirts and covered shoulders for the ladies, and long trousers for men otherwise entrance will be denied *Overnight Athens**

Day 7/WEDNESDAY – ATHENS (B/L/D)

On a tour to Athens, you will view many significant historical and archaeological monuments that date back to the Golden Age of Pericles, in the 5th century BC. During that time, the wealthy, newly democratic, and invigorated city state decided to rebuild the Temples on top of the Acropolis in great splendor. Visit the Parthenon, dedicated to the Goddess Athena, a unique masterpiece of Greek Architecture. This monument is recognized as the culmination of Greek architecture and sculpture. Examine the Propylea, which blends Doric and Ionic building principles. Continue to the Temple of the Athena Nike (Wingless Victory) and the Erechtheum Temple, which was formerly used for cult worship and consists of three basic parts: the main Temple, the north extension, and the famous Porch of Maidens. Then you will enjoy a traditional lunch in a restaurant in the center of Athens. After lunch, you will have the chance to explore the New Acropolis Museum located across the hill of the Acropolis serving as a reminder to all visitors of the true greatness of 5th century Athens. Among its many important exhibits are the Caryatids (female sculptures acting as columns of the Erechtheion Temple), the Parthenon Gallery with the inner frieze, outer metopes, and pediments of the temple, and the statue of Artemis by Praxitelis. Next, view Mars Hill, where St. Paul preached Christianity. You will also be seeing the Ancient Agora, Tower of the Winds, Herodes Atticus Theater, Theater of Dionysos, Temple of Zeus, see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the former Royal Palace which is now the House of Parliament. Continue to the University of Athens, the Academy of Athens, the National Library, and then to the "Panathenian" Olympic Stadium where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896. **Overnight Athens**

Day 8/THURSDAY-ATHENS – CORINTH (B/L/D)

Corinth (Argolis) Journey outside Athens to walk among the ancients in Corinth, a once rich and powerful city known for luxury and vice and see the incredible Corinth Canal, cut through miles of solid rock. Follow the sacred way which led to Eleusis, known in antiquity for its sanctuary of Demeter, whose legendary search for her daughter Persephone explained to the ancients the cause of the seasons. A modern highway takes you past olive fields and numerous small villages, including Megara, whose inhabitants colonized Asia Minor under the leadership of Byzas and founded the city of Byzantium - which later gave its name to the Byzantine Empire. Driving along the coast leads to the majestic Corinth Canal, an engineering triumph century in the making. Nero, Rome's most infamous emperor, inaugurated one attempt in 67 AD with his golden spade, but it was the Greeks who finally conquered the steep rock in 1893. Prior to the canal, ships were dragged from the Ionian Sea to the Aegean Sea using a wooden road with special grooves greased with wax. Traces of the road can still be seen. Continue on to Ancient Corinth, a city blessed with a superb location, fertile plains, and a virtually impregnable refuge. Excavations reveal that the ancient city was huge and wealthy; a survivor of numerous invasions but devastated by earthquakes. See the Bema, where St. Paul was tried by the Roman Governor, and one of Corinth's most striking ancient buildings - the Temple of Apollo, seven of whose original 38 columns still stand. Walkthrough the remains of the Market Place, a colonnaded square once surrounded by many small shops. See the celebrated Fountain of Priene, which has produced water from the earliest times, and Lechaion Road, formerly the main thoroughfare to the port of Location. You will also be visiting the museum of Corinth. Lunch at Loutraki. **Overnight Athens**

CRUISE EXTENSION:**Day 9/FRIDAY: CRUISE EMBARKATION-MYKONOS (B/L/D)**

The cruise ship departs at 11:00 am for Mykonos.

Between 18:00 & 23:00 visit the island of Mykonos, one of the most beautiful islands (Lunch & dinner onboard)

Day 10/SATURDAY: KUSADASI/PATMOS (B/L/D)

At 07:00 am we arrive in Kusadasi (Turkey) where you will have the chance to visit Ephesus and the House of Virgin Mary (included), an ancient Greek city founded in the 8th Century BC and one of the best-preserved archeological sites in the world (optional excursion). At noon, we will depart for Patmos. Enjoy the sacred island of Patmos, an island with an austere physiognomy. This is where St John the Evangelist wrote the Apocalypse. The excursion (included) will take you to the place where he received the Revelation and after you will visit the Monastery dedicated to him From 16:00 till 21:00 the ship will be at Patmos. (Breakfast, lunch & dinner onboard)

Day 11/SUNDAY: HERAKLION/SANTORINI (B/L/D)

From 07:00 am to 11:30 am we will be in the main city of Heraklion on the island of Crete. Here you will be able to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos (optional excursion). At 16:30 we alight in Santorini. Go ashore and take a donkey ride or the cable car up to the town of Fira. Santorini is an exceptionally beautiful island of white-washed houses set into the steep cliffs shaped by the volcano. Be sure not to miss the dazzling sunset from one of Santorini's many charming villages (or optional excursion to Oia). We set sail for Athens at 21:00. (Breakfast, lunch & dinner onboard)

Day 12/MONDAY: ATHENS-ATHENS AIRPORT (B)

Return to Athens around 06:00 am disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport. (Breakfast onboard)

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$1000.00 per person is due by February 28, 2024. The final payment is due no less than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour (May 28, 2024). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments will be accepted but will incur a 4% Surcharge at the time of booking. Reservations received after May 28, 2024 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: If a passenger cancels his/her tour membership there will be no cancellation fee until 121 days before departure. For cancellations 120-91 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. 90-61 days before departure the cancellation fee will be 50% of the Cost per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 60 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to Goodshepherd Travel in writing. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

FARE INCLUSIVE: Roundtrip air transportation from Houston, TX (IAH) International as indicated on the registration form. 7 nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four star hotels by (local standards). 3 nights Cabin accommodation in Standard Inside Cabin IB Category. All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Local breakfasts (B) at the hotel and Lunch. Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motor coaches, utilizing the services of a Government licensed, local English speaking tour guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motor coach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Foreign Country departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motor coach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are Not included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Goodshepherd Travel constantly strives to adhere to the specifics shown in the itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes. Such circumstances may require changes without advance notice during the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to change the itinerary if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control force a change. Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances.

TOUR CANCELLATION: Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by Goodshepherd Travel, the sole and exclusive responsibility of Goodshepherd Travel is to refund all monies recovered.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport costs, visa fees (if any), and health documentation costs (when required); food and beverages (including coffee and tea) not usually included with the table d'hote meals; optional sightseeing tours and excursions; accident and baggage insurance; transporting and handling excess luggage; tips to persons rendering special personal services; items of a purely personal nature such as laundry, telephone, and cable expenses, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

AIR ROUTINGS: The brochure price includes IATA jet economy class transportation from the international departure city applicable on all IATA and ARC carriers, based on the 6/45-day Apex fare to the Europe. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to choose the air carrier, routing, and departure time for each passenger. Airfares used are based on contracted group fares and are highly restrictive. Payments for and restrictions on airline tickets are governed by the applicable fare. Cancellation fees levied by the airlines are applicable if you cancel or change your air ticket for any reason after purchase of air ticket. Ticketing must be completed 45 days prior to departure. Group fares do not permit deviations; passengers who wish to deviate may arrange their own airfare. An airline credit of \$1250.00 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify Goodshepherd Travel in writing on or before May 28, 2024. Seat numbers will be assigned by the airline at check-in; specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Passengers are responsible for providing frequent flyer information upon check-in.

HOTELS: Tour prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room in Deluxe hotels. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$950.00 (tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge).

BAGGAGE: You may check no more than one (1) piece of luggage whose overall dimensions does not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. Checking a second bag will cost up to \$100.00.

Each passenger may also bring one (1) piece of carry-on luggage. Tips to hotel porters are included for one normal sized piece of luggage, excluding carry-on bags which must remain in your possession at all times. These regulations may change without notice so please read the monthly correspondence you will receive from Goodshepherd Travel for the most current information. Garment bags cannot be carried. Under no circumstances may dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances be contained in any baggage. Medications, valuables, passports, and a change of clothing should be packed in your carry-on bag.

DISABILITIES: Due to the difficult terrain at sites we visit, persons requiring oxygen or oxygen therapy will not be permitted on the tour. For reasons of passenger safety and well-being, persons with impaired mobility, vision, or mental capacity will not be permitted on the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to refuse passage to someone who is in such physical or mental condition as to be unfit for travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which the tour guide and tour host can provide. The tour requires a substantial amount of walking and the sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

INSURANCE: Acting only as agents for suppliers, Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accident, illness and/or death as a result of any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, or theft. For your protection, it is important that you have adequate travel insurance to cover these possibilities. Additional information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied to you prior to departure.

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required and must be obtained in person by each tour member. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office.

PRICE CHANGES: Tour conditions and air fares are subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC, and airline regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. All rates are quoted in US dollars and are based on tariffs and costs in effect in November 2023, and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges of \$687.00 are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to pass along additional fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

DISCLAIMER: Goodshepherd Travel acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation, sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of Goodshepherd Travel. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By utilizing the services of the suppliers, you agree that Goodshepherd Travel shall not be liable for any accident, loss, injury, death, or damage of any kind to you or to those traveling with you. This includes, but is not limited to, conditions beyond its control, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules. At the time of printing a TRAVEL WARNING as issued by the United States Department of State was in effect for parts of Greece. Remember also that all travel documents as well as compliance with customs regulations are your responsibility. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing, signed by an authorized officer of Goodshepherd Travel. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passenger contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between it and you. By virtue of my signature on the registration form below I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with this trip and I agree that Goodshepherd Travel assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against Goodshepherd Travel, or Rev. Father George Dahdouh

ACCEPTANCE: Registration for trip and payment of deposit constitutes your acceptance of the "Fine Print."

Trip date:
August 29 – September 09,
2024

Package Price: \$4,690.00
Single supplement is \$950.00 (Private Room)

Package price includes the following:

- Round trip airline tickets
- Meet & Assist at Airports upon arrivals and departures.
- Three overnights in Thessaloniki (hotel Capsis or similar) including breakfast daily
- One overnight in Kalambaka (hotel Amalia or similar) including breakfast daily
- Three overnights in Athens (hotel Stanley or similar) including breakfast daily
- 4-day cruise extension
- Air-conditioned motor coach throughout for all tours and transfers
- Services of English-speaking professional, licensed guide for all sites and museums as per itinerary
- Dinners during tours includes one soft drink or glass of wine per person
- Welcome dinner in Thessaloniki includes house wine
- Transfers from and to airports
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Road tolls and all applicable taxes
- Lunches

Package price does not include the following:

- Soft drinks.
- Tips for Guide, Driver .
- All Personal Expenses.
- Travel Insurance.
- Anything that's not mentioned in the list of included items, at left.

I agree to the conditions as stated above

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTES:
• Rates are per person in US dollar in twin/double and include port and service charges (\$ 136.00 per person) and are All-Inclusive • Single Supplement + 50% except categories XF,SJ,SB, SG which are + 100% from given rates. Shore Excursions Package Deal (includes tour to Ephesus, Patmos and Rhodes) \$ 168.00 per person and is compulsory (Included) All

RESERVATION APPLICATION

Spiritual leader: Father George Dahdouh

Pilgrimage to Greece and Greek Islands

(August 29 – September 09, 2024)

Group Reference Number: **G082924**



PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please complete one application per person)

Full Name (as printed on your passport):				
First Name:		Middle Name:		Last Name:
Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge):			Date of birth:	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address:	Street:		Mobile phone:	Home phone:
City:	State:	Zip code:	Work phone:	
Email address:				

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Country of citizenship:	Passport number:
Passport date of issue:	Passport date of expiration:
Frequent flyer number:	Known traveler number:

ROOM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Please check one: Double/Triple occupancy <input type="checkbox"/> Single occupancy (Private Room) \$950.00 additional <input type="checkbox"/>
All prices are in US Dollars based on per person in a double/Triple room, Passengers rooming alone are subject to single supplement
If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate if known at the time of booking:
If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please list the name, relationship, and phone number for a family member/close friend who is <u>NOT</u> traveling with you:
--

I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this tour contract:
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of current passport and a deposit of **\$500.00 per person** made payable to

Goodshepherd Travel

9021 Washington Lane

Lantana, Texas 76226

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