

ST. PAUL'S
Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Paul's - Brenham



CRUISING WITH PAUL

April 7 - 19, 2024

12 Day Tour with

4 Night Cruise

Pastor Phil & Anna Geleske

Thessalonica

Philippi & Lydia

Ephesus

House of Mary

Athens

Corinth

Santorini & Mykonos

Crete & Rhodes

Isle of Patmos





on this pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey where the letters of St. Paul will come alive as we trace the journey of this great Apostle, both by land, and by sea. Devotionals and communion will be shared in the historic New Testament communities of the Corinthians, Ephesians, Thessalonians, and the Philippians, recognizing where we are along our spiritual journey. Our cruise will also take us to the Isle of Patmos, where John penned Revelation, as well as the Island of Rhodes where the Crusaders built a city.

A Pilgrimage is often a life changing experience – a special time for spiritual and personal contemplation. There is much to be learned from visiting these holy sites and celebrating faith together as did many generations who came before us. Your faith will deepen as you experience important sites to our Church history.

Each of the twelve days is well-planned with tours, and cruise excursions to spiritual and historic sites as well as time to enjoy the striking landscapes, culture and cuisine. By worshipping and traveling together with fellow parishioners, you will form relationships and make memories to last a lifetime.

I invite you to prayerfully consider signing up soon for this unique opportunity. Seats are limited.

In Christ,

Pastor Phil

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Imagine walking where Saints dared to tread and preach nearly 2,000 years ago! We can learn from these saints and be encouraged in our own spiritual journeys knowing others have walked the path before us.

St. Paul's will again partner with St. Cecelia Tours, owned and operated by Eric, our music director, to offer parishioners the opportunity to journey

JOIN YOUR ST. PAUL'S FAMILY
GREECE & TURKEY - "THE OTHER HOLY LAND"



THESSALONIKI

TRAVEL DAY

Sunday, April 7

We meet in the afternoon in Terminal D of the Houston Intercontinental Airport, where we will check-in for our flight with Lufthansa to Thessaloniki. The flight, LH 441, departs Houston at 3:45 PM. Get some rest, as tomorrow, we will begin our pilgrimage, and trace some of the missionary journeys of Paul, the Apostle.

Monday, April 8

After we arrive the airport in Thessaloniki, we meet our guide, load our coach and travel to our beautiful hotel located in the historic old city. We freshen up and have a light supper together at our hotel restaurant to celebrate the beginning of our pilgrimage. [D]

Tuesday, April 9

We take time to enjoy a traditional breakfast, which is included every morning, in all of our hotels, throughout our pilgrimage. A morning guided walking tour of the ancient city of Thessalonica, which is not only a significant Biblical civilization, but an UNESCO world heritage site as well. Our day concludes with the entrance to the Byzantine museum. We have free time in the late afternoon to explore the vibrant city of Thessaloniki, dinner is on your own. [B]

Wednesday, April 10

Our guide will lead us on a scenic journey to Philippi, where we visit the archeological site and ruins of the Biblical civilization where Paul preached. We see the cell where he was imprisoned, and the excavation of a 1st century church. We take time for a devotional to ponder the words that Paul shared with the church in Philippi. A delicious fish lunch is served in Kavala. We visit Lydia, where Paul baptized the first Gentile woman, Lydia. We celebrate Holy Communion, before we return to our hotel in Thessaloniki. Dinner is on your own. [B,L]

**Thursday, April 11**

We bid adieu to Thessaloniki, and head to Meteora. We travel by coach, and enjoy the incredible views of Mount Olympus, and the beauty of God's creation. Meteora is made up of a unique landscape, with several monasteries dotting the top of its rock formations. We stay one night at the Tsikeli Boutique Hotel. The evening is at your leisure, but we enjoy dinner in our hotel restaurant, together. [B,D]

Friday, April 12

We transfer to the Plaka Hotel located in the most ideal center of Athens, where we will stay for the next three nights. After we check-in, we will enjoy a welcome toast and light snacks on the hotel's rooftop bar, with views of the Acropolis and Mars Hill. We will have a brief orientation meeting regarding the next two days, and our upcoming cruise. The remainder of your day is free time to relax, sightsee on your own and enjoy this historic and vibrant city. Have fun! [B]

Saturday, April 13

Following breakfast, we tour ancient Athens, the foundation of democracy. We visit the Acropolis and its Museum, the Parthenon, and Erechtheum and take in the views of Athens atop Mars Hill, where Paul stood and preached the truth to the Gentile nation. The rest of the evening will be at your leisure. Dinner on your own this evening, enjoy! [B]



4 NIGHT CRUISE

APRIL 15-19 CRUISE SCHEDULE

15 April Mykonos
16 April Ephesus
16 April May Isle of Patmos
17 April Rhodes
18 April Crete
18 April Santorini
19 April Athens - Airport

Sunday, April 14

At 8:30 AM, we travel by coach to the city of Corinth, where early Christians received Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Here we will see the pillars, steps, and places where Paul preached as well as celebrate Mass in the midst of the ruins. We return to Athens and break bread together at a restaurant near our hotel. [B,L,D]

Monday, April 15

We set sail on a four-night cruise, embarking first for the beautiful Isle of Mykonos. Choose to spend the evening on the boat or disembark to explore the local scene. Mykonos is one of the Mediterranean's most famous tourist destinations, well known for its beaches and turquoise water. Later this evening, we depart for Ephesus and Kusadasi, Turkey. [B,L,D]

Tuesday, April 16

A guided, morning excursion to Ephesus includes the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, House of Mary as well as other ancient sites in this biblical city. In the afternoon, we depart for the Isle of Patmos, where John received and recorded his Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. [B,L,D]





Wednesday, April 17

We arrive on the Greek island and city of Rhodes. Optional excursions include beautiful beaches and the city's old town, which features the medieval Street of the Knights and the castle-like palace of the Grand Masters. The cruise ship departs later this evening. [B,L,D]

Thursday, April 18

This morning, we dock at Crete, the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands. Take a tour to Heraklion and the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Our ship departs this afternoon for the island of Santorini, perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. We depart Santorini this evening to arrive Athens the next morning. [B,L,D]

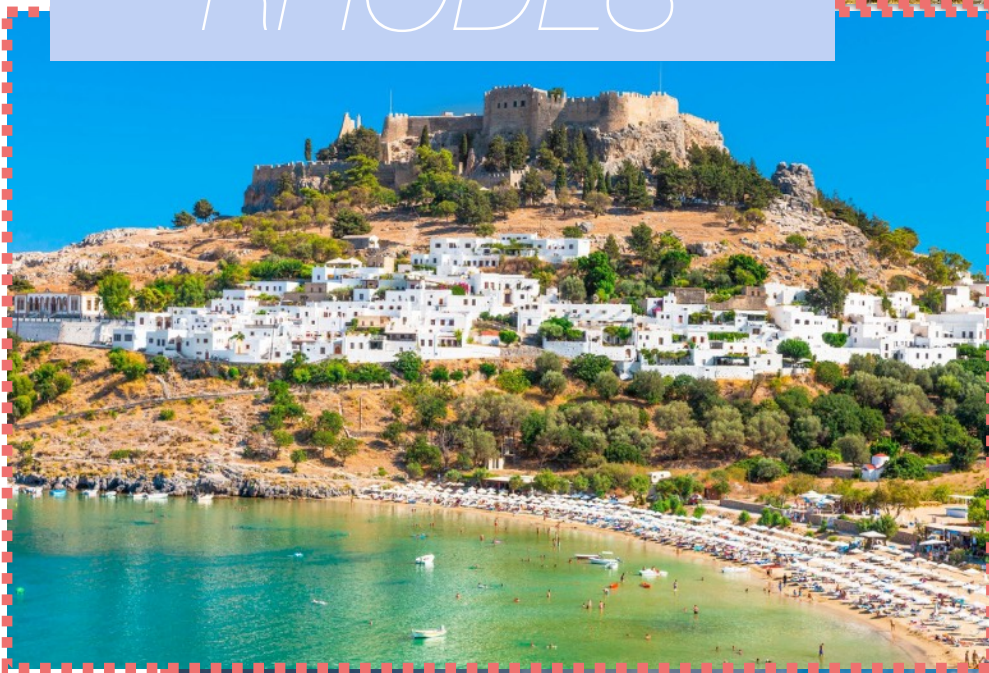
Friday, April 19

We disembark at 7 AM. Our coach will transport us from the cruise docks to the airport, where our pilgrimage unfortunately must come to an end. We fly as a group from Athens to Houston.



CORINTH

RHODES



ISLE OF PATMOS

4-Night Cruise on the Celestyal Olympia

The elegant Olympia reflects and celebrates Mediterranean heritage, tradition and culture and offers warm Mediterranean hospitality. She has sunny, bright, airy lounges and restaurants, spacious staterooms, two pools and generous expanse of teak decking. The ship is named after the site in Western Greece, dedicated to Zeus, where the ancient Olympic Games were held. Regarded as the jewel in the crown of the Celestyal fleet, Olympia underwent a complete refurbishment in 2016 and is home to a maximum of 1,664 guests on any one cruise being looked after by a crew of just over 540.

Your Pilgrimage and Cruise Includes:

Round-Trip Airfare,
Accommodation w/Daily Breakfast,
Meals as Outlined in the Itinerary
4-Night Cruise with Celestyal Cruises
*Outside Porthole Window Cabin
Entrance Tickets to Museum,
Venues & Archeological Sites
Executive Coach Transportation,
Licensed Guides
Excursions as published.

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Jr. Suite \$395 pp
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Travel Insurance Available via St. Cecilia Tours Website

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VISIT WEBSITE:

www.stcecilia.co/tours

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