

Athens, Greek Isle Cruise and Turkey

12-Day Tour

Day 1—Depart US for flight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2—Athens City ♦ Acropolis ♦ Mars Hill



Arrive early in Athens, one of the world's greatest civilizations. Visit the ruins of Acropolis including Propylaea, the Porch of Maidens of Erechtheum. Visit Mars Hill and the

Parthenon, where Paul was brought before council. We will drive through the city of Athens and see the national Library, University, the Academy, the Presidential Palace, the Stadium, Temple of Zeus and Hadrian's Arch. Overnight in Athens.

Day 3—Corinth ♦ Acrocorinth

Today we tour Corinth. Drive through Daphni and Eleusis, cross the Corinthian Canal, which connects the Aegean and Ionian Seas, and then arrive in ancient Corinth. Visit the ruins where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. See first-century shops, the Agora, Temple of Apollo and the Bema Seat. Then drive up to Acrocorinth, the site of the great Temple of Aphrodite in Paul's time. Overnight in Athens.

Day 4—Greek Isle Cruise ♦ Mykonos

Transfer to Piraeus Port for 11:00am departure to begin your Greek Isle cruise. Today we visit Mykonos, Greece, the most popular of the Greek Islands, with beautiful sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, picturesque whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches. According to the mythology, Hercules, in one of his 12 tasks,



killed the giants and threw them into the sea where they petrified and turned into huge rocks, forming the island of Mykonos.



Day 5—Rhodes, Greece

Today we visit Rhodes, a city visited by the Apostle Paul on his third missionary journey. Rhodes was inhabited during the Neolithic era and in 322 BC was joined with the empire of Alexander the Great. The beautiful beaches and crystal clear seas make Rhodes a popular tourist attraction, even for Greeks.



Day 6—Patmos, Greece ♦ Izmir, Turkey



Our Journey today takes us to Patmos where John wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos is sometimes called "The Jerusalem of the Aegean." The Monastery of St. Johns towers above the capital of Chora, and the whole island breathes of faith and devotion. The island is thought to have been inhabited since prehistoric times. The Romans used Patmos as a place for exiles, and that's how the Apostle John ended up here. He was ostracized from Miletus by the Roman governor for preaching the Christian faith in 95 AD and stayed on Patmos for two years. Disembark in Kusadasi where we will be met by our Turkish representative. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 7—Pergamum ♦ Thyatira ♦ Kusadasi

Today our first stop is Thyatira where the Christians were admonished to "hold fast to what you have..." Then we travel to Pergamum where Paul advised the people to be faithful under persecution. Impressive temples, library and medical facilities made Pergamum a renowned cultural and political center. Return to Kusadasi for overnight.



Day 8—Sardis ♦ Philadelphia ♦ Pamukkale

Today we visit Philadelphia where John praised the Church for “keeping the word”. Next we see Sardis which was part of the Roman province of Asia in New Testament times. The



church at Sardis was encouraged to “be watchful and strengthen what is left”. Ancient Sardis had a very large and prosperous Jewish community which produced the largest ancient synagogue outside of Israel. Then we explore ancient Smyrna, the second city of the Seven Churches of Revelation to receive the message from the



Apostle John. The ruins are located in Izmir, the 2nd largest city in modern Turkey which continues to be an important commercial port city. You will visit the Church of

St. Polycarp, the oldest church in Smyrna and a memorial to Polycarp, a student of the Apostle John who was martyred in the city in 155 AD. Overnight in Kusadasi.



Day 9—Pamukkale ♦ Laodicia

We take a scenic journey this morning to Laodicia, one of the seven most important churches in early Christianity. It is here the Christians were accused of being lukewarm. We continue to Hierapolis where Christianity came via Paul. Unique geographical formations have been shaped over the last 14,000 years. Calcium-rich water from an underground thermal spring has flowed over the mountainside and slowly solidified, creating shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites. Overnight in Kusadasi.



Day 10—Kusadasi

After breakfast explore Ephesus, the crown jewel where Paul warned against evil men. Ephesus is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the world and was famous throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis. See the Celsius Library, the best preserved structure of its

kind. Explore terrace house, a beautiful example of Roman domestic architecture, and Odeon, the marble street where Paul held daily discussions. In the late afternoon you will have free time for leisure and to explore the beautiful port city of Kusadasi on the Aegean Sea. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 11—Kusadasi ♦ Istanbul



We depart Kusadasi for a short flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul we visit the magnificent Topkapi Palace, once home to the great Sultans. It is filled with treasures and antiquities including 12,000 pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. Then explore the unique Blue Mosque built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet. Its interior walls are covered in 20,000 blue Iznik tiles. Next we visit the Hippodrome and Basilica of St. Sophia which has inspired religious leaders for over 1,500 years. Constructed in 326 BC by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and now a museum. Our day ends with a cruise on the Bosphorus and farewell dinner. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 12—Departure

Depart Istanbul and arrive home with life changing memories.

