

# AMAZING GREECE

MYTHOLOGY • MYSTERY • MISSION

SEPTEMBER 7 - 21, 2019



Join Pastor Shawn Hubert and Bronwyn Spilsbury  
following the faith and footsteps of Paul,  
including a cruise to Greek Isles and Ephesus.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER FOR THIS AMAZING JOURNEY, CONTACT:**

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*"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it." Philippians 1:6*

**AMAZING GREECE!**  
**MYTHOLOGY, MYSTERY & MISSION**  
**15 DAYS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL**  
**SEPTEMBER 7-21, 2019**

**DAY 1 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: DEPARTURE FROM CANADA**

Our journey departs from Calgary and takes us to

**DAY 2 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: ARRIVAL IN ATHENS**

We arrive in Athens, where we meet our guide and board our coach. Go to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 3– MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: SOUTHERN MT. PARNASSUS**

We drive along **Mt. Helicon**, homeland of the mythological **Muses** of knowledge and art.

We will arrive at **Agios Jerusalem**, a hidden monastery in the green hills of **Mt. Parnassus**. We will visit the model of the New Jerusalem and walk a short mountain trail to the monastic cave nearby, including a flute recital in nature.

We then proceed to **Arachova**, the famous mountain village with the red roofs.

Then we see the **Byzantine churches** with their well- preserved frescos and realize the apostle's legacy.

Next we visit the archeological site of **Delphi**, the **Temple of Athena** and **Apollo**, residence of the famous oracle.

Afterwards we drive through the Sea of Olives to **Itea**, a beautiful resort town on the **Aegean Sea** and check into our hotel. Dinner and overnight are in Itea.



**DAY 4 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: UPPER PARNASSUA & EVRITANIA**

We begin with a drive along **Sphercheios** to **Timfristos** to visit the village square for coffee and see the church. Then we see **Mt. Timfristos** and the valley of **Karpenissi**, known as the “Switzerland of Greece”.

We will also walk along **Karpeniotisi Canyon**- the nicest slate canyon in Europe.

We drive on to the monastery of **Prossus** to see the oldest portrait of the Virgin Mary, according to tradition. Then we visit the fruit fisher village of **Micro Chorio** and walk in the nature reserve of **Megalo Chorio**. Dinner and overnight are in Karpenissi.



**DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: ISLAND OF LICHAS**

This morning we drive to **Kamena Vourla**.

Then we take a **glass boat** to the volcanic crater in **Kamena gulf** and enjoy the island walks and beaches.

The rest of the day is at leisure in Kamena Vourla, including swimming in the hot springs if wished.

Dinner and overnight are in Kamena Vourla.

**DAY 6 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: MT. PELION**

Today we drive to **Mt. Pelion**. Here we meet with the Greeks of the mountain villages.

Drive by the **Gulf of Volos** and visit the **Argo museum**.

Afterwards, we drive up Mt. Pelion to **Portaria** and **Makrinitza** to visit **Agios Yannis**, a 12<sup>th</sup>-century church, and private home of a local farmer.

Then we enjoy a magnificent **panoramic view of the gulf** and the city of **Volos** below. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Volos.



#### DAY 7 – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: METEORA

This morning we drive across **Larissa Valley** to **Kalambaka** to enjoy one of Europe's most beautiful landscapes - the seven monasteries built on top of the cliffs of **Meteora** - a UNESCO world heritage site. We will pause to take in the stunning views and great photo opportunities. We will walk down the Oaks trail to visit the monastery of **Russanu**, and then we enjoy the beauty of the **Agia Triada** and **Megalometoron**.

In the evening, we will visit **ancient Larissa**: legend says that Achilles was born here, and Hippocrates died here. We will see the Roman theatre and the Byzantine excavations.

Then the rest of the night is spent in **Greek taverns** with live music. Dinner is at a local restaurant, and overnight are in Larissa. We sample a flavor of local life, so relax, enjoy, and imagine yourself back in time!

#### DAY 8 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: BEREIA AND THESSALONICA

Morning drive to **Berea** to see the **Bema** of the Apostle Paul, with beautiful mosaics depicting Paul's teachings to receptive Jews there (Acts 17:10-11).

We then we continue to **Thessaloniki** and see the landmarks of the city: **The White Tower**, **the Walls of the Byzantine Acropolis**, **the Roman Arch of Galerius**, and the **Rotonda**.

Then we visit two of the city's oldest and most admired Christian churches, the **Basilicas of St. Demetrius and St. Sophia** (Divine Wisdom). Dinner and overnight are in Thessaloniki.

#### DAY 9 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: THESSALONIKI-ATHENS

Today we drive through the **Greek countryside** as we travel from **Thessaloniki** to **Athens**. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

#### DAY 10 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: ATHENS-PIRAEUS 4-NIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE TO GREEK ISLES & TURKEY

Today we embark in Athens on our **4-Day cruise** to see the "**Jewels of the Aegean**" to the Greek Isles and Turkey. We will have lunch on-board.

The evening will be spent at **Mykonos** Island the "Pearl of the Aegean Sea" which combines an international jet-set atmosphere and a very active nightlife. We stroll at our leisure through the whitewashed, flower-decked alleyways; climb to the sculpture **church of Paraportiani**; and walk along the waterfront of "**Little Venice**" to the well-known windmills. We return to the ship for dinner and overnight on-board.

#### DAY 11 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: KUSADASI (EPHESUS) AND PATMOS

Breakfast on board before disembarking at the port of **Kusadasi** in Turkey. Starting point for our **included private guided tour to the ancient city of Ephesus**, one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world, famous for its architecture and now its magnificent ruins. We return to modern Kusadasi and board our cruise ship. We enjoy lunch on-board.

This afternoon we arrive at **Patmos (included private guided tour)**, a beautiful, peaceful, almost mystical rocky island of the Dodecanese, where the **Apostle John** was exiled and wrote the **Book of Revelation** (Revelation 1:9). We will drive and walk up to the **Monastery of St. John the Evangelist** where we have a wonderful view of the island. We also visit the **Grotto** of the apocalypse and take a look at John's view from within the cave. After some free time for browsing at the port area, we return to the ship for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 12 – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: RHODES

After breakfast on-board, we disembark in **Rhodes**. Inhabited since Neolithic times, this island stronghold was most recently rebuilt by a Crusading Order which originated from Palestine. In older days it boasted one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - **The Colossus of Rhodes** - a 100-foot-tall statue of the Greek god Helios (something like an ancient Statue of Liberty!).

Our **optional morning half-day excursion** takes us to visit the Temple of Athena on the majestic rocky **Acropolis of Lindos**, with the blue Aegean Sea beneath it and the sophisticated, whitewashed artists' colony at its foot. Local tradition says that on his way to Rome, **Paul's vessels** spent time here in the small harbour (Acts 21:1). Lunch will be served on-board. We have a most delightful free afternoon in Rhodes: stroll around the medieval walled city or enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere from one of the elegant cafes in the marina. Dinner and overnight are on-board.

### DAY 13 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: CRETE (HERAKLION), SANTORINI

After breakfast on-board, we visit **Crete** (Acts 27:7-13). Our **optional excursion** takes us from the lively, bustling city to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur (half bull and half man). Return to the ship for lunch on-board.

This afternoon, our ship drops anchor in **Santorini**. There are **three options** to reach the white-washed town of **Fira**, perched high on the rim of an ancient volcano: take a donkey or mule, ride the cable-car, or walk a very strenuous 45-minute's walk (599 steps) uphill on a path you will share with the mules.

In the picturesque town of Fira, white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques cling to steep cliffs. The eruption of the volcano in 1,600 B.C. literally buried a flourishing Bronze Age town which has now been excavated at Akrotiri. Then we will have free time for taking photos, browsing, shopping and enjoying the unique view. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore. Dinner and overnight are on-board.

### DAY 14 – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: ATHENS, CORINTH

Today we arrive back in **Athens** and disembark from our cruise. Our morning begins with a drive along the coastal road of the **Saronic Gulf** to ancient **Corinth**, passing by the Corinthian Canal, a four miles narrow cut of land, connecting the waters of the Saronic with the Corinthian Gulfs. It was Corinth where the **Apostle Paul** lived and preached for a year and a half, and to this church he wrote two of his New Testament letters. We see all of the Greek and Roman sites associated with his ministry: the **Agora**, the **Temple of Apollo**, the **Roman Odeon**, the **Bema**, and **Gallio's Seat**. The *Small Museum* here is an eye opener.

We return to Athens and visit the famous **Acropolis** with the magnificent white-columned **Parthenon**, associated with the **goddess Athena**: one of the world's greatest cultural monuments.

Then we stand on **Mars Hill**, named for the Roman god of war (also called the **Areopagus** or court), where mythology meets history, and where Paul gave his famous sermon on "the unknown God" (Acts 17:16-30).

Our tour ends with a panoramic sightseeing drive viewing the highlights of **modern Athens**. Dinner and overnight are in Athens.

### DAY 15 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: HOMEWARD BOUND

Our journey is complete. We board our coach for the final time, to the Athens airport. Adio!

## 15 DAY JOURNEY

PRICE: \$6779 CAD

with 30 paying passengers

Includes Airfare (Calgary), Land Tour, Aegean Cruise\*

Single supplement: \$1235 if you do not share a room\*\*

Upper deck, outer cabin may be available for additional \$220/person in a shared room.\*

Limited number of single cabins on the cruise: you may need to share for those days at sea.\*\*

#### Included:

All accommodations in 4\* Greek hotels

Daily breakfast & dinner at hotels

3 meals daily on cruise

All land transportation by private fully air conditioned luxury motor coach in Greece.

English speaking Bible-oriented tour guide and Greece country specialist

All Itinerary items as specified, including entrances

#### Not included:

Lunches and coffee breaks on land

- Travel & Medical health insurance

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