

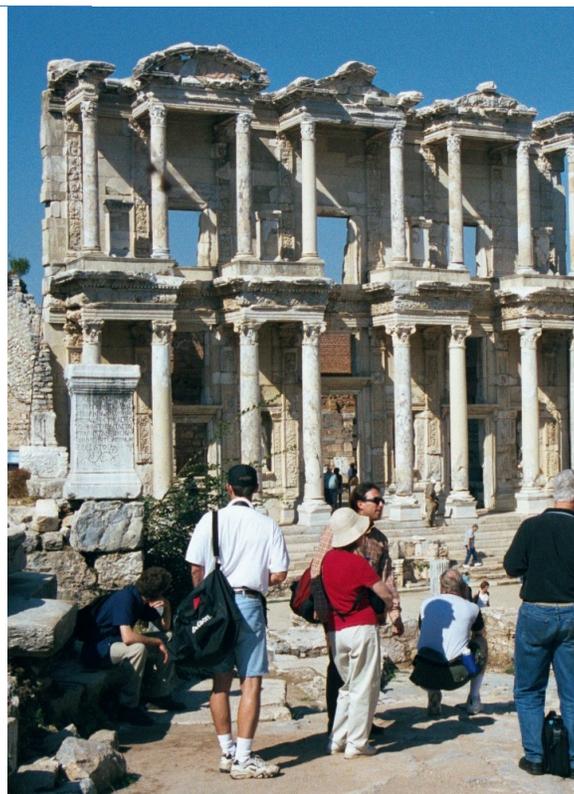


Reformation Tours, LLC presents

# Journeys of Paul in Greece and Rome

June 21-July 2/6, 2018

Hosted by Pastor Jeffrey Stuckwisch



# Journeys of Paul in Greece and Rome

You are invited to join Rev. Jeffrey Stuckwisch and members of Zion Lutheran Church on a 12 day tour of Greece. We will learn more about Paul's proclamation of the Gospel as we visit key sites in Athens, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, and Ephesus (Turkey). Other highlights include a three-day cruise of the Greek isles to visit Patmos' Grotto of the Apocalypse where John wrote the Revelation and the island of Crete, where Paul's colleague Titus pastored God's people, plus splendid Santorini with its blue roofs and white-washed buildings. Along the way, we will visit several Ancient Greek cultural sites, including Mt. Olympus, Delphi, and Athens. On the optional 4 day extension to Rome, we will experience St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, and catacombs, in addition to ancient sites such as the Pantheon, the Coliseum, and the Forum.

Key: *IF* = In Flight Meals, *B*= Breakfast, *D* = Dinner

## Day 1: Thursday, June 21: Depart

Overnight flight to Thessalonica (IF)

## Day 2: Friday, June 22: Arrive in Thessaloniki

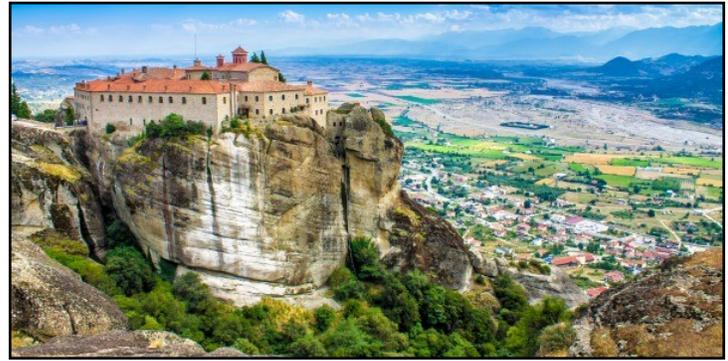
On arrival at Thessalonica Airport, we will meet with our representative and transfer to our hotel in Thessaloniki. Depending on arrival time, we may do some touring today before we dine in our hotel. (D)

## Day 3: Saturday, June 23: Philippi, Kavala, Thessaloniki

On our way to Philippi, we will drive by the Lion of Amphipolis and have a short stop for photos. In Philippi, we will learn about the church that Paul established and read the letter he sent the congregation (Acts 16:9-33). We will also see the river where Lydia is said to have been baptized, the ruins of a prison where Apostle Paul and Silas had been kept, the Agora, 5th and 6th century Basilica and the Theater. After the visit, we will continue to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where we will enjoy a panoramic tour, including the aqueduct and acropolis before returning to Thessaloniki for dinner in our hotel. (B/D)

## Day 4: Sunday, June 24: Thessaloniki, Kalambaka

In Thessaloniki we will hear about Paul's preaching ministry (Acts 17:1-4) to Jews and Greeks. According to the Book of the Acts many Greeks believed, including many Greek leading women. We will go to the upper Old City Walls then drive along the Egnatian Way to see the Triumphal Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda, followed by a visit to the Archaeological museum. Paul and his companions went to Berea to escape the angry Jews of Thessaloniki, finding that the Bereans, "received the word with great eagerness..." The Bema memorial commemorating Paul's preaching features gorgeous Byzantine-style mosaic scenes of Paul spreading the gospel. We will pass by Katerini and see Mount Olympus, the home of the twelve Olympian gods and goddesses. Our evening meal is in our hotel in Kalambaka. (B/D)



## Day 5: Monday, June 25: Meteora, Kalambaka

This morning we will take a spectacular drive up to visit Meteora. Breathtakingly beautiful centuries-old monasteries perched precariously high above the ground were first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. Meteora is the biggest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those in Mount Athos. We can locate the first traces of their history from 11th c. when the first hermits settled there. The rock monasteries form one of the most important stations of cultural map of Greece. After visiting two monasteries, we will return to our hotel for dinner. (B/D)

## Day 6: Tuesday, June 26: Kalambaka, Delphi

We will head south today to Delphi, considered by early Greeks to be the center of the world. Walking the Sacra Via to the Athenian Treasury, we will see the amphitheater, stadium and the Temple of Apollo where the oracle performed his or her prophetic rituals. With pagan ruins surrounding our walk, capture a glimpse of the challenge the apostle Paul incurred in preaching the Gospel of Christ in Macedonia. In the Delphi Museum, we will view many ancient treasures, the chief of which is the 5th century bronzed Charioteer, complete with eyelashes. We will dine in our hotel in Delphi this evening. (B/D)

## Day 7: Wednesday, June 27: Corinth, Athens

We will drive towards the southern part of Greece via the historic Corinthian Canal, where we can take some photos. Paul spent many years in Ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-18) and established a thriving church with tent makers Aquila and Priscilla. We will visit the Archaeological Museum, and see the Bema where Paul stood before Gallio facing charges brought by the Jews that were dropped. After Corinth, we will drive by Cenchræa (Acts 18:8, Rom. 16:1), a small port where Paul sailed to Ephesus. The remains of the harbor are still visible, and it is not hard to imagine Paul waving farewell from his boat to local believers as he sailed to on his second missionary journey. We will dine in our hotel in Athens. (B/D)



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## **Day 8: Thursday, June 28: Athens**

This morning we will enjoy a city tour of Athens, including a visit to the Acropolis & its Museum, as well as a panoramic tour of the highlights of the city. We visit Mars' Hill (Areopagus) (Acts 17:22) where Apostle Paul delivered his soul-stirring sermon. The rest of the day is at leisure to wander through the Plaka and Monastiraki districts, where old combines with new as you discover shops and restaurants full of Greek delicacies. Some optional excursions will be offered this afternoon. We will dine in our hotel this evening. **(B/D)**



## **Day 9: Friday, June 29: Mykonos**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will transfer to Piraeus port for embarkation on the Greek Islands cruise. The boat sails at 11:30 AM and we will enjoy lunch on board. Our first port of call is Mykonos and we will arrive at 6:00 PM. We will have free time to stroll through the whitewashed, flower-decked alleyways, climbing to the sculpture church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront of "Little Venice" to the famous windmills. We will return to the ship for dinner and at 11:00 PM we sail for Kuşadası, Turkey. **(B/L/D)**

## **Day 10: Saturday, June 30: Ephesus, Patmos**

The boat will arrive in the Turkish port town of Kuşadası (pronounced "Kush-a-dasser") at 7:00 AM. This is the starting point for our tour to Ancient Ephesus (Acts 18:19-21). The Apostle Paul lived here for a number of years, working and preaching. We will tour the spectacular ruins in the city which was founded in the 10th century B.C. After the visit we will return to the port for re-embarkation at lunch time. The ship departs at 1:00 PM and arrives in Patmos at 4:00 PM. In the afternoon our tour of Patmos (Rev 1:9) includes a tour to the Monastery of St. John where he was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation. We will also visit the Grotto of the Revelation (Cave of Apocalypse) before embarking on the cruise ship and dining on board. The ship departs at 9:00 PM. **(B/L/D)**

## **Day 11: Sunday, July 1: Crete, Santorini**

At 7:00 AM we will arrive at Heraklion, Crete (Acts 27:7-13) and we will enjoy a wonderful excursion to the Minoan Palace of Knossos, home of King Minos and the legendary Minotaur (half-bull and half-man). We will also visit the Church of St. Titus. The ship sails at 11:30 AM and arrives in Santorini at 4:30 PM.

Santorini is a stunning, much photographed island, famous for its sunsets. We will ride the cable car up to the white-washed town of Thera, perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano. Our ship begins the voyage back to Athens around 9:30 PM. **(B/L/D)**

## **Day 12: Monday, July 2: Return**

We will arrive back at Piraeus port at 7:00 AM and transfer to the Athens international airport for our flights back to the USA. **(B/D)**

## **POST TOUR TO ROME (\$700)**

### **Day 12: Monday, July 2: Athens. Flight to Rome**

We will arrive back at Piraeus port at 7:00 AM and transfer to the Athens international airport for our flight to Rome. Our guide will meet us at the airport and escort us to our Rome hotel. The afternoon is at leisure, before a group dinner this evening. **(B/D)**

### **Day 13: Tuesday, July 3: Christian Rome**

Our tour of Christian Rome will begin with a visit of the Vatican Museums including the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica (including the dome) and St. Peter's Square, where Peter was crucified (John 21:18-19). In the afternoon we will visit the Basilica of St. Mary Major, St. John in Lateran with the Scala Sancta. We will dine in our hotel this evening. **(B/D)**

### **Day 14: Wednesday, July 4: Ancient Rome**

Our tour of Ancient Rome will begin with a visit to St. Paul Outside the Walls, Via Appia and the Catacombs of San Sebastian. On the way back to Rome we will see the Circus Maximus and the Arch of Titus, then we have some free time for lunch. In the afternoon we will tour the Victor Emmanuel Monument, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. We will have the opportunity to dine in the restaurant of our choice this evening. **(B)**

### **Day 15: Thursday, July 5: Rome**

Many of the sites we will see today were very familiar to the Apostle Paul. We will begin with a visit to the Arch of Constantine and an inside tour of the Colosseum. We will tour the Forum, Palatine Hill and the Mamertime Prison, where Paul was imprisoned. In the afternoon we will tour St. Peter's in Chains, see Michelangelo's Moses and the San Clemente Basilica. Our final dinner is in our hotel. **(B/D)**

### **Day 16: Friday, July 6: Depart**

We will transfer to Rome International Airport for our return flights to the USA. **(B)**

**RJS18 Tour Price: \$3,200\*per person, land only**

**Italy Extension: \$700 \*per person, land only**

*\*Price based on double occupancy with a minimum of 15 participants*

**Your Tour Includes:**

- Transportation: via deluxe air-conditioned coaches
- Accommodations (double-occupancy) in superior 3-star and moderate 4-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Professional Tour Director throughout the tour
- Local step-on guides for city tours and major attractions
- Admission to all activities indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers, as a group
- Baggage handling (1 piece of baggage per guest)
- All taxes and tips except as indicated below

**Your Tour Does Not Include:**

- Round-trip air transportation (estimated \$950 round-trip from Boston)
- Single supplement (\$600)
- Meals and beverages not identified in itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, such as passports and visas. Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.
- Passenger trip cancellation insurance (details sent with reservation form)
- Gratuities for tour director, and driver

**Payment Schedule:**

- Deposit of \$350 will secure your place on the tour. Please send all payments to Reformation Tours, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, IL 62222.
- Final invoices will be sent in April 2017
- Final payment is due by May 27, 2017
- Reservations will be accepted after May 27, 2017, subject to availability, and will need to be paid in full.
- Early registration is encouraged. *Please note: all credit card payments will incur a 3.5% surcharge.*

**Cancellation Policy:**

All cancellations must be in writing and the date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Anyone canceling 14 days or less prior to departure will receive no refund. In the unlikely event the tour does not reach minimum enrollment required, all deposit money will be returned.

Reformation Tours reserves the rights to alter itineraries without notice should it become necessary. While on tour, if conditions necessitate changes, or if certain features are un-available or limited, we reserve the right to vary or substitute alternatives. All prices are calculated at the exchange rate in effect at the time of this quotation. Should currency fluctuations necessitate an adjustment in tour price; the adjusted price will be reflected in the final invoice.



**Reformation Tours, LLC**

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## Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar, the number of participants and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee.

Responsibility: **Reformation Tours, LLC.**, their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline/s concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust the price.