

Athens, Greek Isle Cruise and Turkey Tour

12 - Day Tour

Day 1—Depart US for 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 11:00 a.m. sailing to begin your Greek Island 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 twelve 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 at the Neolithic era and in 322BC was joined with the empire of Alexander the Great. The beautiful beaches and crystal clear seas make Rhodes a popular tourist attraction even for local Greeks.

Day 6 – Patmos, Greece • Izmir, Turkey

Our journey today takes us to Patmos where John wrote the Revelation. Patmos is sometimes called "The Jerusalem of the Aegean". The Monastery of St. Johns towers above the capital, Chora, and the whole island breathes of faith and devotion. The island has probably 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 AD95, and stayed here for two years. Disembark embark in Kusadasi where you 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 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, student of the Apostle John that was martyred in the city in 155AD. Overnight in Kusadasi

Day 9–Pamukkale • Laodicia

We take the scenic journey this morning to Laodicia, an important church in early Christianity. It is here the Christians were accused of being lukewarm. Continue to



Hierapolis, where Paul introduced Christianity. Unique geographical formations have



been shaped over the last fourteen thousand 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 the 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 houses, 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.



Day 11– Kusadasi • Istanbul

We depart Kusadasi on 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 twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. Then explore the unique Blue Mosque built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet. Interior walls are covered in twenty thousand 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 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 Istanbul.



Day 12 – Istanbul • USA

Depart Istanbul and arrive home with a life-time of memories.