



JOURNEY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL TO GREECE

WITH 4 NIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE (INCLUDES PATMOS & EPHEBUS)

**7TH - 19TH
SEPTEMBER 2026**

LED BY
**REV GARY &
CAROL O'BRIEN**

13
DAYS

PACKAGE PRICE: AUD\$ **9,415***
per person (twin share)

**OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM/
CABIN SUPPLEMENT:**

AUD\$ **2,075****

**FULLY
ESCORTED**

*Conditions apply. Subject to change. Price based on minimum of 25 participants. Airfares are based on estimates, which will be confirmed in early October 2025.

**Single cabins are extremely limited. Participants may need to twin share for the cruise component.

REGISTER HERE



I am always amazed at the impact of the apostle Paul, his travels to so many towns around the Mediterranean coast, his ministry and his writings. What a privilege to follow in his footsteps as we travel down the length of Greece. Visiting Phillipi where he preached to Lydia and other women by the river and was later imprisoned. We'll see the remains of a Philippian jail, was it the same one? Thessalonica where he preached in the synagogue, caused a riot and had to leave during the night. Berea, where "Jews were of more noble character", Athens, that great city of antiquity where the Acropolis still stands towering over the city and where he preached that great sermon recorded in Acts 17. We will stand in the same spot. Then Corinth, where we will see some synagogue ruins where he clashed with the Jews and responded by saying "from now on I will go to the gentiles". Plus, we'll enjoy a cruise visiting Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes and Crete. What a privilege to retrace the footsteps of this great man of God!

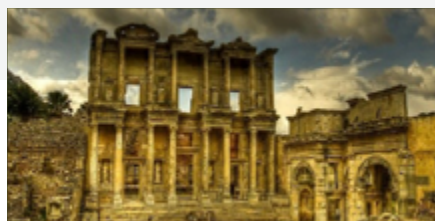
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION at 7:30pm on THURSDAY, 5th JUNE 2025

At All Saint's West Lindfield church hall (11 Moore Ave, Lindfield)

Enjoy a full travel briefing * Meet your fellow Travellers * Have your questions answered

CONTACT Gary or Carol O'Brien to RSVP



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a registration form from Gary or Carol O'Brien, Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE](#)
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$750 per person due by 27th June 2025
3. Final balance payments will be due in early July, 2026.



Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
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DAY 1 MONDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Sydney this evening on your international flight with Emirates to Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting flight to Athens. On arrival, clear immigration and customs and transfer to your domestic flight to Thessaloniki.

DAY 2 TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER

ARRIVE THESSALONIKI

Upon arrival to Thessaloniki this afternoon, we will meet our guide and driver. Upon collecting luggage, please proceed through the exit gate where our representative will be waiting to meet, greet and assist you. Enjoy a brief orientation tour of Thessaloniki. We will start by viewing the White Tower, the Triumphal Arch of Galerius standing on the Egnatia Way, followed by brief visits to the Byzantine Church of St Dimitrios and the Archaeological Museum. We will also learn that Paul preached in Thessaloniki during the winters of 49-50 AD and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Enjoy early dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER

PHILIPPI, KAVALA, THESSALONIKI

Today we will enjoy a day trip to Philippi and Kavala. It is at Philippi where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity and also where Paul baptized a "certain woman named Lydia", the first Christian convert in Europe. The Roman forum in Philippi, which is completely excavated, is from after Paul's time. Among the ruins, located on the rocky ledge above the town's main road, is the prison of Paul and Silas, and still visible on the site are the remains of the two early Christian basilicas and traces of Via Egnatia, an ancient Roman road. Continue into the modern port city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis), where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

DAY 4 THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

PELLA, VERIA, VERGINA, KALAMBAKA

Today will start with a visit to Pella. During the reign of Archelaos, Pella became the capital of the Macedonian Kingdom (413-399 BC). We have time to visit the Pella Museum. Continue to visit Veria and Vergina. Veria, located on the ruins of ancient Beroea, is one of Apostle Paul's stops. Here we see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. Vergina is the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom, and it is here we visit the "Vergina Findings", treasures of ancient Macedonia, and the Tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. We continue our drive to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5 FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

KALAMBAKA, DELPHI

This morning we visit the Byzantine Meteora Monasteries. Among striking scenery and perched on top of huge rocks, the ageless monasteries of Meteora seem to be suspended in mid-air. The monasteries contain beautiful Byzantine art and offer an insight to the mystic world of the monks still residing there. In the early afternoon, we continue our drive to Delphi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6 SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

DELPHI, ATHENS

Delphi was known as the centre of the earth and reached its height in power in the 4th century as the sanctuary to the god Apollo. We explore the sanctuary by walking up the Sacred Way to see the treasures, the theatre and the Temple of Apollo. Visit the Museum of Delphi and marvel at the splendid collection of artifacts from the excavation, including the bronze "Charioteer", one of the best-preserved ancient works of metallurgy. Drive to Athens for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7 SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

ATHENS

Today we will enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Athens. We will visit the Acropolis to see the Propylae, the Erechtheum and the Parthenon. We will also ascend Mars Hill, view the Agora (ancient market-place where Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians), see the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Presidential Palace, Hadrian's Arch and the Panathenaic Stadium. We also visit the New Acropolis Museum. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



DAY 8 MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

EMBARK CRUISE: MYKONOS

After breakfast we will be transferred to the port of Lavrion, where we will board our cruise. The ship sails at 1pm to Mykonos. Disembark if you wish to take a stroll along the narrow-cobbled streets, past chic boutiques, white-washed churches and elegant cafes. Catch a vantage point to enjoy a magical sunset. Return to the ship for overnight sailing. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER

CRUISE: EPHEBUS, PATMOS

This morning, we arrive in Kusadasi where we join an excursion to Ancient Ephesus (KUS-02).

Morning visit to Ephesus in Kusadasi. At Ancient Ephesus we find Immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site we will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, the Temple of Hadrian... The Great Theatre, built in the 4th century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have yet brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk. During the excursion we will have a chance to do some shopping and see the carpet waving demonstration.

In the afternoon, visit St. John Monastery and Cave of Apocalypse in Patmos (PAT-01).

The picturesque alleyways wind upwards, towards the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, founded in 1088 by St. Christodoulos. The visit will open the doors for us to the Monastery's yard, the place where the monks take their meals and the old bakery. Of exquisite beauty is the tour of the Byzantine Church of St. John, which is adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods, with both mosaic and other icons. Our next stop is the small museum which hosts religious treasures of inestimable value, like manuscripts, medieval textiles and sacerdotal vestments. Walking down the stairs, the religious energy that we will experience is soul touching. Behind the chapel of St. Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. We will see the cross engraved by St. John the Evangelist, according to tradition, the triple fissure in the wall of the cave, from where St. John heard God dictating to him the Apocalypse and also the spot where he lay down to sleep. Overnight on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER CRUISE: RHODES

Upon arrival in Rhodos, we join the excursion to Philerimos Church and the place of the Knights (RHO -2)

We join our tour which begins at the Acropolis of Rhodes, just outside the city, which dates from the Classical Greek period. We then head to the beautiful Monastery of Panagia Philerimos. We also take some time to visit the Byzantine Church of St George Hostos with its rare frescoes depicting the Knights. We return to the capital Rhodes. In the Knights' Quarter we visit the magnificent Palace of the Grand Master also known as the Castello.

Overnight on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER CRUISE: HERAKLION, SANTORINI

This morning, we arrive in Heraklion (Crete) where we join the excursion to the Minoan Palace of Knossos (HER-02)

The ancient city of Knossos, near Crete's capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilization of Europe, the Minoans. Our excursion will open up the world of the Minoans as we visit one of the continent's most important archaeological treasures. Explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies.' As you stroll through the palace apartments and view the archaeological finds, we think you will be just a little in awe of the rich cultural heritage of the Minoan civilization. You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story. Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing about the extraordinary rule of King Minos.

In the afternoon we sail to Santorini. where you will have free time to explore the island, if you wish. Once again, disembarking to find a good spot to enjoy a magical sunset is highly recommended. Return to the ship before sailing overnight back to Athens. (B,L,D)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



DAY 12 FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER

ANCIENT CORINTH, DEPART ATHENS

Following our disembarkation in the morning, we drive to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two Seas, the Ionian and the Aegean. Continue to Ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century B.C. Here under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, St. Paul preached and lived for two years. The vigorous and mostly Gentile Church he founded here in 50 AD caused him much grief and prompted him to write at least four letters. Visit the ruins of the ancient city where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. See the remains of first century shops, the agora where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, the Fountain of Peirene, Temple of Apollo and the Bema. We will then transfer to Athens International Airport to board our Emirates flight back to Dubai and then on to Australia. (B)

DAY 13 SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back to Sydney this evening with wonderful memories of our trip!

** Itinerary subject to change **

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Estimated return economy class airfares to Athens from Sydney.
- One way domestic flight from Athens to Thessaloniki
- All estimated airport & departure taxes
- Porterage, tips & gratuities throughout
- 6 nights in hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms
- 4 nights full board in XB (outside facing cabins with windows) on Celestyal Cruise including selected drinks during meal times
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, Lunches on the cruise, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Headsets
- Shore Excursions:
 - Ancient Ephesus (KUS-02)
 - Religious Visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse (PAT-01)
 - Philirimos Church and the Palace of the Knights (RHO-02)
 - Minoan Palace of Knossos – 1st European Civilisation (HER-02)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Drinks with meals
- Personal payments
- The services that are not mentioned in "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance
- Lunches (except on the cruise)

HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| • 2 nights | Hotel Capsis | Thessaloniki |
| • 1 night | Hotel Divani Meteora | Kalambaka |
| • 1 night | Hotel Amalia | Delphi |
| • 2 nights | Hotel Stanley | Athens |
| • 4 nights | Celestyal Discovery | |

NEXT STEPS

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2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$750 per person due by 27th June 2025
3. Final balance payments will be due in early July, 2026.

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