

Steps of St Paul Cruise with Jeff & Emily Cavins

October 11-23, 2022

Itinerary Highlights

Itinerary subject to change

BLD indicates included meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

11OCT Depart US for Greece

12OCT Arrive Athens.

On arrival, we are met & assisted by our Greek guides & board our coaches. As we proceed to **Athens** our guides give us an overview of what we have come to experience in Greece. We check in at the hotel & meet for Mass & orientation before dinner. ~ **Dinner & overnight Divani Acropolis Palace, Athens. D**

13OCT Athens & Corinth

Today we head west to the **Peloponnesian Peninsula & Corinth**, a major Greek city from the 8th century BC. Jeff's first teaching of the tour is here amidst the ruins. There is very little left of the **Temple of Aphrodite** or the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** which dominated the life of the Corinthians in Paul's time. ~ Paul stayed in **Corinth** at least 3 times while on his journeys (Acts 18:1-18; 20:3) working as a tentmaker while establishing the Corinthian church with the help of locals like Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:1-18). He wrote Romans here on his 2nd visit & refers to other letters in I & II Corinthians. Paul's teaching on the Body of Christ (Corinthians 12:12-31) was perhaps inspired by **Asclepius' Temple** of healing in **Corinth**, where casts of healed body parts honor the god. ~ Mass & lunch are in the area. ~ We return to **Athens** to see more of this amazing city as time permits before returning to our hotel. ~ Our hotel location is near the **Plaka**, the ancient Athenian market area. There may be time to explore in the evening. ~ **Dinner & overnight Divani Acropolis Palace, Athens. B L D**

14OCT Delphi

This long day takes us to the mountains. The ancient world confronting early Christians is dramatically revealed in picturesque **Delphi**, where ancients sought the famous **Oracle of Apollo**. For Greeks, **Delphi** was the "navel of the world," their most sacred site. We see the Delphi Museum before following the pilgrim's path along the "Sacred Way" to the 4th century BC **Temple of Apollo** where the words of the Oracle influenced the ancient world. Jeff discusses the impact on the early church before Mass. ~ **Dinner & overnight Divani Acropolis Palace, Athens. B L D**

15OCT Athens to Port of Piraeus~ Depart 4:00 pm.

This morning we check out of our Athens hotel. On the way to our ship, we see more of Athens. We stop for Mass & then visit the national Byzantine & Christian Museum before arrival at our ship. ~ We depart from **Piraeus**, the largest cruise port in Europe, 7 miles SE of **Athens**. Onboard our Greek ship, we can relax & enjoy Greek culture in the food, music & shows as we cruise the **Aegean Sea** towards **Thessaloniki**. ~ **Overnight on the Celestial Crystal. B L D**



16OCT Thessaloniki & Berea ~ Arrive 9:30 am; Depart 8:00 pm.

Our first port is **Thessaloniki**. It is the 2nd largest city in Greece, the historical capitol of Macedonia, dating from 315 BCE. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine, Venetian & Ottoman rule as well as Jewish heritage support its modern identity as a cosmopolitan city. The first of our included ½ day tours takes us into Thessaloniki, seeing the White Tower, Byzantine Museum & Citadel with a view of Mt Olympus. Mass is at the **Basilica of St Demetrius**, the largest church in Greece. ~ We return to the ship in time for lunch. ~ Our 2nd ½ day tour is towards **Mt Vermion & Berea** (Veroia). On Paul's 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in this important commercial & cultural center. The Berean church was praised in Acts 17 as discerning because they "searched the scriptures daily". Jeff's teaching continues that tradition. ~ **Overnight on the Celestial Crystal. B L D**

17OCT Kavala & Philippi ~ Arrive 9:30 am; Depart 4:00 pm.

Today we explore a rare archaeological site, **Philippi**, visited by Paul on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40). Never built over, we can easily see the **Prison** that held Paul & Silas, the **Theater**, & **Agora**, as well as the expanse of the city. ~ Nearby we visit **St Lydia's Baptistery** (Acts 16:13-15), honoring her as the 1st convert baptized on European soil. Jeff teaches & we have Mass in the riverside park ~ We return to the ship for a late lunch. ~ **Overnight on the Celestyal Crystal. B L D**

18OCT Istanbul ~ Arrive 9:30 am; Depart 8:00 pm. Mass on board

The day in **Istanbul** is yours to plan. The ship offers full & ½ day tours to purchase. (Optional tour information to be provided.) Some included sites are **Topkapi Palace**, the **Blue Mosque**, the **Hippodrome**, the **Hagia Sophia**, or even the **Grand Bazaar!** It has survived centuries of conquerors, crusades, earthquakes & tourists. Enjoy this amazing exotic city that bridges Europe & Asia. ~ **Overnight on the Celestyal Crystal. B L D**

19OCT Dikili & Pergamon ~ Arrive 12:00 noon; Depart 8:00 pm. Mass on board

We are again on our own to plan our day in the port of **Dikili**. Known for its beautiful beaches & bay, **Dikili** is a vacation destination for Izmir. ~ It also gives access to **Pergamon**, the 3rd of the **7 Churches of the Apocalypse** from John's Revelation (Revelation 1:11; 2:12-17). An optional full-day tour to the impressive ruins of **Pergamon** departs after an early lunch. (Optional tour information to be provided.) Note: Cavins will visit **Pergamon**. ~ **Overnight on the Celestyal Crystal. B L D**

20OCT Kusadasi & Ephesus ~ Arrive 8:00 am; Depart 11:30 pm.

The town of **Kusadasi** is an active cruise port with very tempting shopping. It is known for its leather goods & Turkish rugs as well as other Turkish souvenirs, even Turkish baths! ~ Our Mass is by the traditional **House of St Mary** on a mountaintop south of **Ephesus**. ~ In ancient times, **Ephesus** was located at the mouth of the **Cayster River** on the **Aegean Coast**, an important port. After centuries of river silt, the coast has "moved", making **Ephesus** 3 miles inland. It is mentioned in Acts & the Epistles, but also as the 1st of the **7 Churches of the Apocalypse** (Revelation 1:11; 2:1-7.). Paul lived & preached here. One of the finest examples of a Hellenistic city, its 6th Century BCE temple honoring **Artemis** (Acts 19:35) is one of the **7 Wonders of the Ancient World**. Jeff teaches in the Ephesian theater. ~ **Overnight on the Celestyal Crystal. B L D**

21OCT Patmos ~ Arrive 7:00 am; Depart 6:30 pm. Mass on board

The **Greek Island of Patmos** was where Rome commonly held banished political & religious prisoners. ~ The writer of the Revelation, the Apostle John, states in Revelation 1:9 that he is "on the isle of Patmos." Our ½ day tour is to the **Cave of the Apocalypse**, where John wrote Revelation with his scribe. This tradition dates from 100 AD, just after John's death. Today it is under the **Church of the Apocalypse**. ~ We visit the **Monastery of St John the Divine**, dating from 1088 AD. Its museum includes many ikons & artifacts. John's vision, as described in Revelation 1:12-16, is depicted on an ikon in the monastery & reproduced by local clergy. ~ **Overnight on the Celestyal Crystal. B L D**

22OCT Piraeus & Athens ~ Arrive 7:00 am.

After disembarking in **Piraeus**, we board our coaches & return to **Athens** for Mass & our final day. Our goal is the famous center of **Athens** with the **Parthenon**, **Erechtheion** & **Mars Hill**. After touring the site, we will have a final teaching by Jeff on **Mars Hill**. This is where Paul made his famous speech to the Athenians about the "Unknown God." (Acts 17:22-31). ~ This evening we enjoy our farewell dinner. ~ **Dinner & overnight Divani Acropolis Palace, Athens. B D**

23OCT Depart for home.

This morning we check out & are transferred to the Athens airport for our return flights. **B**