

May 31 - June 9, 2023

GREECE

FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL



Dear Friends,

I am Father Brendan Kelly, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Lincoln Nebraska ordained in 2005, the Year of the Eucharist.

I have been a Nebraskan for over 20 years since I came to our state for seminary studies in 2000. Before that, I grew up in a small town in northeast Indiana near Chicago and on a small dairy farm in Co. Cork, Ireland. There I learned the blessings (and hard work) of rural life, as well as a reverence for ancient things. After returning to the States, I received an education that focused on the Great Books of the Western World. Relying on both pagan and Christian sources, most of these studies find their foundations in the life and writings of Ancient Greece.

This pilgrimage to Greece strikes me as a great opportunity to get to know St. Paul and St. John better. During the journey, I will offer Catholic Mass and confession daily for all who are interested, and I will lead devotions with you where appropriate.

Beyond the many religious sites that are the focus of this journey, I am excited to explore the "Cradle of Civilization" with you. It is the birthplace of democracy, western philosophy, literature, politics, and home to the first Olympic Games. Together we will explore this ancient land and have the opportunity to visit lots of amazing places - some of them specially designated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. We will see one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World (2 if you take the extension), the Acropolis, lots of old monasteries and temples, ancient ruins, art, and much more.

Walk with me in the footsteps of St. Paul throughout Greece where he preached the Holy Word of God. Make history and the Bible come alive for you.

And, while in that historic and beautiful corner of the world, consider the option of extending your trip for a 4-day cruise to Kusadasi and Ephesus (Turkey) and the beautiful and exotic islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini at the end of the tour.

A pilgrimage always brings surprises and helps the pilgrims to grow spiritually. This one is limited to between 20 and 30 pilgrims and it might fill up fast. I will offer the special pilgrimage blessing to all who come with us. No one ever returns unchanged.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing this spiritual pilgrimage of the life and journey of St. Paul the Apostle with you.

Sincerely, Fr. Brendan Kelly



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888.



Thessaloniki



Kavala City Wall



Veria

May 31, 2023 - Wednesday

Traveling to Thessaloniki, Greece

Our wonderful adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Thessaloniki, Greece. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

June 1, 2023 - Thursday

Thessaloniki

Welcome to Thessaloniki! Upon arrival, we meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the center of town. We will enjoy a panoramic city-and-orientation tour prior to checking in to our centrally located hotel. Thessaloniki is the second-largest city of Greece and the most important center of the area; a port-city of the Aegean Sea. It is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy (and glorious) history with a cosmopolitan character which gives it a special beauty and charm. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman history remains, especially around Ano Poli (the upper town). During Roman times, Thessaloniki became an important crossroads on the Via Egnatia, where the road running east from Rome to the provinces of Pontus and Asia met the road running north from Athens to the River Danube. The ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius' 4th-century palace include the Rotunda that has been both a church and a mosque. Much of Thessaloniki was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1917 and the rebuilt 20th-century city has a modern European layout. A late lunch/early dinner is served before we take a good rest and get rid of our jet-lag. An exciting journey is ahead of us!

B (during flight) | L or D (depending on final arrival time)

June 2, 2023 - Friday

Amphipolis, Kavala & Phillipi

After a rich breakfast, we head out to visit the beautiful city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis). We travel along the Via Egnatia road (constructed by the Romans in the 2nd century BC) and drive through Apollonia. We make a stop at Amphipolis to admire the magnificent stone-carved Lion of Amphipolis

which stood alongside the old Via Egnatia, at the foot of the plateau where Apostle Paul visited. Kavala, the place where Paul first landed and stepped onto European ground, is easily spotted from far away. At the peak of old-town, proudly stands the fortress. The fortress is a landmark of Kavala and one of its most stunning sights as well as the peak of the peninsula of Panagia (mother of Jesus), dominated by the Acropolis of Kavala. We continue on to Philippi, a Roman garrison town and the chief city in the province of Macedonia. It was here that Paul won his first European convert, established the first church in Europe, and baptized a woman named Lydia. We will visit the market place (where Paul and Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where Paul was imprisoned. Return to Thessaloniki in time for dinner. B | D

"Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace and the following day to Neapolis" (Acts 16:11)

"After meeting with the believers at Lydia's house, Paul and Silas leave Luke behind in Philippi" and travel along the Via Egnatia through Amphipolis and Apollonia." (Acts 17:1)

June 3, 2023 - Saturday

Thessaloniki

After a hearty breakfast, we become acquainted with this great city where Paul wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Built by King Cassander and named after the sister of Alexander the Great, the city flourished under the Byzantine Empire and its most important buildings dated from those days. Today it is considered the Greek "Queen of the North". Our city tour takes us along the waterfront to the massive White Tower and nearby Triumphal Arch of Galerius, built in 303 AD. We also see St. Demetrios Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and then drive to the upper town which offers a marvelous view of the city. The site where the monastery of Vlatodon was built is believed to be the location where Jason's house once stood and where Paul

was accommodated during his visit to Thessaloniki. Lunch, served at one of the local taverns, is nothing but a meal for a Queen! The evening is at leisure. B | L

"Paul came to Thessaloniki with Silas and following his usual custom, he went to the Synagogue where he used the Jewish scriptures as the source for his preaching." (Acts 17:2)

June 4, 2023 - Sunday

Veria & Aigai/Vergina

Breakfast is served before we head out to experience yet two more stunning sites. Our first stop is Veria. During the night, Paul and Silas left Thessaloniki for Veria with the help of Christians. They walked for a while on Via Egnatia Road, through the lush green fruitful and beautiful area. Veria was a very busy city with a flourishing synagogue. As soon as they got there, Paul and Silas visited the synagogue. It is said that the Jews of Veria were more polite than those in Thessaloniki and heard with great interest Paul preaching the Holy Gospel. Today, at the spot where Paul, the Apostle, preached the Christian faith, there is a religious monument, the so-called "St Paul's Tribune". In this spot, there are Roman plates dating back to the 1st century and according to tradition, Paul was standing on them while preaching. The monument is decorated with impressive mosaic murals. We continue to Aigai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city of Aigai, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, was discovered in the 19th century. The most important remains are the monumental palace, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world. Lunch is served in a local tavern before we head back to Thessaloniki for an evening of relaxation. B | L



June 5, 2023 - Monday

Meteora - Kalambaka

After a filling breakfast, we board our motorcoach and travel to Kalambaka and Meteora. Meteora is the second-biggest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those in Mount Athos (which can be visited by men only). The first mention of their history is traced back to the 11th century when the first hermits settled here. The rock monasteries have been characterized by UNESCO as a unique phenomenon of cultural heritage and they form one of the most important stations in the world. Before visiting two of the monasteries, we stop for lunch at Kyria Ketty, an experience in itself. The evening is spent in the shadow of the impressive rocks, this is truly a unique place to overnight. B | L

June 6, 2023 - Tuesday

Delphi - Athens

In the peaceful morning light, we travel to visit the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, set at the foot of Mount Parnassos in a spectacular landscape. Considered for many centuries the cultural and religious center of the Hellenic world, it is also home to the "Oracle" and Apollo's Sanctuary, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient Greek world.

Our last stop today is at the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site of Hosios (Saint) Lucas. A stunning monastery decorated with mosaics on a gold background and superb marble works. Sitting peacefully under the oak tree, we steal a quiet moment for a sweet surprise before heading off to the heart of Athens. As the sun sets behind the Parthenon, we finish our day with a great meal and an evening at leisure. B | D

June 7, 2023 - Wednesday

Athens

After a delightful breakfast, we head out to discover Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world, and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. Founded seven thousand years ago, the city flourished in the fifth century BC when Athenian democracy was practiced in the



Bouletarion (council chamber) and open discussion was encouraged in the Agora (market place). Paul - who was trained as a young man in the art of debating in Greek - would have been delighted at an opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus in the cultural heart of the ancient world, among its numerous pagan temples, altars, statues, and monuments. Paul was invited to speak to the Areopagus (the Athenian council) which met on Mars Hill. It was only a short distance from the foot of the Acropolis, dominated by the Parthenon and built as a temple to Athena in the 5th century BC. We continue by motorcoach through the city to see the House of Parliament at Syntagma Square, the soldiers in their picturesque uniforms guarding the Presidential Palace and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We will also see the Library, the University, the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympics of the modern era were held, the Temple of the Olympian Zeus, and Adrian's Arch. Enjoy a late lunch at a typical Greek tavern and the evening is yours to enjoy more of the city. Don't miss old-town (Plaka) with its numerous shops (open till late!), enjoy people-watching, or take a stroll around the Acropolis hill at sunset; it doesn't get much prettier! B | L

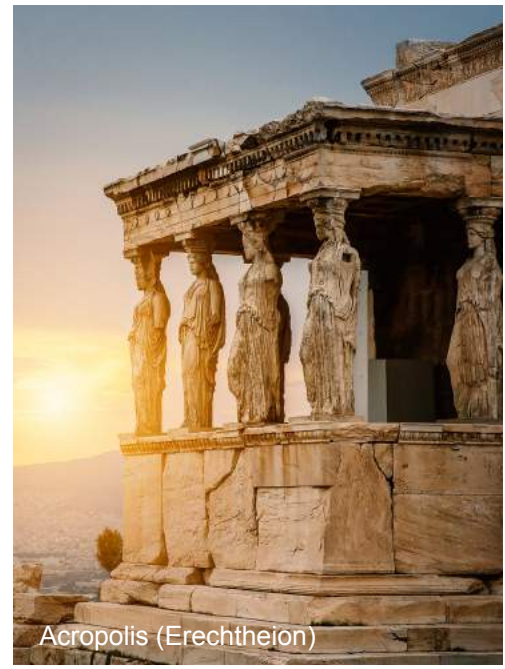
"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship - and this is what I am going to proclaim to you." (Acts 17:22-23)

June 8, 2023 - Thursday

Ancient Corinth

After breakfast, we take a short drive to Ancient Corinth.

The ancient Greek city of Corinth was destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC but was rebuilt a century later by Julius Caesar. In the time of Paul, Corinth was a busy Roman trading city on the narrow strip of land between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea. It had two harbors - Lechaemum on the



Gulf of Corinth to the west and Cenchræa, on the Aegean Sea, to the east. It made huge profits by taxing cargoes that were transported overland between the two ports to avoid the dangerous waters around the Peloponnese. The first attempt to build a canal across the isthmus at Corinth was started by Emperor Nero in 66AD but was soon abandoned. The present-day Corinth Canal was completed in 1893 (we will make a stop to admire the impressive canal). During our visit, we will walk along the Lechaion Way - a marble-paved road linking the port of Lechaemum with the city. On reaching the heart of the settlement, the road passed through an imposing Propylaion (ceremonial gateway) before citizens climbed a flight of steps leading up into the agora (market place). Here, overlooked by the council chamber and the colonnaded stoas (covered walkways with shops), Paul was placed on a stone platform before the Roman proconsul and accused of breaking the religious laws by members of the Jewish synagogue. The area is rich in vineyards and lunch today is enjoyed at a local winery while learning about the mythical Nemea-Agiorgitiko wine and the world-famous Corinthian raisins (currants). On our way back to Athens, we will make a stop at Kechries, the port where Paul stopped during his second missionary journey, where he had his hair cut to fulfill a vow, probably the Nazirite vow. B | L

June 9, 2023 - Friday

Traveling home

All too soon, your journey has ended. Transfer to Athens airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B | Meals during flights

We offer a 3-night cruise to Mykonos, Kusadasi (Ephesus), Patmos (St. John's Revelation), Crete, and Santorini. See the separate insert.

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)

Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours/

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$3,495
 Per person in a single room: \$4,195

Limited number of single rooms available.

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for solo/single travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Balance is due on February 28, 2023, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash, check, or credit card (no processing fees).

Registering for this tour signifies that you agree with our terms and conditions which can be found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours.

The tour will be materialized with a minimum of 20 travelers and a maximum of 30 travelers. A valid passport is necessary to travel to Greece. No visa is required by for American citizens. It is the traveler's responsibility to verify all passport and visa requirements. We recommend you check <https://travel.state.gov/content.travel.html>.

Group airfare:

We offer group airfare. Pricing and specific itinerary will be available by the end of July 2022. All registered travelers will be notified.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are recommended.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

The price quoted within this brochure is based on a USD/EURO exchange rate of 1.15. We reserve the right to adjust the price at final payment if the exchange rate increases.

Included:

- 8 nights during the tour in Greece at local 3+ and 4-star hotels
- 8 x breakfast
- 6 x lunch (day 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9)
- 2 x dinner (day 3, 7)
- All transportation as per tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- English-speaking professional tour guide in Greece
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones where required
- Fr. Brendan Kelly will be leading this pilgrimage tour
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as per April 11, 2022

Hotel Accommodation:

Final accommodations are confirmed with the delivery of your travel documents, 30 days prior to departure.

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for additional checked bag. Your first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Gratuities to guides and drivers (estimate a total of \$10-12 per day)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



Cruise Extension

Introduction:

Embark on a weekend discovery taking you to some of the most beautiful and culturally enriched destinations in the Aegean, minus the crowds. A journey back in time is ahead! This may be a short cruise but you will be amazed at just how much you will see. Mykonos and its famous windmills, Kusadasi in Turkey, the stopping off point for Ephesus, the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the fabulous Greek islands of Patmos, Crete, and Santorini.

Some of the highlights are six contrasting ports in four days, evenings in Mykonos and Patmos, Crete's incredible Palace of Knossos, and Santorini sunset (weather permitting). Your voyage around the beautiful Aegean may seem like a dream by the time you return and is a wonderful way to end the Footsteps of Apostle Paul's journey!

June 9, 2023 - Friday

Embarkation - Mykonos

Enjoy a laid back breakfast and morning in Athens. Around 10 AM, you will leave the historic and classical capital of Greece and transfer to Piraeus, the port of Athens. Off you go to the first destination, the beautiful island of Mykonos, also known as the Island of the Winds. Take an evening stroll through the atmospheric Old Town with its immaculate whitewashed houses, winding alleys, lovely little churches, and delightful restaurants at the water's edge. You will undoubtedly recognize the picture-postcard white windmills sitting side by side, overlooking the sea. B | AI

June 10, 2023 - Saturday

Kusadasi - Ephesus - Patmos

You will arrive in the colorful Turkish beach town of Kusadasi in the morning. This is the coastal gateway to the Hellenistic ruins of Ephesus, famed for one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis. A complimentary excursion is included to this iconic site, one of the undoubted highlights of our journey. Patmos is next! One of the northernmost islands in the Dodecanese is one of the smallest with a charm all its own. Patmos is famous for being the

biblical location of the vision to the Apostle John, as recorded in Revelation 1:9.

Most scholars agree with the authenticity of his authorship. And you will visit this very place! AI

June 11, 2023 - Sunday

Crete - Santorini

Welcome to Crete, Greece's largest island, a place of mystery, myths and legends. There's the chance to take in the bustling city of Heraklion and some of Crete's extraordinary archaeology and history. You can also learn more about the art and creativity of the Minoans. We have included a complimentary visit to the Palace of Knossos, once the home of Europe's oldest civilization and the setting for the legend of the Greek hero Theseus and the Minotaur. Your odyssey continues as you will be spending an evening in Santorini, whose stunning face is instantly recognizable across the world. She will take your breath away, with her soaring landscapes, clusters of whitewashed houses in the capital Fira, and of course the iconic blue-domed church at Oia. Don't forget to try one of the many restaurants jostling for position at the edge of the caldera. AI

June 12, 2023 - Monday

Disembarkation - Athens at leisure

Upon disembarkation, we have arranged for a private transfer to our centrally located hotel. The day is at leisure to enjoy Athens and do some last souvenir-shopping or just relax and people-watch. B

June 13, 2023 - Tuesday

Traveling home

All too soon, your journey has ended. Upon disembarkation, we have arranged for a private transfer to Athens airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B | meals during flights

Itinerary subject to change

B=Breakfast AI=All Inclusive during cruise*

Pricing:

Per person in a shared double cabin
\$1,295

Per person in a single cabin
\$1,695

A limited number of single cabins available.

Triples and Quadruples not recommended.

Included:

- Private transfer with English speaking assistance (hotel-port-hotel-airport)
- 3-Night Cruise aboard Celestyal Olympia in XA-category stateroom
- 1 night in Athens, June 12-13, 2023
- Breakfast in Athens, June 13
- Onboard dining
- Unlimited classic drinks
- 2 excursions (Ephesus and Knossos) - additional excursions can be purchased onboard or pre-booked (ask us for the electronic PDF with all choices)
- Onboard entertainment
- Gratuities
- Port taxes
- Local taxes and fees as per 4/11/2022

Not Included:

- Fr. Brendan Kelly (cruise is fully English spoken)
- Meals/drinks other than mentioned
- Entrance fees to museums/sites not mentioned in the inclusions
- Personal expenses and anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Airfare:

Will be offered by end of July 2023

**Locally inspired regional cuisine, house wine, beer, soft drinks, teas, coffees, cocktails, and branded spirits while onboard. Premium wines, Champagnes, high-end spirits, fresh fruit juice available at a supplement. Snacks are available for purchase outside of dining times, specialty restaurants available at an additional charge.*

JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

Group airfare, economy class, is offered with Delta Airlines at **\$1,795** per person including taxes and fees:

May 31, 2023	Omaha* - Atlanta	5:50 AM - 9:05 AM
May 31, 2023	Atlanta - Athens	4:50 PM - 10:35 AM (June 1, 2023)
June 9, 2023	Athens - Amsterdam	6:00 AM - 8:30 AM
June 9, 2023	Amsterdam - Detroit	10:30 AM - 1:12 PM
June 9, 2023	Detroit - Omaha*	3:50 PM - 4:55 PM

For travelers with cruise extension returning on **June 13**, the roundtrip group airfare with Delta Airlines is offered at **\$1,495** per person including taxes and fees:

May 31, 2023	Omaha* - Atlanta	5:50 AM - 9:05 AM
May 31, 2023	Atlanta - Athens	4:50 PM - 10:35 AM (June 1, 2023)
June 13, 2023	Athens - Atlanta	12:50 PM - 5:55 PM
June 13, 2023	Atlanta - Omaha*	7:50 PM - 9:12 PM

*Ask us for airfare from a different hometown/state (a small difference in pricing may occur).

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle).

Please note:

Premium seating upgrades are not available when traveling on a group airfare contract. If you have frequent flyer miles (SkyMiles), please note those cannot be used to upgrade to Delta Comfort Plus but only be used for upgrades to business or first class when traveling on a group airfare contract. Contact us if you have any questions about this and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

Airfare is subject to change until tickets are issued, 30 days prior to departure.

RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

