

# *Footsteps of Paul—an NOBTS Biblical Pilgrimage* Led by Drs. Jamie and Tara Dew

May 23-June 2, 2023, 11 days

\$4295 from New Orleans and most airports



Left to right, top to bottom: Acropolis/Parthenon, Honor Guard at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Delphi Temple of Athena, Epidaurus Theater, Pinnacle Monasteries of Meteora, Fishing Village Neapolis/Kavala where St. Paul first landed in Europe.

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**Pre-trip possibilities:** those who wish could fly into Athens for experiences outside the group itinerary, then fly non-stop to Thessaloniki to meet the group--or take a scenic train ride Athens to Thessaloniki. The tour operator will be happy to work personally with anyone interested.

A limited number of **Premium Economy** seats are available on the transatlantic flights for an additional \$500 total cost—available first come, first served. **Business Class** is on availability basis at current pricing when ticketed.

**Day 1, Tuesday, May 23:** Depart MSY and other airports for overnight flight to Thessaloniki.

**Day 2, Wednesday, May 24:** Arrive in Greece's second city **Thessaloniki**, where St. Paul stayed and preached several weeks on his Second Missionary Journey in about 50 AD, converting so many souls the local authorities kicked him and his companions out of town for having "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Paul continued the care of his Thessalonian flock with the earliest two epistles in the New Testament. Deluxe 5-star hotel for two nights. Full breakfast and dinner buffets in all hotels daily.

**Day 3, Thursday, May 25:** After Paul received the vision of preaching to the Europeans, beginning in Macedonia (northern Greece, Acts 16), he landed in the **Neapolis** harbor, which is modern day Kavala that we will visit. From Neapolis, Paul went to **Philippi** (16:12ff), where we will see the traditional site of the baptism of Lydia, first European convert, and the ruins on the city of ancient Philippi, including the site that remembers the cell where Paul and Silas were imprisoned before the Lord miraculously freed them and the family of the Philippian jailer was baptized. Return to Thessaloniki

**Day 4, Friday, May 26:** Once Paul had been given the left foot of fellowship from Philippi and Thessalonica, he traveled to **Berea** where men

and women of noble character, both Jews and Greeks, believed the Word (Acts 17:10-14). At Berea study and worship at the *bema* or raised stone from which Paul preached. We then visit nearby **Vergina** to see royal tombs of the family of Alexander the Great, the richness of which is staggering as we will experience descending into the actual tombs to see the sculptures, painting, and gold jewelry. Travel through dramatic countryside to **Meteora** and the amazing Byzantine monasteries perched atop gigantic rock pinnacles in one of the world's most bizarre and fascinating geological formations. Overnight and dinner at a lovely four-star hotel in the village of Kalambaka.

**Day 5, Saturday, May 27:** Visit the easy-access St Stephen monastery in Meteora, then Interesting rural scenery along the way to **Delphi**, which the ancient Greeks considered the *omphalos* (navel or center) of the world. Here the Delphic oracle muttered cryptic prophecies as sacred vapors issuing from the underworld cast her into a trance from her seat in the Temple of Apollo, the grand remains of which still stand on a mountaintop overlooking breathtakingly green hills and valleys. The museum at Delphi is a gem, small enough to be enjoyed quickly but every exhibit truly striking. Overnight in the charming village Arachova.

**Day 6, Sunday, May 28:** Visit Delphi site and museum, then continue to the Peloponnese (southern Greek peninsula) to the 5-star beach front resort near Olympia for dinner and overnight.

**Day 7, Monday, May 29:** Visit **Olympia**, site of the original Greek games celebrated every four years. Not a town, Olympia is a complex of altars, monuments, theaters, statues, and, of course, the famous Stadium itself. The museum is great, small enough to be seen in good time but chock full of fascinating exhibits, including the *Hermes of Praxiteles*, one of the most famous ancient statues ever created. Continue to Nauplion for dinner and overnight. One of the loveliest villages in the

world, **Nafplion** (some-times spelled Nauplion) is the former capital of Greece, on the sea between two mountains crowned by medieval fortresses overlooking the town. Nafplion is full of restaurants, shops, cafes, narrow winding streets, colorful gardens, fountains, beautiful old buildings.

**Day 8, Tuesday, May 30:** Full day with three great sites: **Epidaurus**, ancient healing center dedicated to the god of medicine Asclepius. While ancients were in town for healing festivals 2500 hundred years ago, they took in the theater dedicated to Dionysius, the most acoustically-perfect venue ever built, where the unamplified human voice could (and still can) be heard by all 12,000 spectators. **Mycenae**, the royal city of Agamemnon, king of the Greeks who fought the Trojan War, brother of Menelaus, whose wife Helen (the “face that launched a thousand ships”) sparked the war. The German archaeologist Schliemann who excavated historic Troy in Turkey later dug up Mycenae, including the solid gold “mask of Agamemnon,” as well as the Lion Gate through which you will pass going into the Palace and great Bee Hive Tombs. **Corinth**, the once glorious city near the Isthmus, where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla and spent a year and a half working and preaching the Gospel (Acts 18). Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples and famous Bema, where Paul stood before Gallio accused by the Jews of Corinth. To Athens for the three final and memorable nights of the tour at a deluxe 5-star hotel.

**Day 9, Wednesday, May 31:** Athens, birthplace of Western civilization’s culture of democracy and the philosophical tradition of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The grandeur that was Greece is summed up in its architecture, most strikingly the Parthenon atop the Acropolis that dominates nearly every view in the bustling modern city.

Experience all the highlights of **Athens** including the iconic **Syntagma (Constitution) Square**, right across from the **House of Parliament** guarded by photogenic tassel-festooned wooden-clogged guards. Stop at the **Panathen-aico Stadium**, where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896. And, of course, ascend the **Acropolis**, the very symbol of the Grandeur that was Greece. At the base of the Acropolis, the Museum has a fantastic collection of artifacts recovered from the site. The two areas of Athens most associated with the Apostle Paul are **Mars Hill** (or Areopagus) and the Agora (Acts 17:15ff).

View the Agora from the Acropolis, with the covered porch called a *stoa* that gave rise to the name of the Stoic philosophers with whom Paul debated at that very spot. When Paul’s claims about the resurrection intrigued the city’s leaders, he was taken to the top of the **Areopagus** to argue his belief in the famous sermon about “the unknown God” (Acts 17:19-31). Those who wish will have the opportunity to climb to the top of the famous hill, re-affirming with Paul the Gospel of the Risen Christ. Some afternoon free time, perhaps for some shopping in the famous **Plaka** tourist area at the base of the Parthenon.

**Day 10, Thursday, June 1:** Private transfer from hotel to the Athens port of **Piraeus**, then ferry to **Aegina**, an idyllic Greek island an hour’s sail from Athens. Belonging to the Saronic group of islands, Aegina has many archaeological monuments, picturesque villages, and beautiful beaches! The center of the island is Aegina Town, the picturesque capital, boasting elegant Neo-Classical buildings, narrow alleys, and a bustling seafront promenade. The most-impressive archaeological site of the island is the Ancient Temple of Athena Aphaia, dating back to the 6th century BC. Lunch during the day included at a typical Greek seaside tavern. Ferry back to Athens for special farewell dinner, final overnight.

**Day 11, Friday, June 2:** Transfer to the Athens airport for the flight to the US, arriving same day.

## Registration Details Back of Brochure

May weather in Greece is great--spring morphing into early summer with sunny skies, almost no chance of rain, daytime highs 70s into low 80s. Bring sun glasses and broad-brimmed hat; shorts are fine except the visit to Meteora monastery. Swim wear for hotel pools and ocean beaches.



# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**U.S. passport** valid through end of December, 2023, is required; anyone with non-U.S. passport, please contact tour operator.

**Payment schedule:** \$400 deposit required to guarantee a place on the tour. **Space on the tour is limited with final registration deadline November 1, 2022—OR when the 32 spots on the tour are filled.** Second payment of \$2000 due January 15. Final \$1895 payment due March 15. Credit cards may be used for second and final payments with a 3% non-refundable processing fee.

## **Tour price includes . . .**

**Air transportation** currently scheduled on Star Alliance partners but may be on any airline. Cancellations after the air tickets have been issued are subject to a cancellation penalty as imposed by the airline. Current air fuel charge and taxes/fees are included. Please note: frequent flyer miles/credit card points cannot be used to purchase or upgrade air tickets; however, if you arrange your own airfare, deduct \$1390 from the brochure price at time of final payment. **Seat upgrades:** limited number of Premium Economy seats available on transatlantic flights for \$500 total additional; business class based on availability and price when ticketed.

**Accommodations** in 5-star and 4-star hotels, private bath. Cost for anyone staying in a single room is \$895.

**Meals** daily buffet breakfasts and dinners in hotels or local restaurant, one lunch.

**Sightseeing** in the itinerary including entrance fees and services of English-speaking guide.

**One regular-sized suitcase**, maximum 50 pounds, is currently allowed free of charge plus one personal item and one “carry-on” that will fit under the seat ahead or in the overhead bin. Tour organizers accept no liability for loss or damage to any baggage.

**All tips** to guide, driver, hotel, restaurant, and porters are included.

**Tour price does not include** sightseeing or services not specifically mentioned or noted as optional; baggage charges that may be implemented by airlines (none as of this printing).

**Cancellation policy:** No penalty for written cancellations received up before November 1, 2022. Written cancellations received November 1-January 14 are subject to a \$400 per person cancellation fee. Written cancellations received January 15-March 14 are subject to a \$1000 cancellation fee. Written cancellations received March 15-April 15 are subject to a \$2150 cancellation fee. No refund for written cancellations received after April 15. No refund made for missed services while on tour. In addition to above penalties, airline tickets are non-refundable once issued.

*We recommend the purchase of travel insurance*, which covers medical expenses as well as cancellation penalties and other covered eventualities. Please note: information on travel insurance available on written request to [ron.cansler@yahoo.com](mailto:ron.cansler@yahoo.com).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: \$4295 brochure price** based on minimum 31 total passengers and current VAT policy and Euro/dollar exchange rate.

**Responsibility:** Drs Jamie and Tara Dew, NOBTS, Ronald L. Cansler dba Escorted Travel Concepts, LLC, and their agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters, and as such, are not responsible for any damage, expense, or inconvenience caused by late plane arrival or departure or by any change of schedule or other condition, nor the loss of or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever. The sponsoring organization reserves the right to withdraw the tour at any time or make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Services of any regularly-scheduled jet carrier may be used. *Payment of deposit by tour participants indicates acceptance of above terms and conditions.*

To register, make deposit check to “NOBTS Greece” and mail to  
Blanca Phillips, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., Box 92, New Orleans, LA 70126

For info/assistance contact Blanca Phillips at [travelprograms@nobts.edu](mailto:travelprograms@nobts.edu), 504-816-8441

*Important: please include email address and phone number with registration check!*

*Send copy of passport photo page with registration or when available.*

