



ST. PHILIP'S
CHURCH

TRAVELING INTO
THE

New Testament



June 11 through 21, 2019
with The Reverend Jeffrey S. Miller

**Optional pre- and post-journey excursions available*

TRAVELING INTO THE *New Testament*

Day 1: Tuesday, June 11

Depart your home city

Depart Charleston or your home city for Athens.

Day 2: Wednesday, June 12

Arrive in Athens

As we arrive in Athens, you will be transferred to the Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens. Transfers are included for all passengers. Please try to arrive into Athens no later than 2:00PM.

We will begin our journey with a late afternoon visit to the Acropolis Museum, which will lay the foundation for our visit to the Acropolis the next morning.



This evening, we gather for a welcome dinner with magnificent views from the Rooftop Restaurant of our hotel.

Royal Olympic Hotel - Panoramic Rooms

All Athenian Panorama Rooms are just opposite the Temple of Zeus, which is the largest in Greece, exceeding even



the Parthenon in size and one of Athens' most important archaeological sites. The view of the Temple, The National Gardens and The Lycabettus Hill turns your windows into a live work of art. (D)

Day 3: Thursday, June 13

Athens and Corinth

After we enjoy breakfast on our hotel's rooftop garden, we begin the day with a visit to the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the Areopagus. The Acropolis is an enduring symbol of ancient Greece and a continuing symbol of Athenian Democracy.



The Areopagus or Mars Hill is a bare marble hill next to the Acropolis in Athens. In pre-classical times (before the 5th century BC), the Areopagus was the meeting place of the council of elders of the city, like the Roman Senate. It is here that St. Paul addressed the elders of Athens on the subject of religion. He begins by telling them that he sees that "in every way you are very religious.." and goes on to comment that he even sees an altar "to an unknown god." He then proclaims to them that God who made the world "...is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not dwell in temples on earth"... (Acts 17:22-31)

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After this (Acts 18:1) Paul left Athens and went to Corinth – and so this afternoon shall we! Ancient Corinth bustled with people from all corners of the Mediterranean where St. Paul lived and preached here for two years between 52 and



53 C.E. and again between 57 and 58 C.E. We will explore ancient Corinth: the Agora, where Paul's trial by Gallio took place and its myriad of important structures; the Temple of Apollo; the Fountain of 5 Pierene; the Lechaion Road; and the Bema, where St. Paul was brought before the tribunal, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

We will dine at a local restaurant by the sea and watch the exquisite sunset. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Friday, June 14

Athens to the Hilltop Monasteries of Meteora

Serene, spiritual, magical, mystical, extraordinary, breathtaking, immense, inspiring, impressive, these are only some of the



words people very often use in an effort to describe the Meteora phenomenon. A trip to Meteora offers the unique experience of nature's grandeur in conjunction with history, architecture and man's everlasting desire to connect with the Divine.

Meteora meaning "suspended in the air", is listed as a World Heritage Site and for very good reason. It is a mass of jutting pinnacles and rock formations upon which are built six Byzantine monasteries. As the Turks gradually invaded the plains around them, these monasteries became refuge for the religious of that day. Meteora has become a preservation ark for the 2000-year-old Christian Orthodox creed, a holy place for all Christians around the world.

We will visit two of these magnificent cliff top monasteries and overnight in Kalambaka at the Divani Meteora Hotel.

The Divani Meteora Hotel

As one of the Divani Collection luxury hotels in Greece, Divani Meteora hotel offers guests the opportunity to enjoy



traditional Greek hospitality in a contemporary setting. Fully renovated, the hotel is surrounded by immense natural beauty, the religious rocks of Meteora. (B,L, D)

Day 5: Saturday, June 15

Meteora and Thessaloniki

Today we will visit Berea where Paul traveled and shared the Gospel in both the synagogue and agora. Then on to the ancient city of Vergina, site of the Royal tombs of the Macedonian kings including Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. During the Roman empire, Berea became a place of worship for the Romans. Within the city walls there was a Jewish synagogue where Paul was summoned to preach. It was to this Bema that Paul was bidden and Gallio ruled that



the root of the quarrels of the townspeople with Paul were Jewish problems and not those of law. In Vergina we will stop and see the beautiful modern mosaic of the Apostle Paul.

After these visits, we will continue on to Thessaloniki. We will have a panoramic tour of this, Greece's second city. We will see Thessaloniki's most famous landmark, the White Tower;

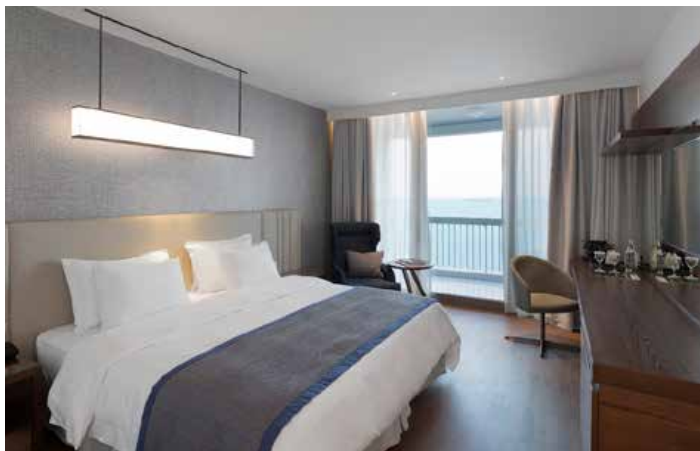


we will visit the Harbor Promenade, and the Ancient Agora. It is here that Paul was accused of "turning the world upside down." Check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

The Makedonia Palace Hotel Executive Rooms

Start your day with a delicious breakfast away from the busy city rhythms and later on enjoy a magical sunset over the Gulf of Thermaikos. The city center is within breathing

distance from Makedonia Palace while the hotel's rooms offer you a total relaxation and comfort experience.



The side of the hotel overlooking the sea gives you the chance to gaze and admire the multi-awarded waterfront promenade of "Nea Paralia", an area much loved by both Thessaloniki's residents and visitors. The city's most emblematic monument, the White Tower, is located at a short walking distance and constitutes the "borders" of the city center. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Sunday, June 16 Thessaloniki and Philippi

Philippi was an important city in eastern Macedonia which flourished in the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Periods. Situated between the Strymon and Nestos rivers, the city was valued in antiquity for its nearby gold mines. Site



of the famous Battle of Philippi at the end of the Roman Republic, the city prospered in the Roman imperial era and, after a visit from St. Paul, became an important centre of early Christianity. Philippi continued to flourish as a major Byzantine city.

At Philippi, we visit the site of Lydia's baptism (Acts 16:14), and explore the ancient excavated city, including Paul's prison.

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If we were travelling with the Apostle Paul, and were on our way to Philippi, the first place we would have set foot in this area would have been Neapolis, this is where Paul, Silas and Timothy first landed (Acts 16:11). From here they travelled out into Macedonia. Today the archaeological site has substantial remains including a theatre and four basilicas.

Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Monday, June 17 Fly from Thessaloniki to Athens: The Greek Isles Mykonos

This morning we will take an early morning flight to Athens and we'll transfer to the port of Piraeus to board the ship for our three-day cruise to the Greek islands and the coast of



Turkey. Before noon, we sail to Mykonos, the cosmopolitan island of the Aegean famous for its architecture, its gorgeous beaches and incredible shopping.

The Celestyal Olympia is a wonderful way to tour the islands. However, the cabins are very tiny. We have included the XC outside cabins* for all participants as well as all gratuities, drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, fuel surcharge and have included shore excursions at Ephesus, Patmos and Rhodes.

*Jr. Suites are available as well. Please see the details under the *Celestial Olympia* part of the brochure. Supplement for Jr. Suites: \$125.00 per person double occupancy. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tuesday, June 18

Ephesus and Patmos

This morning we have an early start for Ephesus, one of the largest and best excavated cities of the ancient world. Because of Ephesus' centrality to the world, Paul spent some of the longest time in one place in Ephesus – three years.



From Ephesians 4:17-6:20 the Epistle to the Ephesians gives practical advice in how to live a holy, pure, and Christ-inspired lifestyle. Many devotional thoughts and sermons have been drawn from this section of the New Testament.

Our guided walking tour will take us through one of the most magnificent excavations in the world, including the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the steam heated Baths of Scolastika, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrians, the Library of Celsus and The Great Theatre, the largest one in antiquity with a capacity of 24,000 seats where St. Paul preached. We will walk along the Arcadian Way, where Mark Antony and Cleopatra once rode in procession. We return to the ship for lunch and rest.

Patmos (perfect sunset and service)

The port on Patmos is where the Monastery of St. John, built 900 years ago, is located within the walls of a strong fortification. We will get a view of the courtyard, the monks' dining room and the old bakery before you visit the main church noted for its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration.

Next, visit the small museum where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles, vestments and jewelry are housed. We will then continue to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse and the Monastery of the Apocalypse above it. Here we will see



the niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by Apostle John, the author of the Book of the Revelation, and the crack in the rock made by the voice of God honoring the Holy Trinity.

Return to the ship for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Wednesday, June 19 Rhodes

We have all day on Rhodes, where we will have a tour and time for personal exploration. We will drive along the medieval walls to the summit of Mount Smith, the Acropolis of ancient Rhodes. From the Temple of Athena, we will view the nearby Temple of Apollo, the stadium of Diagoras and the



port, once protected by the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. We continue across the

island to Philerimos. The summit of Philerimos was the site of Ialysos, one of the three ancient cities of Rhodes.

Later sites include the restored Byzantine Church of Our Lady of Philerimos, and the ruined Castle of the Knights Hospitaller, who later moved and became the Knights of Malta. We will also have a guided walking tour of the old walled city to the Porte d'Amboise. It is a pleasure to stroll the street of the Knights with its medieval buildings, winding alleys, towers, turrets and emblazoned façades. We will then visit the impressive Grand Master's Palace and have the chance to see the superb mosaics.

There will be time for those who are interested to return to the old walled city for personal exploration. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Thursday, June 20 Crete and Santorini

This day is free for personal exploration and swimming. Port excursions are available, but not included in the tour.

In the morning, we arrive to the port of Heraklion, the main port of the largest Greek island, to visit the island of Crete. Here we will experience the archaeological site



of Knossos where the Palace of King Minos was, home of the well-known Minotaur! Knossos was undoubtedly the ceremonial and political center of the Minoan civilization and culture. It appears as a maze of workrooms, living spaces, and storerooms close to a central square.

In the afternoon, the ship will approach the breathtaking volcanic island of Santorini, regarded as one of the most important geological curiosities in the eastern Mediterranean and home of one of the most important prehistoric settlements of the Aegean. You'll have the afternoon at leisure to explore the many authentic shops and lovely cafés of this

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island. When the sun sets, the reflection on the buildings and the glow of the orange and red in the cliffs can be truly spectacular! (B,L,D)

Day 11: Friday, June 21

Disembark and fly home or extend to Delphi

This morning we will disembark the ship and transfer directly to the Athens Airport for flights departing after 11:00AM.

Optional Post-Tour Extensions are available:

June 21, 2019 - Post-Hotel Extension: Athens Airport Sofitel

June 21-23, 2019 - Post-Journey Extension: Delphi

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Monday, June 10-11, 2019

1-Night Athens Early Arrival

Monday, June 10: Depart your home city

Tuesday, June 11: Arrive Athens

Transfers are included from the airport to the hotel

Royal Olympic Hotel - Panoramic Rooms (B)

\$249.00 per person double occupancy

\$450.00 single occupancy

Friday, June 21, 2019

Post Hotel Extension Athens Airport Sofitel

Transfer from the cruise ship to the Airport / Athens Sofitel.

Day to relax, or explore Athens (hotel provides shuttle to the city). (B)

\$179.00 per person double occupancy

\$275.00 single occupancy

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Delphi Post-Journey Extension

Friday, June 21 - Delphi

Depart for Delphi. Arrive Delphi for lunch and proceed to the hotel for check in. Later in the afternoon visit the archaeological site of Delphi. The sanctuary of Delphi, set within a most spectacular landscape, was for many centuries the cultural and religious center as well as the symbol of unity for the Hellenic (Greek) world.

The history of Delphi begins in prehistory and in the myths of the ancient Greeks. In the beginning, the site was sacred to Mother Earth and was guarded by the terrible serpent Python, who was later killed by Apollo. Apollo's sanctuary



was built here by Cretan priests who arrived at the port of Delphi, accompanied by the god in the form of a dolphin! Return to your beautifully located hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,L)

Saturday, June 22

Delphi Archaeological Museum & Athens

This morning we will tour the Delphi Archaeological Museum. This treasure trove consists of 15 rooms that house countless artifacts and awe-inspiring exhibits including the frieze of the Treasury of the Siphnians, the Sphinx of Naxos, the Statue of Antinous and the famous bronze Charioteer of Delphi.

As we make our way back towards Athens we will visit the UNESCO-listed Saint Lucas Monastery. Built in the 11th



century during the Byzantine period, Saint Lucas Monastery is home to a series of intricate mosaics that decorate its cathedral, making it one of the finest monuments of Byzantine architecture in the entire country.

We end our day at the Sofitel Athens Airport. (B,L)

Sunday, June 23: Return Home

JOURNEY PRICING, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

Cost of Journey:

\$4495.00 per person double occupancy - all inclusive except international flights to and from Athens.
\$1195.00 single supplement

Optional Extension Pricing:

Athens Pre-night:

\$249.00 per person double occupancy
\$450.00 single occupancy

Athens Post-night:

\$179.00 per person double occupancy
\$275.00 single occupancy

Celestyal Olympia Cruise - Upgrade to Jr. Suite:

\$125.00 per person double occupancy
\$525 single occupancy

Delphi Post Journey Extension:

\$695.00 per person double occupancy
\$890.00 single occupancy

Deposit: \$850.00 per person deposit is required to confirm a reservation on a definite basis. Final payment is due February 27, 2019. Deposit and payments can be made by credit card or check.

INCLUSIVE PRICES

Tour Prices: Tour prices are per person in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy. There is a supplemental expense for single occupancy. All hotel accommodations, transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, portage, and the services of the local guides, drivers and the Tour Escort/Guide(s) are included, as per individual details of the itinerary. Transportation from the arrival airport as well as airport departure transportation on the ending tour date is included in the cost of the tour on most journeys. Please review your specific itinerary for details. Transportation to and from airports or additional stations may be shared with other guests.

Hotel Accommodations: The tour price includes luxury and first class hotels, all hotel accommodations with private baths. Our standard is to provide the best available accommodations without sacrificing value. Although the quality of accommodations may differ slightly from one hotel to another, our commitment to your comfort is unwavering.

Meals: Included meals are specified in the itinerary with the abbreviations (B,L,D) as appropriate. Wine, mineral water and coffee are included every evening with dinner and unlimited beer, wine, soft drinks and cocktails aboard the ship. If additional refreshments are included it will be specified in the itinerary.

NOT INCLUDED

Air Transportation: Air transportation to the tour departure point and from the tour ending point is not included unless otherwise noted.

Gratuities to your Guide/Escort and drivers:

Gratuities are not included to your overall Tour Escort/ Guide(s) and coach driver, unless otherwise noted. A recommended gratuity amount will be provided to you in your final tour documents. Connoisseurs Tours wishes to stress that this gratuity is optional and on a voluntary basis.

Personal Expenses: Personal expenses such as phone calls, use of fitness center, room service, alcoholic and bar beverages, mineral water, soft drinks, unless otherwise indicated as included with dinner or aboard the ship, laundry, airline service fees, excess baggage fees, and other optional incidental extras are not included in the tour price.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Travel Insured Protection Plan: Connoisseurs Tours offers Cancellation/Delay/Medical Protection. The cost of travel protection is per person based on double occupancy, with a single occupancy rate available. Rates are as per individual details of the itinerary. Travel protection can be paid with your deposit or at the time of your final payment. Connoisseurs Tours strongly recommends that you purchase Cancellation/Medical Protection. Traveling is a big investment. It pays to protect yourself against unforeseen circumstances that can result in trip cancellation and additional expenses such as costs related to medical emergencies.

This Travel Insured Protection Plan is specifically designed to provide you with peace of mind knowing you are protected against the financial impact of unexpected events while on your trip. Additional insurance is available to include the cost of your airfare in addition to the tour price. Please contact Connoisseurs Tours if you would like to insure the cost of your airline tickets after you have purchased your airline tickets.

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Health and Fitness: Connoisseurs Tours are moderate exertion journeys. Travelers must certify that they are in good health and can walk up to one mile per day. These journeys are not recommended for those who have mobility limitations such as walkers, wheelchairs and scooters.

CANCELLATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All cancellations must be in writing.

Schedule:

- **From the time of booking to 120 days prior to departure** \$500.00 per person cancellation fee will apply.
- **119 to 90 days prior to departure**
Full deposit amount is non-refundable.
- **89 to 60 days prior to departure**
50% of the tour price is non-refundable.
- **59 to 0 days prior to departure**
100% of the full tour price is non-refundable.

Itinerary Change and Flexibility: Connoisseurs Tours pledges to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right to alter or curtail any aspect of the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels/ and or conveyances as deemed necessary. Any additional expense for these substitutions will be covered by Connoisseurs Tours.

Responsibility: Connoisseurs Tours acts only as an agent for the traveler with respect to transportation, accommodations and other services offered on the tour. Connoisseurs Tours and the agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error omission, or for any injury, loss, accident or delay or irregularity that may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier or through negligence or default of any subcontractor or other third party. The passage contract in use by the carriers when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the traveler. Connoisseurs Tours and/or their agents will not responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to person or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other causes in connection with the tour for anything beyond their reasonable control. Connoisseurs Tours is not responsible for transportation or other delays or changes to the tour program beyond their control, nor any additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred by the traveler. It may be necessary or advisable for the wellbeing of all travelers to alter the itinerary at any time,

without notice to the travelers, and such alterations will be made without penalty to Connoisseurs Tours.

Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right to decline or not to retain any person as a member of any tour or to change or withdraw a tour as circumstances demand. All rates quoted are based on tariffs in effect at the time the tour was planned and are subject to change in the event of adjustment therein. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk and baggage insurance is recommended. Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of equal or superior quality. The proposals of this section are governed by Georgia law, and final payment by the traveler to Connoisseurs Tours shall be deemed to be consent to the above provisions.

Validity: August 10, 2018 through September 10, 2019

Any payment made towards a tour booking shall constitute a confirmation by the Guest on behalf of themselves and all other persons named on their booking that he or she has read, understood, accepted and agreed to the Terms & Conditions of this tour, the terms of which will apply to the Guest and all other persons named on their booking.



NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Call or email Connoisseurs Tours for more information:
1-800-856-1045
Email: Pilgrimages@ConnoisseursTours.com

PILGRIMAGES@CONNOISSEURSTOURS.COM 1-800-856-1045

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