

## **New Pilgrimage Greece: The Birth of Christianity**

### **March 21 – March 28, 2025**

How did a crucified political prisoner come to captivate the hearts and minds of so many in the very Empire that killed him? How did such a small movement spread around the world? What was the world like when Christianity was born? These questions are not only important historically, but also give us clues today about the power and depth of the Christian story. This tour will be an exploration, a study, and a conversation around the birth of Christianity. It will also be a pilgrimage, a spiritual adventure, a kind of walking prayer. We hope to learn from one another, from the Bible and from the land itself.

After leading tours to Israel for twenty years, I'm expanding this kind of pilgrimage to other parts of the world. Although I've studied in Greece, this will be my first tour. This trip will be an opportunity to explore with me what a study trip to Greece entails. We'll learn together. If you've been with me before, you know I'm not interested in a pre-packed experience, but a kind of living conversation. You're invited to join me on this amazing opportunity. The trip will be led by me, assisted by my friend and pastor Michael Hidalgo. Michael has been with me several times to Israel, and I appreciate his voice and insights. We will also be using local guides, learning as much as we can about Greece, the ancient world, and the New Testament community.

#### **Basic Itinerary**

**Day 1:** Arrive day, Athens airport. Meet our assistant, take the bus to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

**Day 2:** Tour of Athens: the Acropolis, the Areopagus (Mars hill, Acts 17), the Parthenon.  
Tour of Corinth: where Paul spent 18 months. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

**Day 3:** Travel to Thessaloniki: St. George's church and St. Demetrius Basilica,  
Tour of Thessaloniki: the Forum and the Galerius Arch. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki

**Day 4:** Tour of Philippi: Paul's prison, archeological ruins. Visit Kavala. Head back to Thessaloniki, Dinner and overnight.

**Day 5:** Tour of Meteora: sandstone formations and monasteries. Meteora belongs to UNESCO's list of world heritage monuments. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka hotel.

**Day 6:** Tour of Delphi: the oracle, theater, archeological museum. Dinner and overnight in Patra.

**Day 7:** Tour of Olympia: the Olympic Games and Greek culture. Dinner and overnight in Athens hotel.

**Day 8:** Free day to explore Athens, with optional boat trip option. The boat trip is a *one day cruise to 3 nearby islands (\$150/person) including pick up and drop.* Dinner and overnight in Athens.

**Day 9:** After breakfast depart for the Athens airport.

#### **Price (without airfare)**

Price per person in double room – \$4155

Single room supplement – \$1000

Minimum full paying participants – 20

*Included in the price:*

- Transfer to the hotel on arrival day and on departure day
- Accommodation double room including breakfast and dinner
- English speaking guide
- Air-conditioned bus
- Entrance fees to all the sites
- Whisper system
- Gift bag with Greek products

*Not included*

- International Airfare
- Lunches
- Travel insurance (recommended – companies like TravelEx)
- Tips for guide, driver, portorage and other service providers
- Extra costs that may occur if not coming/leaving during window of time at Athens airport

*Payment Schedule*

\$500 refundable deposit ASAP to reserve spot

Nov 1, 2024: Half of the total due

Feb 1, 2025: Total due, no refunds after final payment

\*Please do not book your airfare until the trip is confirmed. We will likely know this in November, which leaves plenty of time to search for the best flight options. We will be flying in and out of Athens, and we'll be clear about the approximate times for you to arrive and depart.

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Registration Form—New Pilgrimage Greece: March 21–28, 2025 (detach and mail, or return by email)

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of spots.

\*Checks payable to "New Pilgrimage LLC" (other payment arrangements can be made, checks preferred).

Mail to Kent Dobson 104 E Heritage Blvd, Byron, GA 31008

Name/s (on your passport)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of

Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number/Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

The program is co-designed and lead by New Pilgrimage LLC (Kent Dobson) and E.D.I. Travel Ltd, Kibbutz Gonen, POB 168,  
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