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Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Morganton, NC

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

Sept. 26 – Oct. 7, 2025

Led by Pastor Jack Hodges

DAY 1 – FRI. Sept. 26:

DEPART USA

Board your international flight today on route to Greece, to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Depart from Charlotte Douglas International Airport at 6:30pm on Lufthansa Airline's flight LH429. Dinner and overnight on board your flight.

DAY 2 – SAT. Sept. 27:

ARRIVE ATHENS, GREECE

Arrive in Munich at 9:10am. Depart on flight LH1746. Arrive at Athens International Airport at 1:50pm where you will meet our representative and transfer to your hotel. Check-in, followed by dinner and overnight stay. (B)
The Stanley Hotel, 1 Odiseos Street, Athens, tel: +30-211-990-0900

DAY 3 – SUN. Sept. 28:

ATHENS & CORINTH

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for our full day tour out of Athens and Corinth. Our first stop is at the historic Corinth Canal for some photos, before arriving at the archaeological site of Corinth. It was in Corinth (Acts 18:1-18) where the Apostle Paul lived and worked, establishing a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles. After visiting the sites associated with Paul's ministry, we return to Athens for an afternoon city tour. Climb up the Acropolis Hill to see the famous Parthenon and Erectheion temples and the spectacular views of Athens below. Then walk to nearby Mars' Hill (Areopagus) (Acts 17:22) where the Apostle Paul spoke to the Athenians about the one and only God. Our tour will finish with a bus panoramic sightseeing tour to see the city highlights. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4 – MON. Sept. 29:

ATHENS – LAVRION - CRUISE TO MYKONOS

After breakfast, check-out. Morning escorted bus transfer to the port of Lavrion to embark on your Greek Island cruise. Sail at 1.00 p.m. and enjoy lunch onboard. Our first port of call is Mykonos at 6.00 pm, where we have free time for walking and exploring the town. Stroll on your own through the whitewashed, flower-decked alleyways, climbing to the sculpture church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront of "Little Venice" to the famous windmills. Enjoy dinner on board and sail for Kusadasi, Turkey at 11.00 p.m. Overnight on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – TUES. Sept. 30:

KUSADASI (TURKEY) - PATMOS (GREECE)

Arrive at the port of Kusadasi in Turkey at 7.00 am. This is the starting point for our guided tour to Ancient Ephesus (Acts 18:19-21). The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians, lived and worked here for several years. We tour the spectacular ruins in the city founded in the 10th century BC. After the visit, we return to our ship. Lunch on board. Sail at 1:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. arrive at Patmos (Rev 1:9). Disembarkation by tender-boats – sea & weather permitting. Enjoy an optional guided tour to the Monastery of John the Evangelist where he was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation. We also visit the Grotto of the Revelation (Cave of Apocalypse) before embarking on the cruise-ship. At 9:30 p.m. Sail to Rhodes and enjoy dinner and overnight on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – WED. Oct. 1:

RHODES (GREECE)

At 7:00 a.m. our cruise-ship docks in Rhodes. You will enjoy the optional organized morning guided excursion to Lindos, situated 47 km (29.2 mi) from the town of Rhodes, where we visit the ruins of the Acropolis of Lindos with the ancient Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC. In the center of the village you will find the Church of the Virgin

Mary (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15th century. Paul sailed from Cos to the island of Rhodes, home of famous philosophers and orators, on his homeward journey to Jerusalem (Acts 21:1). In the medieval walled town of Rhodes you will walk through D'Amboise Gate to the Street of the Knights. You will see the Grand Master Palace. Walk downhill along the street you will find the residences of the Knights, separated according to Order, which bear until today their corresponding crests. Return to the cruise-ship for lunch on board. Afternoon at leisure to explore on your own the walled city of Rhodes. Sail to Heraklion, Crete at 6:00 p.m. Dinner & overnight on board ship. **(B,L,D)**

DAY 7 – THURS. Oct. 2:

HERAKLION CRETE & SANTORINI (GREECE)

At 7.00 a.m. we arrive in Heraklion, Crete (Acts 27:7-13). You can join the optional excursion to visit the restored ruins of the Minoan Palace of Knossos, home of King Minos and the legendary Minotaur (half-bull and half-man). After the tour, return to the cruise-ship for lunch. Sail for Santorini at 12.00 p.m., the island with the most magnificent landscape! Ride the cable- car up to the white-washed town of Thera, perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano. Free time. Set sail back to the port of Lavrion at 9:30 p.m. Dinner and overnight on board. **(B,L,D)**

DAY 8 – FRI. Oct. 3:

ATHENS (LAVRION) - METEORA MONASTERIES - KALAMBAKA

At 6:00 a.m. arrive at Lavrion. Disembarkation after breakfast on board. Meet your guide and board the bus for a journey to Central & Northern Greece! Upon arrival in the town of Kalambaka, we enjoy a spectacular drive up to visit two Meteora Monasteries, which are built on the top of colossal symmetrical gray and reddish boulders high above the ground. They were first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation and are now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Check-in at the hotel. Dinner & overnight. **(B,D)**

Amalia Hotel, Theopetra, Kalambaka, tel>: +30-243-207-2216

DAY 9 – SAT. Oct. 4:

KALAMBAKA – BEREIA – THESSALONICA

After breakfast at the hotel, check-out and depart from Kalambaka and continue our journey to Thessalonica. On our way we will stop in Berea (Acts 17:10-15) to see the mosaic monument commemorating the Apostle Paul's preaching. Later in the afternoon, check-in at the hotel in Thessalonica. Enjoy the evening at your own leisure. Take a walk by the seaside and explore the beautiful city center. Dinner & overnight at the hotel. **(B,D)**

Capsis Hotel, 16 Monastiriou St., Thessalonica, tel.: +30-2310-596-800

DAY 10 – SUN. Oct. 5:

THESSALONICA - PHILIPPI – KAVALA - THESSALONICA

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we visit Philippi, where the Apostle Paul established a strong church and sent his letter (Acts 16:9-33). We see the river where Lydia is said to have been baptized, the ruins of a prison where the Apostle Paul and Syllas had been kept, the Agora, 5th and 6th century Basilica and the Theater. After the visit, we continue to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where we enjoy a panoramic tour before returning to the hotel in Thessalonica. Dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

DAY 11 – MON. Oct. 6:

THESSALONICA – ATHENS

After breakfast at the hotel, check-out. In the morning we enjoy a sightseeing city tour of Thessalonica. We see the Old City Walls, the White Tower, the Arch of Galerius and the Rotunda. Then we commence our drive back to Athens passing by Katerini where we gaze upon Mount Olympus, home of the twelve ancient Greek gods and the Valley of Tempe. Arrive in the evening at the hotel. Check-in. Farewell group dinner will be provided at the hotel. Overnight. **(B,D)**

The Stanley Hotel, 1 Odiseos Street, Athens, tel: +30-211-990-0900

DAY 12 – TUES. Oct. 7:

ATHENS DEPARTURE

Breakfast box provided by the hotel. Check-out. As you reflect on these past few days, full of history and spiritual inspiration, you will be transferred to Athens International Airport for your departure flight home. Depart at 6:00am on flight LH1757, arriving in Munich at 7:40am. Depart Munich at 1:05pm on flight LH428, arriving in Charlotte at 4:35pm.**(B)**