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Join Cookeville First UMC's "Cookeville Sojourners"

# JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE 2024

April 20 - 27, 2024



For information or to make a reservation, contact:  
Kathy Conrad (731)414-4717  
kathyc@cookevillefumc.org  
or  
Bob & Pam Blair (931)267-8444  
blairbp@charter.net

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## A Message from Your Hosts

Spiritual journeys take many forms. At best, they are a visit to new places, sacred spaces and new encounters with God. We invite you to join Cookeville First United Methodist as we follow the paths the Apostle Paul traveled as the first Christian missionary. We will visit places scattered around the Mediterranean Sea where Paul shared the Gospel of Christ in the earliest letters of the New Testament. Come witness the cities and landscapes where faith took hold of people's lives and launched the Jesus movement into the entire world. As followers of Christ, come "sojourn" with us on a truly spiritual journey where the earliest Christian believers and servants walked, lived and shared their transforming experience of Christ.

-Kevin, Kathy, Pam, and Bob



## OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR

### Thessaloniki On Your Own

April 18 - 21, 2024 • Starting at \$398\*

#### April 18 – DEPART THE USA

#### April 19 - Thessaloniki

Arrive in Thessaloniki and transfer to the hotel. Dinner is on your own.

#### April 20 - Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki on your own. Breakfast at the hotel is included. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

#### April 19 - Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki on your own. Breakfast at the hotel is included. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

#### April 21 - Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki on your own. Breakfast at the hotel is included. Lunch is on your own. Dinner is with the basic group arriving from the USA.

Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.

\*A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions.

# ITINERARY

#### April 20 – DEPART THE USA

Your pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on your international overnight flight.

#### April 21 – ARRIVE IN GREECE

You will arrive in Thessaloniki, Greece, where you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### April 22 – AMPHIPOLIS, PHILIPPI, and NEAPOLI (KAVALA)

Follow in the footsteps of Paul and Silas to Amphipolis and explore the ruins of the many Christian basilicas there. In Philippi is a baptismal site commemorating where God opened the heart of Lydia (a seller of purple from Thyatira) to hear the words of Paul (Acts 16:13-15). Lydia and her household were the first Christian converts baptized on European soil. View the Roman-era crypt thought to have served as a prison for the Apostle Paul, and explore Philippi's famous Acropolis, marketplace, the Basilica of Paul, and theater. Today's last stop is Neapolis (Kavala), one of Greece's most picturesque mainland ports where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. See the Roman aqueduct and acropolis before returning to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

#### April 23 – THESSALONIKI and VERIA (BEREA)

Discover Thessaloniki, where Paul was accused of turning the world upside down with his preaching of Christ (Acts 17: 3-6). As you explore St. George's Basilica, believed to be built over the synagogue where Paul preached, reflect on the two epistles the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church here. Stroll through the archaeological museum and the beautiful basilicas of St. Sophia and St. Demetrios. St. Demetrios is dedicated to a distinguished Roman proconsul martyred for his Christian faith. Along the Via Egnatia stands the Galerius Arch, and you can look out over the second-largest city in Greece from the Old City Ramparts, some dating back to Roman times. Follow the path of Paul when he fled Thessaloniki for the safety of Veria (Berea), where Jews and some honorable Greeks accepted the new faith (Act 17: 10-12). Continue on to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.

#### April 24 – METEORA and DELPHI

As you visit the rock forest of Meteora ("in the heavens above") in western Thessaly, imagine the Apostle Paul walking that treacherous terrain on his missionary journey. Gaze up at the breathtaking Byzantine monasteries spectacularly perched on soaring, sheer-sided, grey sandstone pillars. In the 13th century, monks sought refuge in cliffside caves before fleeing higher to build the original wooden shelters that later became these monasteries. After a monastery tour, travel to scenic Delphi, the religious center of the ancient Greek world and marked by the conical stone called the omphalos or "navel". Walk the Sacra Via to the Athenian Treasury, theatre, and the Temple of Apollo, where the oracle performed her prophetic rituals. As you consider the incredible amount of pagan influence just in Delphi alone, you will gain a new appreciation for the tremendous spiritual opposition the Apostle Paul faced in preaching the Gospel of Christ here. In the museum are many ancient treasures, including the fifth-century, bronzed charioteer so detailed, you can see his eyelashes. Continue to Athens for your overnight stay.

### April 25 – CORINTH, CENCHREAE, and MYCENAE

Tour the city of Corinth, where the Apostle Paul met fellow tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla and received a vision from the Lord saying, “I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city” (Acts 18: 10). As Paul spoke, Crispus (chief ruler of the synagogue) and many others believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8), establishing the church at Corinth to whom Paul later wrote his two epistles. Discover the archaeological museum, marketplace, and temples. As you walk among the ruins, stand on the Bema, where the Apostle Paul stood before Gallio to face charges brought against him by the Jews. Stop briefly at the port town of Cenchreae from which Paul later departed for Syria (Acts 18: 12-18). Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

### April 26 – ATHENS

(Note – Cruise extension passengers will depart from the group this morning and head to Piraeus for their cruise ship) Enjoy the rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens as your guide introduces you to the world-renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erectheum. Stand on Mars Hill as the Apostle Paul did when he proclaimed, “I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom, therefore, ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23). As you stroll the agora (ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life), recall that this was where the Apostle Paul preached “Jesus and the resurrection” (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Also, see the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This afternoon is free to explore Athens on your own. Here are some ideas to consider in Athens: Visit the Platka shopping area, return to the Acropolis area and explore further on your own, take in a museum (additional entrance fee may be involved), or relax at your hotel. An optional journey to Sounion to visit the famous Temple of Poseidon (additional \$75) will also be offered. Dinner and overnight are spent in Athens.

### April 27 – RETURN TO THE USA

Return home with a new understanding of the Apostle Paul’s life and ministry.

**Starting at  
\$3,296\* from Nashville**

#### YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing  
Round-trip International Airfare

Additional baggage & optional fees may apply;  
see fine print for details

Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes  
Subject to change

Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities  
& Program Fees

Daily Breakfast & Dinner, Deluxe Motorcoaches  
First-Class Hotels & much more!

\*A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions.



April 26 - 30, 2024 • Starting at \$1298\*

### April 26 – EMBARK IN PIRAEUS and MYKONOS

Board the ship and sail the blue waters of the Aegean Sea. In the evening, you will arrive at the world-famous Greek Island of Mykonos, where gleaming white-washed buildings seem to climb atop each other to reach the azure sky.

### April 27 – EPHESUS and PATMOS

This morning, you arrive in Kusadasi, Turkey, and journey to Ephesus, where the Apostle Paul spent three years of his ministry. He planted a church here and later wrote to them in his Epistle to the Ephesians. Many of the ruins of Ephesus (known as “the marble city”) have been restored to show the city as it was in the Apostle Paul’s time. Visit the agora and imagine where Demetrius, the silversmith, sold his silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. Stroll through the great theater, where Paul witnessed faithfully for Christ. Not far away is the stadium where chariot races took place and gladiatorial combats were held. Tradition has it that the Apostle Paul himself fought here against wild beasts. Visit the ruins of St. John’s Basilica, where early Christian tradition tells us the “disciple whom Jesus loved” was buried. View one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the ruins of the Temple of Diana (Artemis), before setting sail for the Island of Patmos to visit the Monastery of St. John high on the mountain overlooking the entire island. Walk down to the Grotto of the Apocalypse and the caves where it is believed that the exiled Apostle John lived and was inspired by God to write the Book of Revelation as well as other letters to the early church.

### April 28 – CRETE and SANTORINI

Dock this morning in Crete’s port of Heraklion, just three miles away from the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 and partially reconstructed, the elaborate palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. Disembark at Santorini, one of the most beautiful Greek islands, where picturesque whitewashed villages topped with brilliant blue domes stand in stark contrast to the sheer drop cliffs overlooking the Aegean Sea. The island itself perches on the edges of a volcano whose eruption 3,500 years ago is thought to have led to the collapse of the Minoan civilization.

### April 29 – ATHENS

Enjoy the rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens as your guide introduces you to the world-renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erectheum. Stand on Mars Hill as the Apostle Paul did when he proclaimed, “I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom, therefore, ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23). As you stroll the agora (ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life), recall that this was where the Apostle Paul preached “Jesus and the resurrection” (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Also, see the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This afternoon, you are free to explore Athens on your own. Here are some ideas to consider in Athens: Visit the Platka shopping area, return to the Acropolis area and explore further on your own, take in a museum (an additional entrance fee may be involved), or relax at your hotel. An optional journey to Sounion to visit the famous Temple of Poseidon (an additional \$75) will also be offered. Dinner and overnight is spent in Athens.

### April 30 – RETURN TO THE USA

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TRAVEL REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: EO Tours • P.O. Box 6098, Lakeland, FL 33807-6098
863-648-0383 • email: eo@travelwithus.com

Host: Bob and Pam Blair ID#: 59093 Tour: PA24
Departure City: Nashville Departure Date: 04/20/24 (B)

First, Middle & Last Name must be submitted as it appears on your passport:

Guest 1: First Name: (Preferred Name)
Middle Name: Last Name: Title:
Street Address: P.O. Box:
City: State: Zip Code:
Phone: Alt. Phone:
Email: Send me emails about my trip/EO promos
Birth Date: State of Birth: Sex: Male Female
Emergency Contact: Relationship:
Phone: Alt. Phone:
Dietary Restrictions:
How did you learn about this tour?
Tour Selection: Basic Program Only Add Greek Isle Cruise Add Thessaloniki

Guest 2: First Name: (Preferred Name)
Middle Name: Last Name: Title:
Street Address: P.O. Box:
City: State: Zip Code:
Phone: Alt. Phone:
Email: Send me emails about my trip/EO promos
Birth Date: State of Birth: Sex: Male Female
Emergency Contact: Relationship:
Phone: Alt. Phone:
Dietary Restrictions:
How did you learn about this tour?
Tour Selection: Basic Program Only Add Greek Isle Cruise Add Thessaloniki

Roommate(s):

If No Roommate: Try to Match Me Single Room (availability limited)

Important Information Regarding Travel Protection Plan:
1 Travel Protection coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full.
2 Premium is based on TOTAL cost of trip and is non-refundable.
3 Coverage begins when your premium payment is received by EOT (separate from deposit & clearly designated as your travel protection premium).
4 Premium must be paid upon registration.
Guest 1: I Accept I Decline
Guest 2: I Accept I Decline

FULL PAYMENT PER PERSON REQUIRED

Payment: \$ Check # (Payable to Educational Opportunities Tours)

To Register via Credit Card, you must go to www.EO.travel

PASSENGER AGREEMENT

By signing and submitting the registration form, I/we certify that I/we have read Passenger Agreement, Program Conditions, and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure, understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to the potential for price increases that may apply before payment in full has been received as set forth in the Program Conditions and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure and potential price increases after payment in full has been received due to government imposed taxes and fees.

Guest 1 Signature:

Guest 2 Signature:

Tour: PA24 Date: 042024 Code: B ID: 59093 v. 008 01/12/24

Travel Protection Plan - Premium Rates

For a full description of the plan, go to: www.tripmate.com/wpF427E

Table with 8 columns: Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost. Rows show various price points and corresponding plan costs.

Table with 2 columns: Schedule of Coverages, Maximum Benefit. Rows include Part A (Trip Cancellation), Part B (Trip Interruption, Missed Connection, Trip Delay), Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation, and Baggage Delay.

Part A - Non-Insurance Cancellation Waiver is provided by Educational Opportunities Tours... Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company and serviced by Trip Mate.

Conditions and Limitations

The plan cost includes the plan premium and a fee for non-insurance assistance services. You may obtain information on the plan fees by emailing assistancefees@tripmate.com. The Travel Protection Plan is only available for citizens or residents of the United States of America.

PROGRAM CONDITIONS

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing • Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in itinerary) • Breakfast & dinner daily • Hotel gratuities • Program fees • Administrative Fee • Fuel surcharges \$500 • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule) • Cruise Extensions and optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure: • Miscellaneous fees such as individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, beverages at meals & baggage fees • Voluntary "Love Offering" for guide and driver • \$100 Document fee for Non-US/Canadian residents • Visa for non-US citizens • Required Vaccinations • Required medical testing before, during, and/or after travel

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While EOT will try to match roommates, EOT cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 30 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or you request a single room, the following charges apply: \$498 during the basic tour. Single room for Greek Isle Cruise is \$398; \$199 Thessaloniki.

SAVINGS:

Early registration discounts or other promotions are deducted from the balance of your bill. Hosts/Co-hosts are not eligible.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Table with 2 columns: Payment Amount, Payment Due Dates & Notes. Rows include Full Payment (Final Payment is due upon registration) and Travel Protection Amount (The Travel Protection Plan premium will be due upon registration to be in full effect).

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED after January 20, 2024:

We welcome registrations after 01/20/24. Registrations received on 01/21/24 will incur a \$200 per person fee. Registrations received between 01/22/24 - 02/05/24 will incur a \$400 per person fee. Registrations received on 02/06/24 or later will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

CANCELLATION FEES:

100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline fees.

STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

EOT does not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour.

ABILITY TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, those needing oxygen, wheelchairs, or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting to their experiences.

PASSPORT INFORMATION:

Passport information must be submitted to our office upon registration. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel.

PRICE INCREASES:

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

AIRLINE ROUTES AND TICKETS:

In order to keep prices low, EOT does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary.

FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING:

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. EOT is not responsible for such changes or delays and does not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties.

ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:

You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. Additionally, you may incur optional fees (food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.) as well. For more information, visit eo.travel/fees/info/airline-fees.

ON OWN DEVIATIONS:

On Own Deviations from the standard tour program must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees, if applicable. Transfers for passengers who deviate are not included.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While EOT will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator.

Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$125 per night, single rooms \$175 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

VALIDITY DATE:

This brochure is valid until 03/12/24. If validity date has passed, current brochures may be found at www.eo.travel. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

RELEASE INFORMATION:

Payment of deposit indicates permission for EOT or its agents to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which EOT or its agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies EOT in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, EOT acts only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall EOT be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that EOT assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers or services.

EOT does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold EOT harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. Florida law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour. Any and all litigation must be brought only in and for courts in Polk County, Florida to the exclusion of litigation anywhere else in the world.

Educational Opportunities Tours is the tour operator and is solely responsible for the travel program. Educational Opportunities Tours is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. Registration No. ST24130. CST2027682-40.