

GREECE SICILY TURKEY

May 29-June 25, 2023

Tour Hosts



Dr. Scott Moore



Dr. Jason Whitlark





Baylor University

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Tour Hosts:

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Tour Itinerary:

May 29 Mon US Departure- with your own air reservations.

May 30 Tue ARRIVE to ATHENS

Upon arrival in Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" our representative will meet you holding a sign "BAYLOR- TUTKU", welcome and assist in your transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

May 31 Wed ATHENS (ACROPOLIS - MARS HILL - ACROPOLIS MUSEUM - PLAKA)

At 9:00a.m. we enjoy our full-day sightseeing tour of Athens. We will walk to the *Acropolis Hill* the sacred rock of Athens, the citadel and the sanctuary of the city in antiquity. We visit the famous *Parthenon* and the *Erechtheion*. Then, we go to nearby *Mars' Hill (Areopagus)* to read Acts 17:22 where Paul gave his famous speech to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:18-34) and spoke about the inscription: "to an unknown god". In the afternoon visit *Acropolis Museum*. Enjoy th afternoon at leisure in Plaka. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 1 Thu ATHENS (ANCIENT AGORA - NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM)

At 9a.m. we will start our sightseeing tour with a panoramic bus tour to see the highlights of Athens: we pass by the *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*, *Parliament House*, *the Academy*, *the University of Athens*, *the National Library*, *Panathenaic Stadium*, *Temple of Olympian Zeus*, and *Hadrian's Arch*. We will be dropped off at the *Ancient Agora*, once the commercial and cultural centre of Athens. Here Apostle Paul reasoned with the most skeptical audience he met in the course of his travels. We see the very well preserved Doric *Temple of Hephaestus* (or *Thesaeion*) and the *Stoa of Attalos*, an arcade built by Attalos II, king of Pergamum, used as a retail market. Today it is used as museum, displaying statues, pottery and especially coins. Socrates is known to have discussed philosophy with his friends in the *Stoa of Zeus Eleftherios*. He was indicted in the *Stoa Basileios* or royal portico, where the archon *Basileus* held his court. He was executed in the state prison here in 399 BC by the *Strategeion*. We will then visit the *National Archaeological Museum* which displays finds from all parts of the ancient Greek world that date from Neolithic times to the last years of the Roman Empire. Afternoon at leisure to explore *Monastiraki* and *Flea Market*. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 2 Fri ATHENS - CORINTH CANAL - CORINTH - ACROCORINTH - NAFPLION

At 8:30a.m. depart from Athens and drive along the coastal highway of Saronic Gulf. Arrive at the Corinth Canal for a brief stop and then continue on to the Acropolis of Corinth. *Acro-corinth* is the citadel of Corinth. It is situated to the southwest of the ancient city and rises to an elevation of 1883 ft. [574 m.]. Today it is surrounded by walls that are about 1.85 mi. [3 km.] long. The foundations of the fortifications are ancient—going back to the Hellenistic Period. The current walls were built and rebuilt by the Byzantines, Franks, Venetians, and Ottoman Turks. Climb up and visit the fortress. Then proceed to the *Ancient city of Corinth*. It was to this megalopolis where the apostle Paul came and worked, established a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles now part of the New Testament. Here, we see all of the sites associated with his ministry: the *Agora*, the *Temple of Apollo*, the *Roman Odeon*, the *Bema* and *Gallio's Seat*. The small *local archaeological museum* here is an absolute must! In Romans 16:23 Paul mentions his friend Erastus and we will see an inscription to him at the site. In the afternoon we will drive to Nafplion for check-in at hotel followed by dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Jun 3 Sat EPIDAURUS - MYCENAE - NAFPLION

Morning visit to *Mycenae* where we see the remains of the prehistoric citadel fortified with the *Cyclopean Walls*, the *Lionesses' Gate*, the remains of the *Mycenae Palace* and the *Tomb of King Agamemnon* in which we will actually enter. After lunch we continue on to visit *Epidaurus*: the *Sanctuary of Asclepius*, ancient god of healing. We see the best-preserved ancient theater in all of Greece, famous for the harmony of its design and the perfection of its remarkable acoustics, easily accommodating 12,000 people. Return to hotel in Nafplion for dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Palermo Cathedral

Jun 4 Sun NAFPLION - OLYMPIA

Morning drive through the Central Peloponnese area passing the commercial provincial towns of Tripoli and Megalopolis through the mountains of Arcadia, home of Pan and the Nymphs, onwards to *Ancient Olympia*. Here, we will visit *Ancient Olympia*, the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the most important sanctuary of Zeus, father of all gods and goddesses. The starting line is still visible etched on the marble in the stadium there, inviting you to run and in your imagination compete with the ancient athletes. Enjoy the play of light on the soft greenery and dappled ancient columns in this wonderful and peaceful setting. We will also visit the archaeological museum beside the ancient site. It contains most interesting exhibits such as the pediments and the metopes of the *Temple of Zeus*, the *Statue of Nike* and of *Hermes*. After the tour, check-in at hotel followed by dinner and overnight in Olympia. (B,D)

Jun 5 Mon OLYMPIA - PATRAS - DELPHI

Morning drive to *Patras*, the third largest city-port of Greece and then on to Rion where we cross the new suspended bridge considered to be the longest and most modern in Europe. We drive from Antirion through Nafpaktos and we arrive in *Delphi*, the site of the Oracle. Check-in at hotel upon arrival. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel. (B,D)

Jun 6 Tue DELPHI TOUR

Morning visit to the archaeological site of *Delphi*, where we see the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Athenian Treasury and Tholos. We will walk up to the theatre and the stadium and then proceed to the archaeological museum, in which we can see among other treasures, the unique bronze Charioteer and the marble statues of the athlete Aghias. Rest of the day at leisure in Delphi to explore the town on your own. Dinner will be served in a local restaurant. Overnight at hotel. (B,D)

June 7 Wed ATHENS

Drive to Athens after breakfast. Enjoy free day in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 8 Thu ATHENS AIRPORT - FLY TO Palermo, Sicily

Drive to Athens Airport for morning flight to Palermo, Sicily. Transfer to hotel. Check-in at hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Palermo. (B,D)

Jun 9 Fri PALERMO - MONREALE - PALERMO

Breakfast. Full day guided tour of Palermo. Visit the Cathedral of Monreale in the morning and the Real Palace with its Chapel, cathedral of Palermo and the San Cataldo church in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Palermo. (B,D)

Jun 10 Sat PALERMO - CEFALU - TAORMINA

After breakfast and check-out. Drive to Cefalu. Guided visit (2.5hrs) of the historical center, including the Cathedral. Lunch on your own. Proceed for Taormina (2.5hrs). Guided visit (3 hrs) of Taormina, including the Greek Theatre. Dinner & overnight in Taormina area. (D)

Jun 11 Sun TAROMINA - SYRACUSE - TAORMINA

Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Syracuse for a full day tour. Visit the Archaeological Area in the morning and Ortigia island in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Taormina area. (B,D)

Jun 12 Mon FLY from Catania to Izmir Turkey via Istanbul- KUSADASI

After breakfast, departure from Catania airport and fly to Izmir. Upon arrival at Izmir airport meet your local representative who will assist with your transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi. Check in at hotel, rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight Kusadasi (B,D)

Jun 13 Tue MILETOS - DIDYMA - PRIENE - KUŞADASI

Drive to Miletos, visit the famous theater and the remains of the site. Continue to Didyma to visit the well preserved Temple of Apollo. Afternoon proceed to Priene, a Greco-Roman city visited by Alexander the Great and is located near the Mykale mountains. Back to Kuşadasi for Dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Pergamum

Jun 14 Wed KUŞADASI - DAILY BOAT TOUR

Enjoy a boat tour with lunch visiting the different bays of Kuşadası region along the Aegean coastline. Dinner and overnight Kuşadası (B,L,D)

Jun 15 Thu EPHEBUS

Visit the famous ancient city of Ephesus with its spectacular Terrace Houses, Basilica of John, the Ephesus Archaeological Museum and the ancient Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Dinner and overnight. Lunch at the carpet school. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi. (B,D)

Jun 16 Fri KUSADASI - APHRODISIAS - HIEROPOLIS - PAMUKKALE

After breakfast in Kuşadası, drive to Aphrodisias to visit the 30,000-capacity ancient stadium. Drive on to Hierapolis which is blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Christianity came to Hierapolis via Epaphras (Colossians 4:12-13). The ruins cover more than a square mile. We will see the impressive theater with seats still in perfect condition and visit one of themal pools that still has ancient columns in it! Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle." It is named for the limestone-laden hot springs that cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

Jun 17 Sat LAODICEA - SARDIS - IZMIR

After breakfast, we depart the hotel and morning visit to Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches. Visit the theater, temple, nymphaeum and columned streets. Then drive to SARDIS, the site of the ancient Lydian Capital and where the first coins were minted. Drive onto Izmir, ancient Smyrna. Visit the ancient Agora of Smyrna. Afternoon visit the church of St.Polycarp. Dinner and overnight in Izmir.(B,D)

Jun 18 Sun IZMIR

Free day in Izmir. (optional bus trip to Çeşme beach). (B,D)

Jun 19 Mon IZMIR - PERGAMON - ASSOS

From IZMIR we drive to Assos. Stopping at the ancient site of Pergamon to visit the Ancient Acropolis. Continue onto Assos for overnight. Dinner and overnight in Assos (B,D)

Jun 20 Tue ASSOS

We enjoy a morning visit to Assos acropolis and harbor. Free afternoon. Dinner and Overnight in Assos. (B,D)

Jun 21 Wed TROY - ISTANBUL

Drive to Troy to see the legendary city of Homer's Iliad. Continue to Alexandria Troas, the important port founded after Alexander the Great. Continue to Çanakkale where we cross the Dardanel Strait by ferry. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Jun 22 Thu ISTANBUL

Full day Istanbul tour; visit the Roman Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque -from the outside, the Hagia Sophia, one of the world's greatest architectural marvels. Then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Finish the day at the colorful Grand Bazaar. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.(B,D)

Jun 23 Fri ISTANBUL

Visit the fragrant Spice Market and then enjoy a Bosphorus boat tour, seeing both European and Asian shores of Istanbul. Then visit Sveti Stephan Church and St.Chora Church. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Jun 24 Sat ISTANBUL - FINAL EXAMS

Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Jun 25 Sun DEPARTURE FOR USA- Morning transfer to ISTanbul airport for departure home.

INCLUDING

- 1 main group arrival transfer from Athens airport to Hotel
- Athens - Palermo flight
- Catania - Izmir flight
- 3 nights **Hotel Phillipos in Athens HB or similar (dinners at Herodian Hotel)**
- 2 Nights at **Park Hotel in Nafplion HB or similar**
- 1 Nights at **Olympion Asty Hotel in Olympia HB or similar**
- 2 nights at **Acropole in Delphi HB or similar (dinners at Epikouros Restaurant)**
- 1 night **Hotel Phillipos in Athens HB or similar (dinners at Herodian Hotel)**
- 2 nights stay in **Hotel Addaura or similar**
- 2 nights stay in **Taormina area Hotel Vello d'Oro or similar**
- 4 nights **Kusadası Charisma Hotel or similar**
- 1 night **Pamukkale Doğa Thermal or similar**
- 2 nights **Izmir Movenpick Hotel or similar**
- 2 nights **Assos Dove Hotel or similar**
- 4 nights **Istanbul Sultanahmet Palace or similar**
- Daily breakfasts at the hotels
- 26 Dinners as stated at the program (B:breakfast - D:dinner)
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary with professional guides
- All land transportation by private fully A/C bus with experienced driver throughout the tour
- Tolls & parking fees
- Local English speaking professional licensed tour guides during all sightseeing
- **Reduced entrance fees** to the sites and museums for students. All students must present a valid Student ID card to get benefit of the discount.
- English speaking escorted group transfers between ports/airport and hotels in mainland and on the island.
- All local service charges & local taxes & VAT
- Whisper headsets

EXCLUDING

- International flights - You need to arrange your international flights departing US on May 29 and arriving **Athens, GREECE on May 30 & departing ISTANBUL June 25**
- All lunches and drinks at all meals.
- All personal expenses, insurance, any other service which are not mentioned above
- Tips to tour guide and to the driver
- Baylor tuition and fees

HOW TO APPLY

- **Apply Through bearsabroad.baylor.edu**
- **Cancellation Penalty:**
 - 90-60 days prior to departure : No Penalty
 - 59-45 days prior to departure : 25%
 - 44-30 days prior to departure : 50%
 - 29-15 days prior to departure : 75%
 - 14 days & After : No refund



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