



*Follow  
Paul's Steps  
in Greece*

Nassau Study Trip

May 23 to June 6, 2017

Itinerary

*For registration details,  
including required documents, costs,  
and flight and hotel information,  
visit [nassauchurch.org](http://nassauchurch.org).*

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ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL  
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# *Itinerary*

MAY 23

## Depart Newark

We board our flight for an overnight trip to Thessaloniki going through Vienna.



MAY 24

## Thessaoloniki

We begin our journey in Thessaloniki, chief city of Macedonia, one of the geographical regions that make up modern Greece. Macedonia was the homeland of Philip II and his son Alexander the Great, and Thessaloniki was named after

Philip's daughter, born soon after his victory over the neighboring region of Thessaly. Thus he named her "Thessaloniki" ("Thessaly Victory"). Saint Paul visited

Thessaloniki approximately three centuries later. He wrote letters to Thessaloniki's fledgling Christian community, and Acts of the Apostles identifies it as location of early conflict over Christian preaching. Thessaloniki did not emerge as a city of international importance, however, until the late

third century A.D., during the coregencies of the Roman emperors Diocletian and Galerius. Galerius made Thessaloniki his residency, undertook extensive building projects throughout the city, and it was under their co-rule that Christianity suffered the last and most severe period of persecution. Among the Christian leaders martyred at that time was Dimitrios, bishop of Thessaloniki, and now patron saint of the city. Thessaloniki would continue to prosper and play an important role in international affairs throughout the Byzantine and Ottoman Periods, and is today the second largest city in Greece.



MAY 26

## Vergina, Pella and Berea

Today we focus on Macedonia during the fourth century B.C., when its two most famous sons, Philip II and Alexander the Great, conquered territories extending from present-

day Greece to Afghanistan. We will visit Vergina, where Philip II was born and is buried, and Pella, which became Philip's chief city and thus where his son Alexander and daughter Thessaloniki grew up. Pella offers a small but delightful museum. And Philip's grave, excavated during the 1950s, ranks among the most important archaeological discoveries of modern times. It was a "tumulus grave," consisting of a burial shrine covered over by a huge mound of earth. After modern discovery and excavation, the shrine and mound was reconstructed as a "walk-in" museum. An amazing experience; one views the fabulous store of grave goods buried with Philip in the very tomb where they were discovered. Nearby Vergina is the present-day Greek town of Varia. This is the site of ancient Berea, where Saint Paul went after leaving Thessaloniki. Nothing remains of the ancient town, only the name.



MAY 27-29

## Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis

We will have arrived in Macedonia by air from the west, touching down at Thessaloniki. But Saint Paul was in Troas, near the site of ancient Troy in present-day Turkey, when

he received a vision in the night: “a man of Macedonia was standing beseeching him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’” So Paul reached Macedonia from the west, by ship, and made shore at Neapolis (present-day Kavala) in the region of Thrace. He went immediately to Philippi, further inland and about eight miles northwest of Neapolis/Kavala. Founded by the same Philip whose grave we will have visited, and named after him, Philippi was in St. Paul’s day, three centuries later, situated on a major east-west Roman highway, the Via Egnatia. Acts 16 is devoted to Paul’s ministry in Philippi and contains some of Luke’s best-known stories—the conversion of Lydia and imprisonment of Paul and Silas. After his time at Philippi, Paul made his way westward, by way of Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessaloniki. Philippi and Amphipolis offer interesting archaeological ruins for our attention, and Kavala a good hotel. So after exploring Thessaloniki and vicinity, we will follow Paul’s route in reverse, spending two nights in Kavala, and giving special attention to Philippi and Amphipolis.

MAY 29–30

## Litochoro and Athens

After his missionary efforts in Thrace and Macedonia, Paul went by sea from Thessaloniki to Athens in the region of Attica. We will go by bus, from Neapolis/Kavala back to Thessaloniki, and then south along the coast to Litochoro for overnight. Along the way, between Thessaloniki and Litochoro, we will pass the site of ancient Dion, from where Alexander and his army set out to conquer the Persian Empire. And at Litochoro we will be near Mount Olympus, abode of the Greek gods, where its eastern slopes meet the sea. Next day we will continue on to Athens, passing through the region of Boeotia and pausing at the Thermopylae pass. Here, in 480 B.C., a small contingent of Spartans fought to the death of the last man attempting to block the pass against Xerxes’ vast Persian army. Death was certain from

the beginning, but the Spartans managed to hold back the Persians long enough for the main Greek army to retreat to a better position. Eventually the Greeks managed to expel the Persians, but not before they burned Athens, our home for the next two nights.



MAY 30-31

## Athens

In Athens, according to Acts 17, Paul attempted to introduce the gospel to an audience eager for some new philosophical tidbit. The premier city of Classical Greece, Athens provided the perfect backdrop for this conversation between Paul and the pagan world. Athens was also the city of Thucydides, Miltiades, Themistocles, Pericles, Phidias, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Euripides, Socrates, Plato, Xenophon, and on and on. Today we will tour the city, the highlight, of course, being the Acropolis and the ruins of the Greco-Roman city spread out below.



JUNE 1

## Corinth

Corinth, across the Isthmus from Athens and Gateway to the Peloponnese, was a powerful city-state, ranking alongside Sparta and Athens during the Golden Age of ancient Greece. But the Romans destroyed it in 146 B.C. (same year that they sacked ancient Carthage) and it remained largely deserted until Julius Caesar ordered its rebuild soon before his assassination. Resettled mainly by military veterans, which would have included many Jews, Corinth reemerged as a strong city. It was this Roman Corinth that Paul visited, approximately a century after its rebuild. It was to become one of the most important locations of Paul's ministry. First and Second Corinthians reveal some of the very practical problems of early church life. In addition, Paul likely composed his letter to the Romans while staying in Corinth.

JUNE 2

## Mykonos

Today we transfer to our ship for a three-day cruise. Our



first stop, this afternoon, will be the beautiful island of Mykonos, one of the Cyclades island group in the Aegean Sea. Whitewashed houses trimmed with brilliant colors, inviting shops and delightful beaches. Paul did not visit here, and had he done so, probably would not have approved of the island's party atmosphere.



JUNE 3

## Ephesus and Patmos

Our highlight for today will be the archaeological ruins of ancient Ephesus, which means going ashore in Turkey. Ephesus was already an ancient city when it fell into Roman hands (133 B.C.), and it emerged during the century that followed as the fourth largest city of the Roman Empire (after Rome, Alexandria and Antioch on the Orontes). Its Temple of Artemis was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. Known as the Artemisium, it would have still been standing when St. Paul passed through Ephesus on several occasions and spent two years there at one point (Acts 19:8-10, 35). The temple of Artemis played a significant role in religious, civic, and economic life. Luke's story of Paul's ministry in Ephesus is among his greatest achievements

in story-telling. Later tradition associates Jesus' mother, Mary, with Ephesus. Also the important Council of Ephesus, which dealt with the Nestorian controversy, met there in A.D. 435. Patmos, associated with the book of Revelation, is a small island situated not far off the coast from Ephesus, but belongs to Greece.



JUNE 4

## Heraklion and Santorini

Heraklion is the main city on the Island of Crete. Nearby, and our main interest, are the Middle Bronze Age ruins of Knossos, representing the Minoan civilization, and associated with King Minos of Greek mythology. Santorini, probably the most beautiful of all the Greek islands, also flourished during approximately the same timeframe as Knossos.

JUNE 5

## Athens

Return to Athens. Day free and overnight in Athens.

JUNE 6

## Return to Newark

Fly home from Athens.



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