

The ITINERARY

Day 1 – Wednesday, June 3: Depart U.S.A.
Embark upon your journey with an overnight flight to Athens. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience and get some rest on the flight. Tomorrow you will be walking where the Apostle Paul walked.

Day 2 – Thursday, June 4: Arrival Athens Airport, Athens
Arrive at Athens Airport and transfer to our hotel. Travel in time, exploring a city with a history dating over 5,000 years. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – Friday, June 5: Athens (Lavrion Port), Start Our 3-Night Mediterranean Cruise, Mykonos
Today, we sail from Athens (Lavrion Port) to the charming island of Mykonos, known for its windmills. Upon arrival, we disembark to explore the waterfront lined with shops and cafes. We wander through the charming, white-washed buildings before returning to the ship for dinner and evening activities. Today is free for personal exploration on the island. *(Mykonos excursion not included)*

Day 4 – Saturday, June 6: Kusadasi, Patmos
This morning, we arrive in Kusadasi, Turkey. An included excursion takes us to Ephesus, where Paul spent three years during his ministry. Ephesus boasts impressive remains such as the Agora, the Theater, the Stadium, the Library of Celsus, and the ruins of the Temple of Diana, one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.” Later, we sail to Patmos where we visit the Monastery of St. John and the Grotto of the Apocalypse, where St. John wrote the Revelations.

Day 5 – Sunday, June 7: Heraklion (Crete), Santorini
In the morning, we arrive in Heraklion, Crete, home to Knossos Palace on the outskirts of the city. This site, dating back to the ancient Minoan civilization of 4000 B.C., is steeped in Greek mythology as the location of the Minotaur’s Labyrinth. Crete is later mentioned in Titus 1:5, where Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders in every town to strengthen the Christian faith. We'll enjoy leisure time exploring the town before reembarking in the afternoon. Later, we cruise to Santorini, renowned for its stunning villages perched on volcanic cliffs. Personal exploration is recommended. *(Crete & Santorini excursions not included)*

Day 6 – Monday, June 8: Athens (Lavrion Port), Ancient Corinth, Athens
Concluding our cruise, we disembark in Lavrion Port and journey to Ancient Corinth, where Paul engaged in his missionary work for eighteen months, making significant contributions to early Christian communities (Acts 18:1-18). Our exploration includes visits to the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples, and the renowned Bema, where Paul stood trial before Gallio. Continuing to Cenchreae, where Paul departed for Asia. We return to Athens for a comprehensive sightseeing tour encompassing the Acropolis, Mars Hill, the Agora, and other historical landmarks. Enjoy an afternoon of personal exploration before our dinner. Overnight stay in Athens.

Day 7 – Tuesday, June 9: Athens, Meteora, Thessaloniki
Depart for a journey to the mystical region of Meteora, renowned for its Byzantine monasteries perched atop towering rock formations. Dating back to the 14th century, these monasteries offer a glimpse into a history of spiritual refuge and survival against the backdrop of stunning natural landscapes. Following our exploration, we continue our trip to Thessaloniki, where Paul was received by Jason and preached until he was rushed out the city (Acts 17:1- 9). We explore the city’s landmarks: the White Tower, the Walls of the Byzantine Acropolis, the Roman Arch of Galerius, and the Rotonda. We visit two of the city’s oldest Christian churches, the Basilicas of St. Demetrius and St. Sophia. We transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

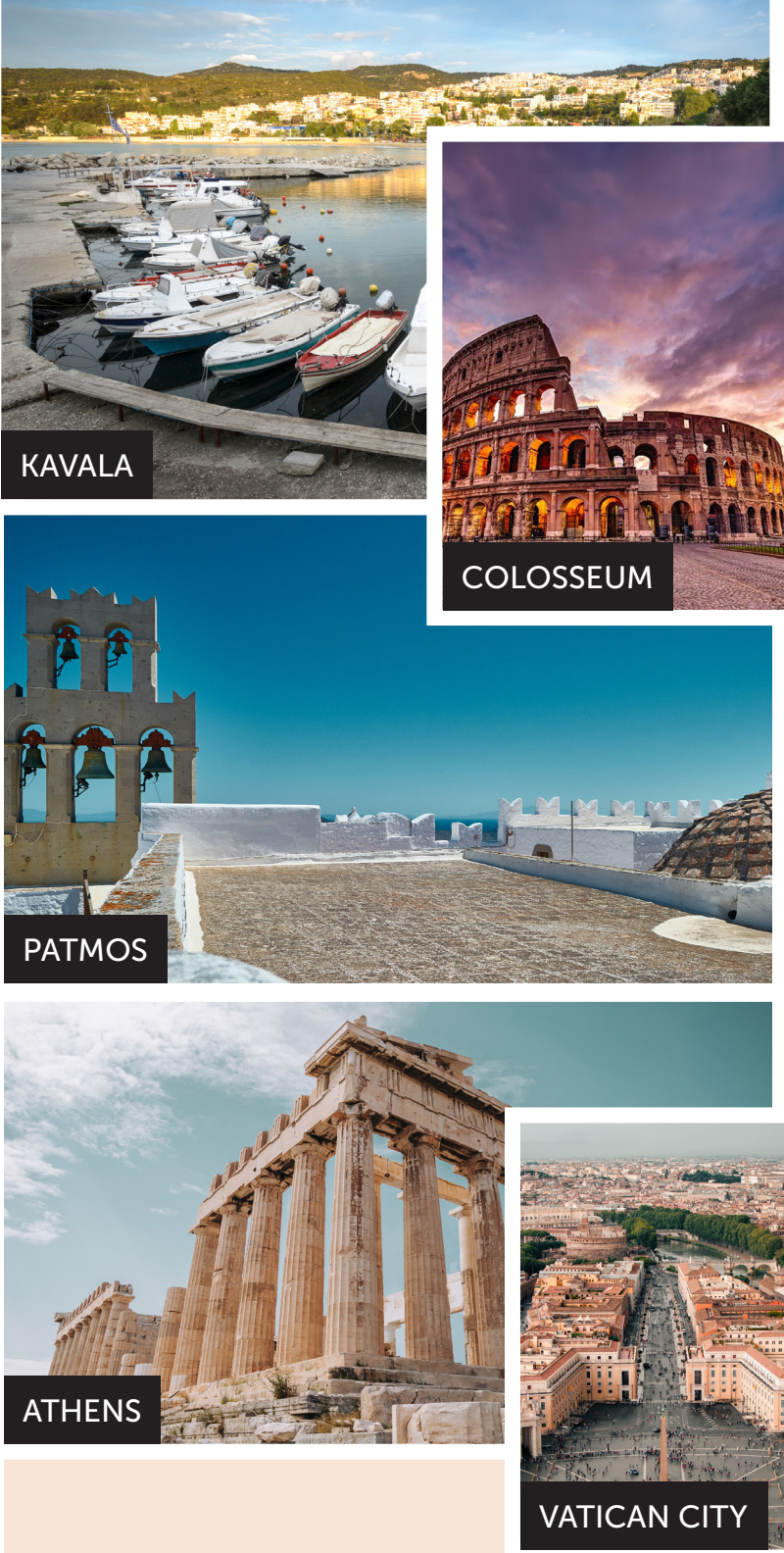
Day 8 – Wednesday, June 10: Thessaloniki, Philippi, Kavala, Thessaloniki
In the morning, we depart for Philippi, visiting the Baptistry of Lydia near the river where Paul baptized her (Acts 16:11-15). Lydia was Paul’s first European convert, followed by the jailer. We also explore the ruins of the Forum of Philippi, the Christian Basilicas, the “Prison of Paul,” and the Theater. We continue to Kavala (Neapolis), Paul’s first stop in Europe, where we see the Byzantine Castle and the Roman Aqueduct. Following the Via Egnatia, we visit the area of Amphipolis, where we see the famous funerary Lion of Amphipolis, just as Paul and his companions did. We return to Thessaloniki. Dinner and overnight.

Day 9 – Thursday, June 11: Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens
We depart from Thessaloniki to Athens. On our way, we will stop in the capital of Imathia, which is named Veria. It is built at the foot of Mount Vermio. We will have free time to visit the Step of Apostle Paul and the Synagogue. It is located next to the Barbouta area, which over time came to be known as the Jewish District. The stone-built Synagogue is the most ancient synagogue in the Northern Greece. Arrival in Athens. Dinner will be provided at the hotel in Athens.

Day 10 – Friday, June 12: Athens, Athens Airport Departure
In the morning, we transfer to Athens Airport for our return flight to the U.S.A.

****Tour members who choose not to take the optional excursions can explore the islands on their own. Optional excursion pricing is subject to change by the cruise line and is reserved/purchased in Euros directly on the cruise ship.***

****Breakfast and Dinner included daily while on land. Three meals will be provided each day (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) on board the cruise. Unlimited soft drinks are included on board the cruise with meals. Drinks are not included with meals on land, except for customary items served at the buffet.***



Register **ONLINE:**
RegisterNow.ittworld.com
Tour Code: ForresterG26

OPTIONAL ROME EXTENSION \$2,072 PER PERSON

Price is based on minimum of 20 travelers for price to be valid.
Included: Air Taxes of \$55, Gratuities of \$60, & Rome Tourist Tax
Not Included: Single room supplement of \$395

Day 10 – Friday, June 12: Athens Flight to Rome, Ostia Antica, Appian Way, Rome
We transfer in the morning to Athens Airport for our flight to Rome. Upon arrival, we meet our tour escort and head to the coast to visit the spectacular ruins of Ostia Antica, the port of ancient Rome in New Testament times. The excavations continue today and provide insight into what Roman cities were like in the 1st century. On the way to Rome, we stop to walk on the ancient stones of the Appian Ways, as Paul did on his way to Rome. We then return to Rome to begin our touring, which includes stops at the Trastevere area of the city where Paul lived for two years. We then check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 11 – Saturday, June 13: Rome, Vatican & Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain
Our first stop this morning is the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel, the celebrated Chapel of the Popes, and the venue of the conclaves for Papal elections. It is one of the most splendid masterpieces in the history of world art and is known around the world for its magnificent ceiling, beautifully decorated by Michelangelo. From here, our next visit is to the Basilica of St. Peter, the largest church in the world, which overlooks the enormous Piazza San Pietro. After a break for lunch (not included), we tour the eternal city. Driving through the main streets of Rome, we will marvel at the monuments of this great capital. Then we stop near the Fontana di Trevi, following tradition by tossing a coin into the fountain, promising to return to Rome. Dinner and overnight are in Rome.

Day 12 – Sunday, June 14: Catacombs, St. Peter in Chains, Colosseum, Forum, St. John Lateran, Basilica of St. Paul
Today, we enjoy a sightseeing tour, including a special visit to the Catacombs where we explore tunnels and see the carvings on the walls from early Christians. From here we continue to St. Peter in Chains. Then we visit the Colosseum, which symbolizes the eternity of the Roman civilization, the Forum, and the Piazza Venezia, dominated by the imposing monument to Vittorio Emanuel II. After lunch (not included), we visit St. John Lateran and the “Sacred Steps.” As a monk, Martin Luther climbed these steps on his knees, trying to merit forgiveness. Afterwards, we visit St. Paul’s Church where tradition believes the Apostle Paul is buried, followed by dinner and overnight in Rome.

Day 13 – Monday, June 15: Rome, U.S.A.
We transfer in the morning to Rome Airport for our return flight back to the U.S.A. and arrive the same day.

**While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.*

Tour Activity Level: **Moderately Active**