

A Pilgrimage To Greece

with the Revd David Joynes

4 - 14 June 2024

An eleven day pilgrimage including visits to Philippi, Thessalonica, Delphi, Athens & Corinth



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES



Greece: In the Footsteps of St Paul

04 - 14 June 2024

With mission very much on today's Church agenda, it is good to look back to the missionary journeys of St Paul and the expansion of the early Church westwards from Asia to Europe.

Paul was the first to bring the faith to Europe and this pilgrimage will bring to life the early Christian churches he founded and with which he exchanged letters. We shall also visit today's living Greek Orthodox Church, meeting priests and nuns.

Our pilgrimage is a journey through ancient Macedonia and Achaia with Paul along the route of his 2nd missionary journey (see Acts chapters 16-18) visiting the places that received his Epistles to the Philippians, Thessalonians and Corinthians.

Beginning where Paul himself landed in Europe, we travel through rural Greece to Thessalonica and on via the fantastic Meteora monasteries and the ancient oracle at Delphi, to Athens. Here Paul preached his famous sermon introducing the Athenians to the 'Unknown God'. Finally to Corinth, where Paul lived for nearly two years in the Roman capital of Greece.

TOUR INFORMATION

Tour Price £3,299 per person based on two people sharing a room

Hotels are of a good standard and locally graded three and four stars. Accommodation is on a half board basis with breakfast and table d'hôte dinner daily.

Our journey through Greece will be in our own air-conditioned coach with a local guide. All entrance fees are included as well as gratuities; these will be disbursed locally to those that help us on our journey.

Flights are on easyJet. We depart from London Gatwick Airport flying to Thessaloniki and return from Athens back to London Gatwick. All current British and Greek travel taxes are included.

NOT INCLUDED

Travel Insurance: this is essential. We require all travellers to have adequate cancellation and medical coverage for their trip, whether you book it through McCabe or independently. We don't yet have a 2024 policy, but will contact you when we have more details.

Single Rooms: are at a supplementary cost of £599. A limited number of single rooms are available. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if a single room is available, the supplement will be payable.

TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and are willing to share a twin room. We accept a limited number of bookings on a 'guaranteed share' basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation.

If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement.

Special Requests: should be noted on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable twelve weeks prior to departure.

Final Travel Documents: will be posted to you two weeks before departure.

Late Bookings: please note that for bookings made within 12 weeks of departure, the price may increase due to the fluctuating cost of flights. If this arises, we will always discuss this with you before processing your booking.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place, please complete the booking form and send it with a deposit of £250 per person to Mrs Lorna Sykes. Please make cheques payable to 'McCabe Travel Ltd'. If you prefer to pay by card, please make a note on the booking form and McCabe will contact you to take the payment over the phone.

Mrs Lorna Sykes
3 Littlemount Cottages
Church Road
Cookham Dean
Maidenhead, SL6 9PS

Tel: 01628 486874 / 07425 620108
Email: l.j.sykes@btinternet.com

DAILY PROGRAMME



Tuesday 4 June JOURNEY TO GREECE

easyJet flight EZY8243 departs London Gatwick at 05:50 and arrives in Thessalonica at 11:10. We then make the two and a half hour transfer to Kavala (the New Testament port of Neapolis) where Paul first landed in Europe, arriving from Troas on his way to Philippi. **Two night stay on the waterfront at the Galaxy Hotel.**

Wednesday | PHILIPPI

This morning we visit Philippi, the first city in Europe visited by Paul and the city where he and Silas were imprisoned. The church of Philippi was perhaps the most supportive of all to Paul. We also visit the stream where Lydia of Thyatira was baptised, the first recorded baptism in Europe; here we have Holy Communion. We return to Kavala for lunch. The rest of the day is free in Kavala to wander around its picturesque harbour, visit St Nicholas Church and climb up to the aqueduct and castle.

Thursday | THESSALONICA

We drive along the coast via Amphipolis to Thessalonica. Our visits include St Demetrius Basilica (the largest church in Greece) and Agia Sophia (reminiscent of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul) with its 10th century mosaics. We will also see the White Tower, visit the Byzantine Museum, the Rotunda, the Roman forum and drive to the highest point to view the city. **We overnight at the Anatolia Hotel.**

Friday | BEROEA

An hour's drive to Vergina (ancient Aigai) to visit the 4th century BC Royal Tombs discovered in 1977. Less than half an hour on to Veria (New Testament Beroea), where St Paul went after his escape from Thessalonica. Beroea was a place of encouragement where the people were more open to the Gospel. We visit St Paul's Tribune, the Old Cathedral and "little Jerusalem" – some of the 48 Byzantine and

later churches full of frescoes in the city centre. In the traditional quarters we see one of Europe's oldest synagogues. **We overnight at the Makedonia Hotel in Veria (Beroea).**

Saturday | A MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

From Veria/Beroea we drive to Larissa and have time for lunch in the village of Dimitra. Our dramatic afternoon drive up a mountain takes us to the very modern Monastery of St John the Forerunner high above Larissa. Here we will meet with the nuns and learn about their life in this very outgoing and welcoming monastic community. **We return down the mountain for a two night stay at the Divani Hotel beneath the Meteora monasteries in Kalambaka.**

Sunday | METEORA MONASTERIES

This morning we visit at least two of the extraordinary Meteora Monasteries perched high on gigantic rocks. The monastic history of Meteora dates back to the 11th century and the monasteries themselves date back to the 14th. In the afternoon we visit an iconography centre before free time in this spectacular setting, perhaps for a swim in the hotel's excellent pool.

Monday | THERMOPYLAE

We drive to Delphi, clinging to the lower slopes of Mount Parnassos. This afternoon we will visit the museum, leaving the main site for tomorrow. En route, we visit the ancient site of Thermopylae, where in 480 BC the Greeks came together for the first time to fight the Persians. **We overnight by the sea near Delphi at the Nafsika Palace Hotel.**

Tuesday | DELPHI

Deeply engraved on the record of Greek history, Delphi was a place of huge religious and political importance attracting pilgrims from all over the Hellenic world. Here the Oracle was consulted by both states and individuals; it highlights the religious

background to Paul's preaching of the Gospel. We continue to Athens visiting the medieval Christian site of Hosios Loukas. **Three night stay at the Acropolis Select Hotel.**

Wednesday | ATHENS

Our walking tour of Athens takes in the Acropolis, the foremost site of Classical Greece, with the Parthenon. We walk down to the site of St Paul's sermon on Mars Hill (Areopagus); here he had a mixed reception in making known the 'Unknown God' (Acts 17). We then visit the Agora, the centre of public life in Athens at the time of St Paul, and include time for lunch and shopping in the *Plaka*.

Thursday | ATHENS

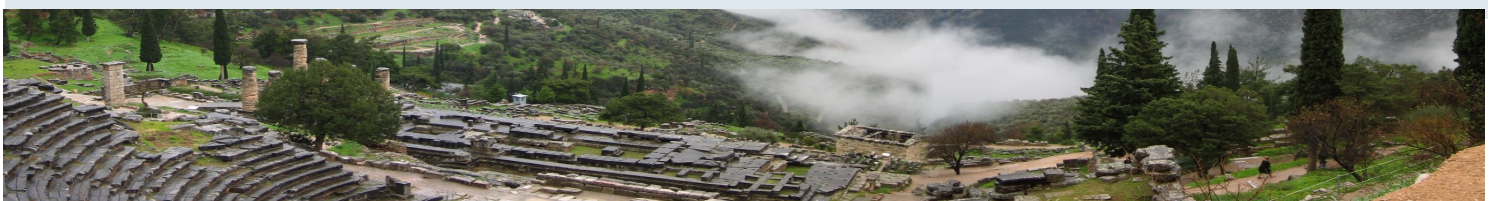
A free day in Athens with plenty more Classical sites to see, especially the fine new Parthenon museum.

Friday 14 June | CORINTH & HOME

We drive along the coast road via the Corinth Canal to the city remembered through Paul's letters as a lively church in the midst of pagan immorality. The excavations at Roman Corinth are a great place in which to celebrate our final Eucharist. After a break for lunch we visit Cenchreae, Paul's departure point from Greece for Ephesus and Jerusalem. (Acts 18). Our return easyJet flight EZY8186 departs Athens at 21:05 and arrives into London Gatwick Airport at 22:55.

Please note the itinerary may be subject to change due to local conditions and flights can also be subject to alteration but are correct at the time of printing.

There will be quite a bit of walking on this pilgrimage. Please talk to the tour leader or call the McCabe office for advice if you are at all concerned.



GENERAL INFORMATION



MCCABE PILGRIMAGES

Our pilgrimage is being organised in association with McCabe Travel, a company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. McCabe has been responsible for organising hundreds of pilgrimages to the Bible Lands with churches from all over Britain for 35 years. The company is a member of AITO and is fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority.

THE MCCABE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage. As 'the haves' encounter the 'have nots' the Trust has become a practical tool for one to help the other. McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £15 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Check that your passport is valid for six months beyond the return date of this tour.

If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. There are minimal formalities for British passport holders entering Greece. If you are holding a non-British passport, or require further advice, please consult the McCabe office. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

AITO QUALITY STATEMENT

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.
The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.

