9 DAYS · 8 NIGHTS

From the Early Church to Meteora

A second Greece journey, from apostolic communities into monastic and Byzantine Christianity.

BASE CITIES
Athens, Delphi area, Kalambaka, Thessaloniki

BEST MONTHS
April–May
September–October

PACE
Moderate, with monastery stairs and two longer transfers

FOCUS
Early church, Byzantine, and monastic Christianity



Athens to Meteora · Days 1–5
Berea and Thessaloniki · Days 6–9

A proposed itinerary, not a confirmed departure. Hotels, meals, worship times, and price are set when a departure is planned.

THE JOURNEY

This is the Greece journey for a group that has already walked with Paul, or that wants the church after the apostles.

An educator explains Orthodox practice with respect. When your own clergy and worship are arranged, the same route can be hosted as an Orthodox pilgrimage.

For every other group, the monasteries are learning and reflection, never an implied rite.

HOW IT'S EXPERIENCED Who leads, what's built in, and what the hosting church can add.

01

Who leads

A pastor or church leader teaches. An educator explains Orthodox practice with respect.

02

In the program

Athens, Hosios Loukas, Meteora, Berea, and Thessaloniki, from the apostolic church into Byzantine and monastic life.

03

By request

Hosting as an Orthodox pilgrimage, with your own clergy and worship. Philippi and Corinth can be added.

ITINERARY

Day by day

ATHENS → THESSALONIKI

Athens DAYS 1–2

01

ATHENS

Night in Athens

After the apostles

Arrival in Athens, with a welcome and a historical introduction.

> *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
>
> ACTS 2:42

TEACHING

From apostolic communities to the early Christian world.

A proposed itinerary, not a confirmed departure. Hotels, meals, worship times, and price are set when a departure is planned.

02

ATHENS

Night in Athens

Faith in changing empires

Athens visits chosen for the group's Christian-history interests, and a free afternoon.

> *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."*
>
> **HEBREWS 13:8**

TEACHING

How faith was practiced as empires changed.

Hosios Loukas & Meteora DAYS 3–5

03

HOSIOS LOUKAS

Night near Delphi, or further north

A monastery of biblical images

Hosios Loukas, a Byzantine monastery whose mosaics interpret Scripture, then an overnight set by the pace of the transfer.

> *"O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."*
>
> **PSALM 96:9**

TEACHING

Byzantine worship and biblical imagery.

04

METEORA

Night in Kalambaka or Kastraki

The rocks come into view

The transfer to Meteora, a first look at the rocks, and a quiet evening. Monastery visits wait for the next day.

> *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."*
>
> **PSALM 121:1**

TEACHING

Monastic communities and the disciplines of prayer.

05

METEORA

Night in Kalambaka or Kastraki

Prayer on the pillars

One or two monasteries that are open, with time between them. Dress codes, stairs, and opening days vary.

> *"Pray without ceasing."*
>
> **1 THESSALONIANS 5:17**

TEACHING

Prayer, hospitality, and the material heritage of faith.

A proposed itinerary, not a confirmed departure. Hotels, meals, worship times, and price are set when a departure is planned.

06

BEREA

Night in Thessaloniki

North toward the city of the letters

The road toward Thessaloniki, with a break in Berea when it suits the day.

> *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily."*
>
> ACTS 17:11

TEACHING

Early church history set beside later Greek Christianity.

07

THESSALONIKI

Night in Thessaloniki

Saints, liturgy, and mosaic

Early Christian and Byzantine monuments, such as Saint Demetrius and the Rotunda, where they are accessible.

> *"Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*
>
> 1 THESSALONIANS 1:3

TEACHING

Saints, liturgy, mosaics, and the city's Christian history.

08

THESSALONIKI

Night in Thessaloniki

What a living tradition preserves

A second day for a selected church, a museum, or a local encounter only when that encounter is confirmed. The day ends in reflection.

> *"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught."*
>
> 2 THESSALONIANS 2:15

TEACHING

What living traditions preserve, and how Christians interpret them.

09

THESSALONIKI

Departure

Depart Thessaloniki

Transfer for departure.

> *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."*
>
> 1 THESSALONIANS 5:28

TEACHING

The journey closes in the city of the Thessalonian letters.

A proposed itinerary, not a confirmed departure. Hotels, meals, worship times, and price are set when a departure is planned.

BEFORE YOU GO — Practical notes, clear limits, and the options a group can add.

Practical considerations

WALKING	Monastery stairs at Meteora and uneven ground at Hosios Loukas and the Athens sites. Wear sturdy shoes.
WEATHER	Strong sun even in spring and autumn, with little shade at the sites. Bring a hat and water.
TRANSPORT	A dedicated coach is the simplest way to travel as a group. The longest drives are Days 3 and 4, from Athens to Meteora.
MONASTERIES	Dress codes, stairs, and opening days vary. An accessible alternative is offered when a visit does not suit every traveler.

What this journey is not

- × Mount Athos is not an ordinary group inclusion.
- × Monastery visits are learning and reflection, never an implied rite.

What can be arranged

- + Add Philippi and Corinth
- + Host the route as an Orthodox pilgrimage, with your own clergy and worship

A proposed itinerary, not a confirmed departure. Hotels, meals, worship times, and price are set when a departure is planned.