



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

CO | IA | KS | MN | MO | NE

GREECE

FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL & GREEK ISLAND CRUISE

with Women of the Midwest!

September 18 - October 1, 2024



Dear Women of the Midwest,

I'm Anne Moore, the Ambassador for our journey to Greece and our tour of the beginnings of Christianity. We will start on the path, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, when we arrive in Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city.

We will wander amongst the ruins of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires, as we travel the roads where Paul, Silas, Lydia, and countless other names we know from the Bible, had traversed.

Our footsteps lead us to many of the UNESCO World Heritage sites: Delphi, the Oracle, and Apollo's Sanctuary, one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient Greek World. And we travel to the rock monasteries at Meteora; what a site and phenomenon.

We arrive in Athens, where the first thing you will see is the Acropolis and the marble Parthenon - sparkling under the Greek sun. We will get to see the daily changing of the guards in front of the Presidential Palace and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympics of the modern era were held, and more in Greece's capital city.

Our final destination from Paul's travels is the Ancient city of Corinth, once a bustling Roman trading city between the Ionian and Aegean Seas. We will stroll through the ruins on marble-paved streets, see where Paul was put on trial, and be held spellbound by the recounting of history by our guide.

Shopping, dining, and just getting to experience Greek culture await. Whether it is the famous Corinthian currants, wine from local vineyards, olive oil, cheeses, sesame seed and honey energy bars, and foods from the Mediterranean diet, you will go back home with your stomach and heart filled with the generosity and hospitality of the Greek people.

And as a "grand finale," we have added a 3-night cruise to this fabulous adventure. We will visit Ephesus in Turkey and the Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Santorini, and Crete. See just how blue the waters around Greece really are! You won't want to come home!

Make plans for September 2024 for a trip of a lifetime. I hope to see you on this fabulous journey.

Sincerely,
Anne Moore, Women of the Midwest Ambassador



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Thessaloniki, Church of Saint Paul



September 18, 2024 - Wednesday Traveling to Greece

Our wonderful adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Athens, Greece. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

September 19, 2024 - Thursday Athens - Thessaloniki

Welcome to Athens! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour guide, and off we are to Thessaloniki. We will relax, kick back, and enjoy a seaside lunch along the beautiful route. We are arriving in Thessaloniki and our centrally located hotel in the early evening. Thessaloniki is the second-largest city in Greece and the most important center of the area; a port city of the Aegean Sea. It is a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy and glorious history with a cosmopolitan character that gives it a special beauty and charm with evidence of Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman history remains. During Roman times, Thessaloniki became an important crossroads on the Via Egnatia, where the road running east from Rome to the provinces of Pontus and Asia met the road running north from Athens to the Danube River. A light dinner is served before we take a good night's rest. An exciting journey is ahead of us!

B (during flight) | L | D

September 20, 2024 - Friday Amphipolis, Kavala & Phillipi

After a rich breakfast, we head out to visit the beautiful city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis). We travel along the Via Egnatia road and drive through Apollonia. We will stop at Amphipolis to admire the magnificent stone-carved Lion of Amphipolis, which stood alongside the old

Lion of Amphipolis



Via Egnatia at the foot of the plateau where the Apostle Paul visited. Kavala, the place where Paul first landed and stepped onto European ground. At the peak of the old town proudly stands the fortress. It is a landmark of Kavala and one of its most stunning sights, as well as the peak of the peninsula of Panagia (mother of Jesus), dominated by the Acropolis of Kavala. We continue to Philippi, a Roman garrison town and the chief city in the province of Macedonia. Here, Paul won his first European convert, established the first church in Europe, and baptized a woman named Lydia. We will visit the marketplace and the cistern, which tradition identifies as the place where Paul was imprisoned. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner. B | L

"Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace and the following day to Neapolis" (Acts 16:11)
"After meeting with the believers at Lydia's house, Paul and Silas leave Luke behind in Philippi" and travel along the Via Egnatia through Amphipolis and Apollonia." (Acts 17:1)

September 21, 2024 - Saturday Thessaloniki

We will become acquainted with this great city where Paul wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Built by King Cassander and named after the sister of Alexander the Great, the city flourished under the Byzantine Empire. Today, it is considered the Greek "Queen of the North." We will tour along the waterfront to the massive White Tower and the nearby Triumphal Arch of Galerius, built in 303 AD. We will see St. Demetrios Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and enjoy the marvelous view from the Upper Town.

Meteora



The site where the monastery of Vlatadon was built is believed to be where Jason's house once stood and where Paul was accommodated during his visit to Thessaloniki. Lunch is served at a local restaurant, and the evening is at leisure. B | L

"Paul came to Thessaloniki with Silas and following his usual custom, he went to the Synagogue where he used the Jewish scriptures as the source for his preaching." (Acts 17:2)

September 22, 2024 - Sunday Veria & Aigai/Vergina

Today, we will head out to experience yet two more stunning sites. Our first stop is Veria. During the night, Paul and Silas left Thessaloniki for Veria with the help of Christians. They walked for a while on Via Egnatia Road through the beautiful, lush green area. Veria was a bustling city with a flourishing synagogue. As soon as they got there, Paul and Silas visited the synagogue. It is said that the Jews of Veria were more polite than those in Thessaloniki and heard, with great interest, Paul preaching the Holy Gospel. At the spot where Paul preached the Christian faith, there is a religious monument, the so-called "St. Paul's Tribune." In this spot, Roman plates date back to the 1st century, and the monument is decorated with impressive mosaic murals. We continue to Aigai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Aigai is the first capital of the ancient Kingdom of Macedonia, discovered in the 19th century. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world.

Delphi



We return to Thessaloniki for a peaceful evening at leisure. B | L

September 23, 2024 - Monday Kalambaka - Meteora

We continue our journey towards Kalambaka. Get ready to experience Meteora, the second-biggest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those in Mount Athos (which can be visited by men only). The first mention of their history is traced back to the 11th century when the first hermits settled here. The rock monasteries have been characterized by UNESCO as a unique phenomenon of cultural heritage and form one of the most important stations in the world. We check in to our hotel for a beautiful night below the cliffs. B | L

September 24, 2024 - Tuesday Delphi - Athens

In the peaceful morning light, we will visit the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, set at the foot of Mount Parnassos in a spectacular landscape. Considered for many centuries the cultural and religious center of the Hellenic world, it is also home to the "Oracle" and Apollo's Sanctuary, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. In the early afternoon, we will drive to Athens. As the sun sets behind the Parthenon, we will finish our day with a great meal and an evening at leisure. B | D

September 25, 2024 - Wednesday Athens

After a delightful breakfast, we head out to discover Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of Western civilization as we know it today. Founded seven thousand years ago, the

Ancient Corinth



city flourished in the fifth century BC when Athenian democracy was practiced in the Bouleterion (council chamber) and open discussion was encouraged in the Agora (marketplace). Paul - who was trained as a young man in the art of Greek debating - would have been delighted at any opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus in the cultural heart of the ancient world, among its numerous pagan temples, altars, statues, and monuments. Paul was invited to speak to the Areopagus (the Athenian council), which met on Mars Hill. It was only a short distance from the foot of the Acropolis, dominated by the Parthenon and built as a temple to Athena in the 5th century BC. We continue by motorcoach through the city to see the House of Parliament, the soldiers guarding the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We will also discover the Library, the University, the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympics of the modern era were held, and the Temple of the Olympian Zeus. Lunch at a typical Greek tavern, and the evening is yours to enjoy Old Town (Plaka) with its numerous shops (open till late!), people-watch, or take a stroll around the Acropolis hill at sunset B | L

"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship - and this is what I am going to proclaim to you." (Acts 17:22-23)

September 26, 2024 - Thursday Ancient Corinth

After breakfast, we take a short drive to

Acropolis



Ancient Corinth. The ancient city of Corinth was destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC but was rebuilt a century later by Julius Caesar. In the time of Paul, Corinth was a busy Roman trading city on the narrow strip of land between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea. It had two harbors - Lechaum on the Gulf of Corinth to the west and Cenchræa on the Aegean Sea, to the east. Huge profits were made by taxing cargoes transported overland between the two ports to avoid the dangerous waters around the Peloponnese. The first attempt to build a canal across the isthmus at Corinth was started by Emperor Nero in 66 AD but was soon abandoned. The present-day Corinth Canal was completed in 1893, and we will make a stop to admire this masterpiece. During our visit, we will walk along the Lechaion Way - a marble-paved road linking the port of Lechaum with the city. The road passed through an imposing Propylaion (ceremonial gateway) before the citizens climbed a flight of steps leading up into the agora (marketplace). Overlooked by the council chamber and the colonnaded stoas (covered walkways with shops), Paul was placed on a stone platform before the Roman proconsul and accused of breaking the religious laws by members of the Jewish synagogue. Besides the site of Ancient Corinth, the area is also rich in vineyards. Lunch today is enjoyed at a local winery while learning about the mythical Nemea-Agiorgitiko wine and the world-famous Corinthian raisins (black currants). On our way back to Athens, we will make a stop at Kechries, the port where Paul stopped during his second missionary journey, where he had his hair cut to fulfill a vow, probably the Nazirite vow. Enjoy Athens by night. B | L

Ephesus, Turkey



Patmos Island



Knossos, Crete



Get Ready to Cruise!

Introduction:

Embark on a weekend discovery taking you to some of the most beautiful and culturally enriched destinations in the Aegean. A journey back in time awaits! This may be a short cruise, but you will be amazed at just how much you will see. Mykonos and its famous windmills, Kusadasi in Turkey, the stopping-off point for Ephesus, the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the fabulous Greek islands of Patmos, Crete, and Santorini.

Some of the highlights are six contrasting ports in four days, evenings in Mykonos and Patmos, Crete's incredible Palace of Knossos, and Santorini sunset (weather permitting). Your voyage around the beautiful Aegean may seem like a dream by the time you return, and it is a wonderful way to end the Footsteps of Apostle Paul's journey!

September 27, 2024 - Friday Embarkation - Mykonos

Enjoy a laid-back breakfast. Around 10 AM, we will leave the historical and classical capital of Greece and transfer to the port of Lavrion. Embarkation and off we are to the beautiful island of Mykonos. Take an evening stroll through the atmospheric Old Town with its immaculate whitewashed houses, winding alleys, lovely little churches, and delightful restaurants at the water's edge. You will undoubtedly recognize the picture-postcard white windmills sitting side by side, overlooking the sea. B | AI

September 28, 2024 - Saturday Kusadasi - Ephesus - Patmos

We will arrive in the colorful Turkish beach town of Kusadasi in the morning. This is the coastal gateway to the Hellenistic ruins of Ephesus, famed for one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis. A complimentary excursion is included to this iconic site, one of the

undoubted highlights of our journey. Patmos is next! One of the northernmost islands in the Dodecanese is one of the smallest, with a charm all its own. Patmos is famous for being the biblical location of the vision to the Apostle John, as recorded in Revelation 1:9. Most scholars agree with the authenticity of his authorship. And you will visit this very place! AI

September 29, 2024 - Sunday Crete - Santorini

Welcome to Crete, Greece's largest island, a place of mystery, myths, and legends. Here is the chance to take in the bustling city of Heraklion and some of Crete's extraordinary archaeology and history. You can also learn more about the art and creativity of the Minoans. We have included a complimentary visit to the Palace of Knossos, once the home of Europe's oldest civilization and the setting for the legend of the Greek hero Theseus and the Minotaur. Your odyssey continues as you spend an evening in Santorini, whose stunning face is instantly recognizable across the world. She will take your breath away with her soaring landscapes, clusters of whitewashed houses in the capital, Thira (Fira), and the iconic blue-domed church at Oia. AI

September 30, 2024 - Monday Disembarkation - Athens at leisure

Upon disembarkation, we have arranged a private transfer to our centrally located hotel. The day is at leisure to enjoy Athens and do some last souvenir-shopping or just relax and people-watch. B

October 1, 2024 - Tuesday - Traveling home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Upon disembarkation, we have arranged for a private transfer to Athens airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B | Meals during flights

The itinerary is subject to change

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

AI = All Inclusive during the cruise*

**Locally inspired regional cuisine, house wine, beer, soft drinks, teas, coffees, cocktails, and branded spirits while onboard. Premium wines, Champagnes, high-end spirits, and fresh fruit juice are available at a supplement. Snacks are available for purchase outside of dining times, specialty restaurants available at an additional charge.*

Notes about the Cruise:

- 3-night Celestyal Cruise, onboard Celestyal Olympia in XA exterior staterooms at deck 2 and 3 (~11 sqm), bathroom with shower, air conditioning, telephone, hair dryer, safety deposit box, and TV. Porthole of a window.
- Onboard dining with unlimited classic drinks as described above (specialty restaurant excluded).
- Shore excursion voucher of \$160 per person is included. A link to the detailed shore excursion program will be provided upon registration. All shore excursions must be pre-booked 90 days prior to departure. We will assist!
- Onboard entertainment included.
- Gratuities included.
- Port taxes included.





To register contact:

ExecutiveTravel

1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)

Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$5,495
 Per person in a single room: \$6,895*

Triple rooms are not available.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on May 21, 2024, is non-refundable, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment (any payments after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!

SAVE 3.5%!

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 22 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

Level 4. This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing at archaeological sites, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. It is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209.

Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group airfare:

Group airfare becomes available by the end of November 2023. All registered travelers will be notified.

Accommodations (final accommodations 90 days prior to dep.):

- Thessaloniki, Le Palace or similar
- Kalambaka, Grand Meteora Hotel or similar
- Athens, Hotel Royal Olympic or similar
- Cruise: Celestyal Cruises - cabin type XA

Included:

- 12 nights in Greece at local 3- and 4-star hotels (3 nights on board Celestyal Cruises, XA stateroom)
- 12 x breakfast
- 7 x lunch
- 2 x dinner
- All-inclusive meals during the cruise
- All transportation as per tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the land tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour guide September 19-26, 2024
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, September 18 - October 1, 2024
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of September 10, 2023

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found on our website at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional airline baggage fees. Your first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Shore excursions
- Gratuities to guides and drivers during the land tour (estimate at total of \$12-\$15 per day in total)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

We offer group airfare with American Airlines:

September 18, 2024	Omaha* - Chicago	6:01 AM	7:40 AM
September 18, 2024	Chicago - Athens	3:00 PM	9:25 AM (September 19, 2024)
October 1, 2024	Athens - Chicago	12:20 PM	4:05 PM
October 1, 2024	Chicago - Omaha*	8:20 PM	9:52 PM

\$1,295 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Reach out to get your quote. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers in Chicago on September 18 and return from Athens around the same time as the rest of the group on October 1.

Individual additional transfers may be necessary if meeting the main group is not possible. We will can assist!

Important:

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Women of the Midwest/Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).

Premium seating upgrades are not available when traveling on a group air contract. If you have frequent flyer miles (AAdvantage® program), please note those cannot be used to upgrade to a different class of service. Contact us if you have any questions and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

THE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

