May 29-June 25, 2023
Tour Hosts:
Dr. Scott Moore & Dr. Jason Whiltlark

Tour Itinerary:

May 29 Mon   US Departure- with your own air reservations.

May 30 Tue    ARRIVE to ATHENS

May 31 Wed  ATHENS (ACROPOLIS - MARS HILL - ACROPOLIS MUSEUM - PLAKA)
At 9:00a.m. we enjoy our full-day sightseeing tour of Athens. We will walk to the Acropolis hill the sacred rock of Athens, the citadel and the sanctuary of the city in antiquity. We visit the famous Parthenon and the Erechtheion. Then, we go to nearby Mars Hill (Areopagus) to read Acts 17:22 where Paul gave his famous speech to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:18-34) and spoke about the inscription: “to an unknown god”. In the afternoon visit Acropolis Museum. Enjoy th afternoon at leisure in Plaka. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 1 Thu  ATHENS (ANCIENT AGORA – NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM)
At 9a.m. we will start our sightseeing tour with a panoramic bus tour to see the highlights of Athens: we pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Parliament House, the Academy, the University of Athens, the National Library, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus, and Hadrian's Arch. We will be dropped off at the Ancient Agora, once the commercial and cultural centre of Athens. Here Apostle Paul reasoned with the most skeptical audience he met in the course of his travels. We see the very well preserved Doric Temple of Hephaestus (or Theseus) and the Stoa of Attalos, an arcade built by Attalos II, king of Pergamum, used as a retail market. Today it is used as museum, displaying statues, pottery and especially coins. Socrates is known to have discussed philosophy with his friends in the Stoa of Zeus Eleftherios. He was indicted in the Stoa Basileios or royal portico, where the archon Basileus held his court. He was executed in the state prison here in 399 BC by the Statestrégion. We will then visit the National Archaeological Museum which displays finds from all parts of the ancient Greek world that date from Neolithic times to the last years of the Roman Empire. Afternoon at leisure to explore Monastiraki and Flea Market. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 2 Fri  ATHENS - CORINTH CANAL - CORINTH - ACROCORINTH - NAPFLION
At 8:30a.m. depart from Athens and drive along the coastal highway of Saronic Gulf. Arrive at the Corinth Canal for a brief stop and then continue on to the Acropolis of Corinth. Acrocorinth is the citadel of Corinth. It is situated to the southwest of the ancient city and rises to an elevation of 1883 ft. (574 m.). Today it is surrounded by walls that are about 1.85 mi. (3 km.) long. The foundations of the fortifications are ancient—going back to the Hellenistic Period. The current walls were built and rebuilt by the Byzantines, Franks, Venetians, and Ottoman Turks. Climb up and visit the fortress. Then proceed to the Ancient city of Corinth. It was to this megalopolis where the apostle Paul came and worked, established a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles now part of the New Testament. Here, we see all of the sites associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallo’s Seat. The small local archaeological museum here is an absolute must! In Romans 16:23 Paul mentions his friend Erastus and we will see an inscription to him at the site. In the afternoon we will drive to Nafplion for check-in at hotel followed by dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Jun 3 Sat  EPIDAURUS - MYCENAE - NAPFLION
Morning visit to Mycenae where we see the remains of the prehistoric citadel fortified with the Cyclopean Walls, the Lionesses’ Gate, the remains of the Mycenaen Palace and the Tomb of King Agamemnon in which we will actually enter. After lunch we continue to visit Epidaurus: the Sanctuary of Asclepius, ancient god of healing. We see the best-preserved ancient theater in all of Greece, famous for the harmony of its design and the perfection of its remarkable acoustics, easily accommodating 12,000 people. Return to hotel in Nafplion for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Jun 4 Sun  NAFPLION - OLYMPIA
Morning drive through the Central Peloponnesian area passing the commercial provincial towns of Tripoli and Megalopolis through the mountains of Arcadia, home of Pan and the Nymphs, onwards to Ancient Olympia. Here, we will visit Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the most important sanctuary of Zeus, father of all gods and goddesses. The starting line is still visible etched on the marble in the stadium there, inviting you to run and in your imagnation compete with the ancient athletes. Enjoy the play of light on the soft greenery and dappled ancient columns in this wonderful and peaceful setting. We will also visit the archeological museum beside the ancient site. It contains most interesting exhibits such as the pediments and the metopes of the Temple of Zeus, the Statue of Nike and of Hermes. After the tour, check-in at hotel followed by dinner and overnight in Olympia. (B,D)

Jun 5 Mon   OLYMPIA - PATRAS - DELPHI
Morning drive to Patras, the third largest city-port of Greece and then on to Rion where we cross the new suspended bridge considered to be the longest and most modern in Europe. We drive from Antirion through Nafpaktos and we arrive in Delphi, the site of the Oracle. Check-in at hotel upon arrival. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight at hotel. (B,D)

Jun 6 Tue  DELPHI TOUR
Morning visit to the archaeological site of Delphi, where we see the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Athenian Treasury and Tholos. We will walk up to the theatre and the stadium and then proceed to the archaeological museum, in which we can see among other treasures, the unique bronze Charioteer and the marble statues of the athlete Agias. Rest of the day at leisure in Delphi to explore the town on your own. Dinner will be served in a local restaurant. Overnight at hotel. (B,D)

Jun 7 Wed  ATHENS
Drive to Athens after breakfast. Enjoy free day in Athens. (B,D)

Jun 8 Thu  ATHENS AIRPORT - FLY TO Palermo, Sicily
Drive to Athens Airport for morning flight to Palermo, Sicily. Transfer to hotel. Check-in at hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Palermo. (B,D)

Jun 9 Fri   PALERMO - MONREALE - PALERMO
Breakfast. Full day guided tour of Palermo. Visit the Archaeological Monreale in the morning and the Real Palace with its Chapel, cathedral of Palermo and the San Cataldo church in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Palermo. (B,D)

Jun 10 Sat  PLAERMO - CEFALU - TAORMINA
After breakfast and check-out. Drive to Cefalú. Guided visit of the 3hrs of the historic city center of Cefalu. Lunch on your own. Proceed for Taormina (2.5hrs). Guided visit (3 hrs) of Taormina, including the Greek Theatre. Dinner & overnight in Taormina area. (D)

Jun 11 Sun  TAROMINA - SYRACUSE - TAORMINA
Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Syracuse for a full day tour. Visit the Archaeological Area in the morning and Ortigia island in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Taormina area. (B,D)

Jun 12 Mon  FLY from Catania to Izmir Turkey via Istanbul - KUSADASI
After breakfast, departure from Catania airport and fly to Izmir. Upon arrival at Izmir airport meet your local representative who will assist with your transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi. Check-in at hotel, rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight Kusadasi. (B,D)

Jun 13 Tue  MILETOS - DIDYMIA - PRIENE - KUSADASI
Drive to Miletos, visit the famous theater and the remains of the site. Continue to Didyma to visit the well preserved Temple of Apollo. Afternoon proceed to Priene, a Greco-Roman city visited by Alexander the Great and is located near the Mykale mountains. Back to Kusadasi for Dinner and overnight. (B,D)
Jun 14 Wed  KUSADASI - DAILY BOAT TOUR
Enjoy a boat tour with lunch visiting the different bays of Kusadasi region along the Aegean coastline. Dinner and overnight Kusadasi (B,L,D)

Jun 15 Thu  EPHESUS
Visit the famous ancient city of Ephesus with its spectacular Terrace Houses, Basilica of John, the Ephesus Archaeological Museum and the ancient Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Dinner and overnight. Lunch at the carpet school. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi, (B,D)

Jun 16 Fri  KUSADASI - APHRODISIAS - HIEROPOLIS - PAMUKKALE
After breakfast in Kusadasi, drive to Aphrodisias to visit the 30,000-capacity ancient stadium. Drive on to Hierapolis which is blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Christianity came to Hierapolis via Epaphras (Colossians 4:12-13). The ruins cover more than a square mile. We will see the impressive theater with seats still in perfect condition and visit one of the thermal pools that still has ancient columns in it! Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning “Cotton Castle.” It is named for the limestone-laden hot springs that cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

Jun 17 Sat  LAODICEA - SARDIS - IZMIR
After breakfast, we depart the hotel and morning visit to Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches. Visit the theater, temple, nymphaeum and columned streets. Then drive to SARDIS, the site of the ancient Lydian Capital and where the first coins were minted. Drive onto Izmir, ancient Smyrna. Visit the ancient Agora of Smyrna. Afternoon visit the church of St.Polycarp. Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

Jun 18 Sun  IZMIR
Free day in Izmir. (optional bus trip to Çeşme beach). (B,D)

Jun 19 Mon  IZMIR - Pergamon - Assos
From Izmir we drive to Assos. Stopping at the ancient site of Pergamon to visit the Ancient Acropolis. Continue onto Assos for overnight. Dinner and overnight in Assos (B,D)

Jun 20 Tue  Assos
We enjoy a morning visit to Assos acropolis and harbor. Free afternoon. Dinner and Overnight in Assos. (B,D)

Jun 21 Wed  Troy - Istanbul
Drive to Troy to see the legendary city of Homer’s Iliad. Continue to Alexandra Troas, the important port founded after Alexander the Great. Continue to Canakkale where we cross the Dardanel Strait by ferry. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul (B,D)

Jun 22 Thu  Istanbul
Full day Istanbul tour; visit the Roman Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque – from the outside, the Hagia Sophia, one of the world’s greatest architectural marvels. Then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Finish the day at the colorful Grand Bazaar. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Jun 23 Fri  Istanbul
Visit the fragrant Spice Market and then enjoy a Bosphorus boat tour, seeing both European and Asian shores of Istanbul. Then visit Sveti Stephan Church and St.Chora Church. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Jun 24 Sat  istanbul - Final Exams
Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Jun 25 Sun  Departure for USA - Morning transfer to ISTanbul airport for departure home.

**INCLUDING**

- 1 main group arrival transfer from Istanbul airport to Hotel
- Athens - Palermo flight
- Catania - Izmir flight
- 3 nights Hotel Phillipos in Athens HB or similar (dinars at Herodien Hotel)
- 2 Nights at Park Hotel in Nafplion HB or similar
- 1 Nights at Olympion Asty Hotel in Olympia HB or similar
- 2 nights at Acropol in Delphi HB or similar (dinars at Epikouros Restaurant)
- 1 night Hotel Phillipos in Athens HB or similar (dinars at Herodien Hotel)
- 2 nights stay in Hotel Addaura or similar
- 2 nights stay in Taormina area Hotel Vello d’Oro or similar
- 4 nights Kusadasi Charisma Hotel or similar
- 1 night Pamukkale Doğa Thermal or similar
- 2 nights Izmir Movenpick Hotel or similar
- 2 nights Assos Dove Hotel or similar
- 4 nights Istanbul Sultanahmet Palace or similar
- Daily breakfasts at the hotels
- 26 Dinners as stated at the program (B:breakfast – D:dinner)
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary with professional guides
- All land transportation by private fully A/C bus with experienced driver throughout the tour
- Tolls & parking fees
- Local English speaking professional licensed tour guides during all sightseeing
- Reduced entrance fees to the sites and museums for students. All students must present a valid Student ID card to get benefit of the discount.
- English speaking escorted group transfers between ports/airport and hotels in mainland and on the island.
- All local service charges & local taxes & VAT
- Whisper headsets

**EXCLUDING**

- International flights - You need to arrange your international flights departing US on May 29 and arriving Athens, GREECE on May 30 & departing ISTANBUL June 25
- All lunches and drinks at all meals.
- All personal expenses, insurance, any other service which are not mentioned above
- Tips to tour guide and to the driver
- Baylor tuition and fees

**HOW TO APPLY**

- Apply Through bearsabroad.baylor.edu
- Cancellation Penalty:
  - 90-60 days prior to departure : No Penalty
  - 59-45 days prior to departure : 25%
  - 44-30 days prior to departure : 50%
  - 29-15 days prior to departure : 75%
  - 14 days & After : No refund
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