

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLUMBUS

## *Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul*

Athens/Corinth/Ephesus/Thessalonica/Philippi/Rome

with a cruise among the Greek Isles (Mykonos, Patmos, Crete and Santorini)

May 3 - 14, 2011

12 Days Travel / 7 Nights Hotels / 3 Nights Cruising

- Tuesday, May 3 Depart Columbus via church transportation to the Atlanta airport at 11:30 AM  
Please arrive at the YAB parking lot no later than 11:00 AM.  
Delta flight 138 to Athens departs at 4:30 PM
- Wednesday, May 4 10:35 AM arrival in Athens where we will be met by our coach and tour manager. After collecting baggage and clearing passport control, we'll board the coach for the drive to our hotel. En route we'll enjoy a panoramic tour of Athens, visiting the Acropolis with the Parthenon and the Areopagus, where Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of the "Unknown God" (Acts 17:15-34). We'll have lunch and head to our hotel for an afternoon of relaxing or wandering. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Novus in Athens.
- Thursday, May 5 This morning we'll travel to Corinth for a guided visit to the excavations of a site where Paul worked for 18 months with the tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:1-18). Paul's letters to the Corinthian church he established are the most well-known and often quoted of the Epistles. We'll return to Athens in the afternoon for resting or sightseeing. There will be optional cultural opportunities this evening. Dinner and overnight in Athens.
- Friday, May 6 Today we'll leave for our three night cruise to the Greek Isles and Turkey. We will visit the mountainous island of Mykonos and have free time to explore before returning to the ship for dinner and overnight.
- Saturday, May 7 Our visit to the Turkish port of Kusadasi begins the day. We'll enjoy an excursion to the ruins of Ephesus, which was once the capital of the Roman province of Asia and where Paul established a New Testament church and began his ministry to the Ephesians. We'll also visit the House of Mary, where the mother of Jesus is believed to have spent her last days. We'll continue to Patmos, the "Jerusalem of the Aegean," where John wrote the Book of Revelation. Anyone who wishes may take an optional tour to the Monastery of St. John and to the Cave of the Apocalypse. Return to the ship for dinner and overnight.
- Sunday, May 8 We'll have an early arrival in Heraklion on the island of Crete. A few miles away is Knossos, center of the Cretan civilization with its famous labyrinth, to which we'll take a guided excursion. In the afternoon, we'll sail to Santorini, the "Black Pearl of the Aegean." We'll take the funicular to the cliff-top village of Thera for a breathtaking panorama. Return to the ship for dinner and overnight.
- Monday, May 9 Today we disembark and head for the seaside city of Thessalonica, home of the church Paul established (Acts 17:1-9) and to whom he wrote in I and II Thessalonians. After a bit of sightseeing, we'll check in at the Hotel Capsis in Thessalonica for dinner and overnight.
- Tuesday, May 10 This morning we'll begin a full-day excursion to Philippi and Kavala. Philippi was named after the father of Alexander the Great and was a busy Roman colony with a great library and theatre. In Philippi, Paul established the first Christian church in Europe (Acts 16:11-40); he wrote to the Philippians while imprisoned in Rome. It was in this area that he met Lydia, the seller of purple, who became a dynamic witness. Next we'll continue to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis (Acts 16:9-11). Return to Thessalonica for dinner and overnight.

- Wednesday, May 11 We'll board our Aegean Air flight from Thessalonica to Rome with a change of plane in Athens. Rome was Paul's last mission stop (Acts 27:1 - 28:30) and the place he was beheaded in 67 AD. The church he and Peter established in Rome became the heart of the Christian faith for more than 1500 years. After collecting baggage and clearing passport control, we'll board the coach for the drive to our hotel. En route we'll enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome and visit two famous churches—the church of St. John Lateran and the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, a fifth century Christian church with incredible mosaics. Hotel check-in and some free time to explore or rest will follow. Dinner and overnight at the Best Western Hotel Canada in Rome.
- Thursday, May 12 Today we'll spend the day touring the ancient center of Rome and the Palatine. We'll see the Forum (actually, several fori), the Colosseum and the Mamertine Prison, in which both Peter and Paul were imprisoned. After lunch, we'll tour the Piazza Navona with the Pantheon and the old Jewish Quarter before heading to northeast Rome to see the famous Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. We'll also visit San Pietro in Vincoli which houses the tomb of Pope Julius II (who was responsible for much of the work done on St. Peter's) with the monumental statue of Moses by Michelangelo. Concert opportunities this evening. Dinner and overnight in Rome.
- Friday, May 13 This morning we'll leave the hotel for a tour of the Vatican—the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Cathedral and the Vatican Museum. We'll have lunch, then we'll tour the catacombs (in which early Christians worshiped and were buried) and the Protestant Cemetery in which poets John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley are buried. Free time in late afternoon. Concert opportunities this evening. Dinner and overnight in Rome.
- Saturday, May 14 Say arrivederci to Italy as we make our way to the airport at 7:00 AM to board our return flight to Atlanta. Delta flight 241 departs Rome at 9:45 AM and arrives in Atlanta at 3:20 PM. Transfer to church transportation for our return to Columbus.

#### Price

- Price per person is based on double occupancy and is \$4895.00/pp
- Price is based on a group of 30 traveling together
- Price includes:
  - \* Round-trip non-stop coach airfare on Delta Airlines: Atlanta to Athens and Rome to Atlanta
  - \* Airfare on Aegean Air: Athens to Thessalonica and Thessalonica to Rome
  - \* 3 night cruise of the Aegean with all meals (3 daily) and shore excursions
  - \* 7 nights 4 star hotel stay with full breakfast buffet and three course dinner included
  - \* Tour manager and luxury coach
  - \* All transfers, admissions, taxes, baggage handling
  - \* 10 days of touring
- All evening performances/events are optional and are not included in the price
- Price does not include mandatory trip cancellation insurance; cost to be determined

#### Payment Schedule

- First deposit—\$300.00 per person—due September 30, 2010
- Final payment—due January 30, 2011
- Full Name list—due January 30, 2011; names must be exactly as on passport

#### Fine Print

Price based on current rates and is subject to change. Leisure time touring, items of a personal nature, cost of passports, additional meals or beverages, excess baggage charges, travel insurance are not included. This tour is under management of Zenith Travel Consultants, Inc. of Altamonte Springs, FL. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passengers in all matters pertaining to travel, whether by plane, train, coach, ship, self-drive rental auto, or any means of conveyance. They shall not be liable of any injury, damage or loss occasional by neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in conveying the tour. These agents reserve the right to withdraw a tour or make any changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of passengers. They accept no responsibility for delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, or mechanical defect or failure of any nature, substitution of hotel or carrier equipment, for any act of omission by any carrier, place of lodging or restaurant, or any additional expenses due to weather conditions or consequences therefrom beyond their control. These agents are not responsible for participants on a tour who fail to meet at scheduled times or places; and in the event a participant misses a group's departure, he/she is responsible for catching up with the group at the next stop or meeting place.