

over Maxentius in the 4th century A.D. We will end our day at the Colosseum—the everlasting symbol of the greatness of Rome and the stage for the historical fights of the gladiators.

DAY 10 THU, JUNE 14, 2018 ROME / USA

For those not continuing to Northern Italy, we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

POST-TRIP EXTENSION TOUR TO NORTHERN ITALY

DAY 10 THU, JUNE 14, 2018 ROME / FLORENCE

After breakfast we will board our bus and transfer to Florence (320 km). Upon arrival we will meet our local guide and begin our half day guided tour of the city. Discover the cradle of the Renaissance—where one breathes art in the medieval streets, in the craftsmen's workshops and in the Renaissance Palaces. Here, we will see the *Gates of Paradise* doors of the Baptistery of St. John, the famous *Duomo*, the Piazza della Signoria, and the Accademia Gallery, which hosts Michelangelo's famous *David*.

DAY 11 FRI, JUNE 15, 2018 FLORENCE / MILAN

After breakfast we board our bus and travel through scenic countryside to Milan (305 km)—Italy's fashion and business capital. You'll enjoy a panoramic tour, highlighted by the enormous gothic cathedral known as "Il Duomo" and perhaps the world's premier opera house, the Teatro alla La Scala.

DAY 12 SAT, JUNE 16, 2018 MILAN / VENICE

After breakfast Depart Milan and drive through scenic countryside to Venice. Upon arrival, we transfer to central Venice by private motor-boat to tour the magnificent Piazza and Basilica of St. Mark's, its marvelous Byzantine-style architecture studded with colored marbles and glittering gold mosaics and housing the tomb of the Evangelist, Mark. Visit also the elaborate Doge's Palace, the lavish home of the former Venetian rulers with its famous Bridge of Sighs, where prisoners crossed before being led to the dungeons. After a gondola ride we enjoy some time at leisure for shopping.

DAY 13 SUN, JUNE 17, 2018 VENICE / USA

We transfer to the airport for our connecting flight home with unforgettable memories.



TOUR DATE

BASIC TRIP (GREECE & ITALY)

Wed/Thu, June 6–7.....	Capsis Hotel Thessaloniki (Greece)
Fri, June 8.....	Divani Meteora (Greece)
Sat, June 9–10.....	Titania Athens (Greece)
Mon, June 11–Wed, June 13.....	Hotel Massimo D'azeglio (Italy)

POST-TRIP EXTENSION (NORTHERN ITALY)

Thu, June 14.....	Grand Hotel Mediterraneo (Italy)
Fri, June 15.....	Best Western Hotel Mirage (Italy)
Sat, June 16.....	Antony Hotel (Italy)

HOTEL

Tour operated by Maranatha Tours, Inc.

Contact

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NEXTGEN

family trip

The Steps of Paul in Greece and Italy
June 5–14, 2018

(Optional four-day Northern Italy Extension)

Hosted by Doug Bischoff and Family



Continue your journey through the New Testament as you and your family experience the biblical history and culture of Greece and Italy. Follow the steps of the Apostle Paul as we visit locations such as Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea as well as three days in Rome!

When

We will depart on Tuesday evening, June 5, 2018 for an overnight flight to Istanbul, then on to Thessaloniki. Our return flight will be on Thursday, June 14, 2018 for those not travelling on to Northern Italy. The post-trip extension returns on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Cost

The cost of the basic trip is \$4,599 per person (child or adult) and includes round trip airfare, accommodations at first class hotels, motor coach transportation within Greece and Italy, meals (breakfast and dinner only), tips, taxes, entry fees and transfers. The Post-trip Extension to Northern Italy (Milan, Florence and Venice) is \$1,499 per person (child or adult) and includes all of the same amenities as the basic trip.

Not included in the price: Passport, baggage fees, optional trip insurance, lunches each day and sightseeing or services other than those specifically listed in the itinerary.

Single supplement: The cost of this trip is based on double occupancy. Therefore any rooms with only one person will be charged a single supplement of \$475 (basic trip), \$235 (Northern Italy extension). For families with an odd number of family members, it will be possible for you to add a roll-away bed at no charge.

Trip leaders

The trip will be led by Next Generations Minister, Doug Bischoff and his family.

Who can attend

The trip is for families of our church (attenders and members). Each family must include a child in 3rd–12th grade. Extended family is welcome as well as older kids (out of high school). However, this is a family trip, so no kids without parents and no adults without kids (family members). Registration will open first to those families who attended the 2017 Israel Family Trip. If all spots are not filled, registration will then be opened to other families as well.

Registration

To begin registration, go to HoustonsFirst.org and search: "Family Greece Italy." A deposit of \$500 per person is required for registration. It is highly recommended that you include the optional Trip Insurance to your registration.

BASIC TRIP TOUR TO GREECE & ITALY

DAY 1 & 2 TUE, JUNE 5–WED, JUNE 6 HOUSTON / THESSALONIKI

Today we will meet at Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH) for our flight to Istanbul then a connecting flight to Thessaloniki. Upon arrival, we will board our bus for transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 THU, JUNE 7, 2018 PHILIPPI / KAVALA / THESSALONIKI

Today's excursion takes us to ancient Philippi where we will see the baptism site, a crypt where Paul may have been imprisoned, the Acropolis, the Market Place, Basilica and the ancient theater. Next we will visit the Gangitis River where the apostle preached to a group of women. It was here Lydia, a merchant trading purple cloth, believed the Gospel and was baptized with members of her household. We return to Thessaloniki, where we will have time to enjoy a short visit to Waterland Waterpark, one of the most exciting water parks in Europe.

DAY 4 FRI, JUNE 8, 2018 THESSALONIKI / KALAMBAKA

This morning we continue on to Vergina with the tombs of the royal dynasty, most notably King Philip II and a young prince who is identified as Alexander IV, the son of Alexander the Great. Then to Veria, or Beroea, where Paul found people who eagerly received his message, "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were true" (Acts 17:11). We continue our drive to Kozani and on to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 SAT, JUNE 9, 2018 KALAMBAKA / ATHENS

This morning we visit Meteora, a cluster of pillars of rock, and the "Hanging Monasteries" perched on top of rock cliffs. There are 13 monasteries here, only four of which are inhabited by monks. We will visit one of the Monasteries and have time to explore and climb among the rocks. We will continue through the beautiful scenery of Greece, imagining Paul walking with his followers and teaching them God's word as they continued down the road. Then to Athens for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 SUN, JUNE 10, 2018 ATHENS / CORINTH

This morning we start our tour of Athens by visiting the important modern and archaeological sites in the city of Athens, the Acropolis and neighboring monuments. While driving through the main streets of Athens, we have

an opportunity to see other places of interest such as the University, the Academy, the National Library, the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenian Stadium, Omonia Square, Constitution Square and the Royal Palace.

This afternoon we drive along the coastal road to Corinth. Continue along the wonderful beach of Kinetta, make a brief stop at the Corinth Canal then on to ancient Corinth to visit the Museum, the Bema of St. Paul, the Doric Temple of Apollo, the Askeleion, Agora, Lechaion Road and the Peirene Fountain. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7 MON, JUNE 11, 2018 ATHENS / ROME

This morning we return to the Athens airport for our flight to Italy. Upon arrival in Rome we begin our touring at the Abbey of the Three Fountains, the place of Paul's martyrdom; where tradition has it, that three different springs gushed out at each spot touched when Paul's head fell down. We then continue on to St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Benedictine Abbey which shares its name, origins and centuries of history, with the adjoining basilica. Next, we descend into the Christian Catacombs!

DAY 8 TUE, JUNE 12, 2018 ROME / VATICAN CITY / FREE TIME

This morning we visit the Vatican Museum and Gallery, Raphael's Rooms with their wonderful frescoes, the Sistine Chapel—where Michelangelo's recently restored masterpieces adorn the ceilings and walls—and Pincio Garden. We continue into St. Peter's Basilica and view Vatican City. In the afternoon you will be free to explore the city on your own, shop or to relax at the hotel.

DAY 9 WED, JUNE 13, 2018 FORUM / MAMERTINE PRISON / COLOSSEUM

This morning you have a walking tour through the real core of Ancient Rome. See the Trajan's Column, Via dei Fori Imperiali (street of the Imperial Forum) and ruins of the fori. See the Forum of Trajan, on to the Capitoline Hill, the seat of the Municipality. Continue to the Piazza del Campidoglio, to see the statue of Marcus Aurelius. Then to the Roman Forum, the Curia (seat of the Roman Senate), the basilicas, palaces of justice and the temple of Vesta and the House of the Vestals. Continue to Mamertine Prison. It was here that Paul was held waiting for trial.

Visit the fabulous origins of Rome: the Palatine. Admire the Domus Tiberiana (only partially explored) and the ruins of the Imperial Palaces. We will find the Arch of Constantine, erected to commemorate the victory of the emperor