

A 6-Day Catholic Pilgrimage & Mount Athos Cruise Based in Thessaloniki

St. Paul's Sacred Footsteps in Macedonia

Discover the apostolic roots of European Christianity on our signature 6-day Catholic pilgrimage through Macedonia, comfortably based in Thessaloniki. As Greece's premier faith-based B2B DMC, **Mazi** designs this highly flexible and theologically rich itinerary with absolute operational precision. Answering the divine Macedonian Call ("Come over to Macedonia and help us"), we explore the historic footsteps of the Apostle to the Gentiles: from the port of Neapolis (Kavala) and Europe's first baptism in Philippi, to the Berean Bema, the cliff-top monasteries of Meteora, and a peaceful cruise along Mount Athos. Operated with our private fleet of luxury coaches, handpicked licensed guides with specialized theological expertise, and strictly selected **4-star accommodation in Thessaloniki**, your group enjoys the convenience of staying in a single hotel without repacking. We enhance your congregation's experience with **daily lunches at authentic traditional taverns** and restful hotel dinners, while meticulously coordinating serene venues for your Spiritual Director to celebrate the **Sacrament of the Holy**

Sustainability Certification



Awards



We are members



mazi[®]
TRAVEL & EVENTS

Tour Highlights

- **Thessaloniki:** The White Tower, Rotunda, Galerius Complex, Ano Poli, Archaeological Museum, and the Basilica of St. Demetrios.
- **Biblical Philippi & Kavala:** The ancient city of Neapolis, the Prison of St. Paul, and St. Lydia's Baptistery.
- **Veria:** The Holy Bema (Steps) where St. Paul preached to the locals.
- **Macedonian Royal Capitals:** Pella (birthplace of Alexander the Great) and Vergina (Royal Tombs of King Philip II).
- **Spiritual Asceticism:** The stunning rock-pillar monasteries of Meteora and a scenic cruise along the Mount Athos Peninsula.
- **Nature & Mythology:** The majestic Mount Olympus, ancient Dion, and the waterfalls of Edessa.



General Information

Departures

Available All Year Round

Your package includes:

- Arrival and departure airport transfers with English-speaking assistance.
- 7 nights of hotel accommodation in Thessaloniki.
- Half-Board meal plan.
- Guided tours as outlined in the itinerary.
- Ferry tickets for the Mount Athos cruise.
- 24-hour emergency assistance phone number.

Your package excludes:

- International flights.
- Entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums.
- Stayover/Climate Crisis Resilience tax.
- Travel and health insurance.
- Optional tours, personal expenses, and gratuities.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Thessaloniki

Welcome to Greece! Upon your arrival at Thessaloniki's airport, our friendly representative will be waiting to greet you and arrange your transfer to the hotel. Take the rest of the day at your leisure to settle in, stroll along the beautiful Thermaic Gulf promenade, and prepare for the journey ahead. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 2: The Splendor of Thessaloniki

After breakfast, we begin our exploration of Thessaloniki, a city to which St. Paul addressed two of his New Testament epistles. We start at the iconic White Tower before visiting the Archaeological Museum to marvel at its unique collection of Macedonian gold. Driving past the Aristotelian University, we ascend to the Ano Poli (Upper Town) and the ancient citadel walls for breathtaking panoramic views of the city. Next, we visit the magnificent Basilica of St. Demetrios, the city's patron saint. We will then drive along Egnatia Street—tracing the route of the famous Roman Via Egnatia, the very road St. Paul walked—and conclude our tour viewing the imposing Arch of Galerius and the St. George Rotunda. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 3: Pella, Edessa, Veria & Vergina (The Macedonian Legacy & St. Paul's Bema)

Today's journey blends monumental ancient history with deep biblical roots. We depart early for Pella, the ancient capital of the Macedonian Kingdom and birthplace of Alexander the Great. Next, we stop in the lush city of Edessa to admire its famous cascading waterfalls. Our spiritual focus for the day is Veria (ancient Beroea). Here, we will visit the Holy Bema (Steps), the exact monument where St. Paul preached to the "noble" Beroeans (Acts 17:11). Our day concludes at Vergina (Aigai), the first capital of Macedonia, where we will enter the world-class underground museum housing the spectacular untouched Royal Tombs of King Philip II. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 4: Kavala & Philippi (The First European Convert)

We drive east via the Egnatia Motorway, passing the iconic Lion of Amphipolis, toward the ancient city of Philippi. This is arguably the most significant biblical site in Greece. Named after King Philip II, Philippi is where St. Paul planted the first Christian church in Europe. During our guided tour, we will explore the ruins of early Christian basilicas, the ancient Roman Theatre, the traditional site of St. Paul's Prison, and St. Lydia's Baptistry by the river, where the first European conversion to Christianity took place. We then proceed to the beautiful coastal city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis), the exact port where St. Paul first set foot on the European continent. We will admire the impressive Roman Aqueduct and the historic house of Muhammad Ali of Egypt before returning to our hotel. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 5: The Holy Mountain - Mount Athos Cruise

Early this morning, we transfer to the picturesque harbor of Ormos Panagias (or Ouranoupolis) to embark on a memorable cruise toward the Mount Athos Peninsula. Sailing along the coast, you will view and photograph Europe's most unique monastic republic. Clinging to the cliffs are impressive, centuries-old Byzantine monasteries. To this day, around 1,700 monks live here under strict ascetic rules, and the peninsula remains completely inaccessible to women. The boat will dock at Ouranoupolis for approximately two hours, allowing ample time for a relaxing seaside lunch before our return drive. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 6: The Monasteries of Meteora

Following breakfast, we travel to Meteora, an awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage site where ageless monasteries crown gigantic rock pillars suspended between earth and sky. We will visit the Great Monastery of Varlaam, founded in the 16th century at a dizzying height of 380 meters. It is the second-largest complex here and houses a thriving brotherhood of monks. Our next stop is the 15th-century Monastery of St. Stephen. Easily accessible, it holds a magnificent small museum of Byzantine and Christian artifacts. Afterwards, we recommend a visit to the fascinating Natural History & Mushroom Museum of Meteora to explore its unique wildlife dioramas and discover the region's rich biodiversity. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 7: Mount Olympus & Ancient Dion

Today we explore the natural and mythological majesty of Mount Olympus, the highest peak in Greece and legendary residence of the 12 Olympian Gods. We will walk along the scenic, narrow paths of the Enipeas Canyon in the charming village of Litochoro. We will also discover the ancient archaeological park of Dion, a sacred city of the Macedonians situated right at the foothills of the mountain. After a fulfilling lunch at a traditional local restaurant surrounded by nature, we head back to the city. *Overnight in Thessaloniki.*

Day 8: Departure

Enjoy your final Greek breakfast. The morning is yours to relax or do some last-minute souvenir shopping. At the arranged time, you will be transferred to Thessaloniki Airport for your departure flight, carrying with you unforgettable memories of Greece's history, faith, and beauty.

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For more information and real-time availability:

[View the trip online](#)

or contact us

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