



Biblical Expeditions Cruises: Seminars at Sea

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Depart USA

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Arrive in Athens. Welcome Dinner and overnight at our hotel in *Athens*.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2023: Paul in Athens

Our morning begins at the *New Acropolis Museum*. This beautiful, state-of-the-art museum is dedicated to the artifacts and excavations of the *Acropolis*. After gaining an appreciation for the ancient site, we walk up the *Acropolis*, and visit the *Parthenon*, the temple dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena. We then walk down to visit the *Areopagus, Mars Hill* where Paul encountered the council of *Athens* (Acts 17:16-34). We continue to visit the *Agora of Athens* where Socrates often met with the Athenian youth, where he was tried, and imprisoned. Overnight in Athens

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2023: Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles

We leave *Athens* today and drive south into the *Peloponnese*, the peninsula of southern Greece, to *Corinth* (Acts 18:1-17; 1 and 2 Corinthians). On our way back to *Corinth*, we stop to see the *Corinthian Canal*. Our visit includes the small, but important museum of *Corinth*, visiting the theater and the inscription of Erastus, the city treasurer (Romans 16:23), as well as the Bema of Gallio and the agora of *Corinth*. After lunch, we visit the upper city of *Corinth*, the *Acro Corinth*, the ancient harbor of *Cenchrea* (Acts 18:18), and the *Diolkos*, the road which connected the two sides of the *Corinthian Isthmus*. Overnight in Athens.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2023:

Morning free for shopping until our departure for Piraeus port to embark on our cruise ship. We set sail at 5:00 pm. Dinner and overnight on board.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2023: Seminar at Sea

Day at sea. Our morning begins after breakfast with our seminar, "Sailing the Wine Dark Sea with Paul: Luke-Acts as History of Jesus and His Movement," "The Jerusalem of Jesus: History and Archaeology," and "The Jerusalem of Jesus: Faith and Culture." After lunch, you are free to enjoy the ship. Overnight onboard.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023: The Jerusalem of Jesus

This morning we arrive in the port of Ashdod, Israel at 8am. We disembark from the ship and travel to *Jerusalem*. Our morning in *Jerusalem* begins with a visit to the *Israel Museum*. Here we will see a scale-model of Jerusalem on the eve of its destruction in AD 70. We will visit the Shrine of the Book, which houses some of the Dead Sea Scrolls, including some of the oldest copies of the Old Testament. Our tour of the museum concludes with a walk through the archeological wing to visit the two galleries dedicated to Israel in the Old and New Testament periods. We will see original artifacts found in sites we visited, as well as other artifacts that make the Bible come alive. Next, we journey to the *City of David*, the oldest part of Jerusalem, the city David conquered and made his capital. Our day ends along the southern wall of the *Temple Mount*. On the first

century street, we see the shops and markets around the Temple, a possible location for the money changers (Luke 19:45-48). We then proceed to the southern entrances of the Temple where we walk the steps ancient pilgrims took to ascend to the Temple. Our program ends stopping at the *Fri, S*, the most sacred site for Jews. Overnight on the ship.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2023: Jesus' Final Days

Our morning begins in *Bethlehem*. In *Bethlehem*, we remember the birth of Jesus and visit the *Church of Nativity*, the oldest church in the Holy Land, built over the traditional site of Jesus' birth. From *Bethlehem*, we travel to the *Mount of Olives* where we have a beautiful view of the city of *Jerusalem*. We walk down the mountain following the modern path used by pilgrims on Palm Sunday visiting the church of *Dominus Flevit*, which remembers Jesus' weeping over the city as he rode into it, and the traditional location of the *Garden of Gethsemane*. Our journey continues at *Jaffa Gate* where in the first century Herod's palace stood. Here the story of Jesus begins (Matt. 2) with the visit of the wisemen to Herod, and here his story ended because at Herod's palace Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate (Mark 15:16). From *Jaffa Gate*, we walk into the Jewish Quarter and visit the *Herodian Quarter*, a series of priestly homes from the first century. We then walk along the Byzantine *Cardo* and see the walls of Jerusalem from the eighth century BC and the first century BC. Passing the *Gennath Gate*, we follow the historic route Jesus traveled from Pilate to his place of execution at the *Church of the Holy Sepulcher*. After a dinner in *Jerusalem*, we depart for the port of *Ashdod* to board our ship for a 10pm departure. Overnight onboard the ship.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023: The Faith of Jesus

At 6:00am in the morning we dock at the port of *Haifa, Israel*. Our journey today focuses upon the ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee. Our morning begins at *Yardenit*, which provides an opportunity for people to be baptized in the *Jordan River*. We next travel to *Almagor*, which overlooks the *Beitsaida Valley* where the *Jordan River* flows into the Sea of Galilee, and where Jesus fed the 5,000 (Luke 9:10-17). We journey to *Chorazin* one of the three cities cursed by Jesus (Matt. 11:21; Luke 10:13). At this site, we see the ancient homes and Jewish ritual immersion pools, as well as the magnificent basalt synagogue from the fifth century AD. Inside the synagogue is a replica of a Seat of Moses (Matt. 23:2). We travel next to the ancient town of *Capernaum* where Jesus made his home around the lake (Matt. 4:13). Here he healed the centurion's servant (Matt. 8:5). The magnificent limestone synagogue of the fourth century AD has been partly reconstructed and looms over the site. From *Capernaum*, we travel to one of the most exciting and important ongoing archaeological excavations in Israel, *Magdala*. Here we will visit one of the few, excavated, first century synagogues in the land of Israel. Its date coincides with the time of Jesus ministry in the area. We will also see wealthy homes from the village, as well as the first century harbor. From *Magdala*, we return to *Haifa* to board the ship to depart at 5pm. Overnight onboard the ship.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2023

Day at sea. Our morning begins after breakfast with our seminar, "The Jewish Diaspora: History and Archaeology," and "The Jerusalem Council: The Faith of Jesus and the Nations." After lunch, you are free to enjoy the ship. Overnight onboard.

MONDAY OCTOBER 2, 2023

Our ship lands at the port of *Alexandria, Egypt* this morning. We disembark and drive to *Cairo*. We begin our day viewing *the three pyramids of the Giza Plateau*. The *Great Pyramid* was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. While at *Giza*, we will see the one of the enduring monuments of Egypt, *the Sphinx*. We next visit the *Egypt Museum* with its magnificent collection of artifacts. From the *Egypt Museum*, we visit the *Ben Ezra Synagogue*. We return to *Alexandria* and our ship for dinner and overnight.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2023

Spend the day exploring the beautiful city of *Alexandria* with visits to the *Fort of Quatbey*, *Pompey's Pillar*, the roman theatre of *Kom-el-Dik*, walk through the *Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa* which houses hundreds of tombs, and the *Necropolis of Anfushi*. We will also visit the world-famous *Library of Alexandria*, which today is reincarnated in the disc-shaped, ultramodern *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* research center. We depart *Alexandria* at 10pm. Dinner and overnight onboard the ship.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2023: Seminar at Sea

Day at sea. Our morning begins after breakfast with our seminar, "The Seven Churches of Revelation: History and Archaeology," and "Revelation: The Great Revolt, Jews, Gentiles, and the Faith of Jesus." After lunch, you are free to enjoy the ship. Overnight onboard.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2023

This morning at 7:00am we land in *Kusadasi, Turkey*. After disembarking from our ship, we travel to *Ephesus* (Acts 19:1-20:38; The Epistle to the Ephesians; Revelation 2:1-7). At *Ephesus*, we visit the archaeological site, including the magnificent *Terrace Houses*. After lunch, we tour the small *Archaeological Museum of Ephesus* and the remaining ruins of the *Temple of Artemis*, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We return to our ship and embark at 4pm. Dinner and overnight aboard the ship.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023

This morning at 04:30am we arrive at the *Port of Piraeus* where we disembark from the ship and transfer to the airport in *Athens* for our return home.

Please note: Visits and excursions, mentioned in the program may have slight changes in the time or order they are to be visited.