

DTI Bible Lands – Journeys of Paul in Europe

Greece and Italy ~ April 5-19, 2026

Join long-time Bible researcher and archaeologist Brent & Ange MacDonald on an unforgettable 15-day European trip. See the best of Greece, including Thessaloniki, Neapolis, Philippi, Pella, Berea, Vergina, Corinth, and Athens. Follow this with the heart of Italy, including Ostia Antica, Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius, the Vatican, and Rome. With a focus on the Apostle Paul's western journeys, you'll walk the streets of ancient cities and witness sites and items that'll make the ancient world come alive. Along the way, you'll experience much of the charm and culture of these modern countries. Space is limited to 24 (we prefer smaller groups for a better travel experience!).

The Itinerary

April 5 (Day 1) – Depart Newark, NJ, for Greece via Vienna, Austria (on Austrian Airlines).

April 6 (Day 2) – Arrive in Thessaloniki, Greece (SKG); Stay in Thessaloniki (#1).

April 7 (Day 3) – To Kavala (Paul in Neapolis, Acts 16:11), Ancient Via Egnatia, to Philippi (Paul in Philippi, Acts 16:12; 20:6; Philippians 1:1); Stay in Thessaloniki (#2)

April 8 (Day 4) – Thessalonica (Paul, Acts 17:1; 1 & 2 Thessalonians). Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, White Tower, Roman Market/Forum & Odeon, The Rotonda (or Rotunda), Arch of Galerius (next to the Rotonda). Byzantine Churches (Agios Dimitrios, Church of Agia [Hagia] Sofia); Stay in Thessaloniki (#3)

April 9 (Day 5) – Pella, Greece (Macedonia, Acts 16:9; 19:21; Alexander the Great); Veria, Greece (Paul in Berea; Acts 17:10); Vergina (Alexander the Great, capital of Macedon); Return to and stay in Thessaloniki (#4).

April 10 (Day 6) – Early flight to Athens. (Paul, Acts 17:15). Ancient Agora of Athens, The temple of Hephaestus. Roman Forum of Athens (Roman Agora; Acts 17:16), Hadrian's Library, Kerameikos (Pompeion). Optional evening view of the Acropolis from the Hill of the Muses. Stay in Athens (#1). Dinner on your own (there are a host of nearby restaurants and cafes all with a view of the Acropolis and Parthenon).

April 11 (Day 7) – Athens. The Acropolis & Parthenon of Athens; Odeon of Herodes Atticus; The Areopagus (Mars Hill, Acts 17:22); Temple of Olympian Zeus; Arch of Hadrian (Hadrian's Gate); The Panathenaic Stadium or *Kallimarmaro*; Optional Archaeological Museum. Optional local shops. Stay in Athens (#2). Dinner on your own (there are a host of nearby restaurants and cafes all with a view of the Acropolis and Parthenon).

April 12 (Day 8) – Ancient Corinth. (Paul, Acts 18:1; 19:1; 1 & 2 Corinthians); Corinth Canal; Late afternoon flight to Rome. Stay in Rome (#1)

April 13 (Day 9) – Port of Ancient Rome – Ostia Antica (Paul Acts 28:14); Hadrian's Villa. Stay in Rome (#2)

April 14 (Day 10) – Rome: Roman Colosseum, Arch of Titus, Arch of Constantine, Roman Forum, Domus Aurea, Baths of Caracalla, Lord's Supper in Catacomb of Priscilla. Stay in Rome (#3).

April 15 (Day 11) – Rome: Castel Sant Angelo, Vatican, Basilica, St Peter's Square, Papal Crypt, Vatican Museum, and the Sistine Chapel. Stay in Rome (#4).

April 16 (Day 12) – High-speed train to Naples; Roman world: Herculaneum; Archaeological Park of Paestum. High-speed train to Rome; Stay in Rome (#5).

April 17 (Day 13) – Rome: Pantheon, Scala Sancta (perhaps San Giovanni in Laterano), St Paul's Outside the Walls, San Pietro in Vinicoli, Pyramid of Cestus, and Aurelian Wall. Stay in Rome (#6)

April 18 (Day 14) – Free Day in Rome (on your own or with Brent). Local Shopping. Stay in Rome (#7); Dinner on your own.

April 19 (Day 15) – Depart for Newark, NJ, via Frankfurt, Germany (on Lufthansa).

Bonus: We've arranged this trip so that you'll only have three hotels, which means far less unpacking and repacking! The last seven nights are in Rome, as we return there every evening. This also allows any participant to take a day off from touring and enjoy the hotel's amenities, should they wish.

Trip Cost

Includes round-trip air fare (with all taxes and fuel surcharges) with Austrian Airlines from Newark, NJ, to Thessaloniki via Vienna and return from Rome to Newark, NJ, with Lufthansa Airlines via Frankfurt. Includes in-country flights in Greece and international flights from Athens to Rome. Includes all transfers and air-conditioned motor coach travel in Greece and Italy, plus high-speed train from Rome to Naples. Includes daily breakfasts at all hotels, three dinners in Greece, and six dinners in Italy. We intentionally planned two nights in Athens for you to experience dining on your own in the sunset and view of the Parthenon, plus a final evening of dining of your individual choosing in Rome. Includes 4+-star hotels and portage of one piece of luggage per person. Includes all entrance fees per the itinerary, plus a local English-speaking guide and tour escort throughout Greece and local English-speaking site guides in Italy. Brent will be the tour escort for Italy.

A unique feature of DTI Bible Lands trips is the provision of specially prepared teaching and site materials for the itinerary for all participants.

Per person cost: \$6,055 USD (based on double occupancy)*

Cottage Cove offers DTI Bible Lands trips as a charity (sorry, the IRS does not allow you to deduct your trip from your taxes), so our pricing is far less than most equivalent for-profit offerings. You'd have a hard time finding a trip of comparable duration and with such a comprehensive itinerary. We reviewed several advertised offers, and the closest we could find was listed at \$7,495, *excluding* international airfare from the USA.

Does not include: Your travel to and from your home to Newark, NJ; lunches (which we find few want, as you will eat well at breakfast and dinner); and Tourist City taxes in Rome (the city government of Rome now charges a per person per night tax trying to slow down tourism, it is currently 7.5 Euros per person per night paid directly to the hotel. Subject to change). Three dinners are on your own (which can mean with Brent and Angie or others from the group), as we intentionally provide a unique opportunity for you to experience the local culture tailored to your liking in both Athens (two evenings) and Rome (one evening). Travel insurance is not included

(we do recommend this), but it can be easily purchased through insuremytrip.com. Of course, beverages and souvenirs are not included. Tipping is a fact of life in tourist travel. We collect and pay on your behalf the recommended *minimum* tipping for guides, drivers, and dining room staff. This works out to \$17 per person per day, totaling \$255. You can always add additional amounts throughout the trip for extraordinary service. Italy does not have guides who accompany the group for its entirety; the only option is a “tour escort” in addition to local site guides. To save you what could be a further \$350-\$400 (plus tips) per person, Brent will assume this additional role during your time in Italy.

Deposit: We require a \$600 per-person deposit to reserve your spot. All deposits and prepayments are refundable up to 120 days prior to departure (less a \$300 administrative fee charged by our quality tour provider, International Heritage Tours, which we have used for decades). The final balance is due 90 days before departure. Please reserve quickly, as space is limited both for the airlines and our requested hotels, and we must confirm this trip soon.

* Since we undertake this trip as a non-profit, needing to break even, the trip cost has increased slightly from when we first posted it. This is because the airline in Greece will not hold pricing for us until we have paid a 50% non-refundable deposit to them. As we did not have sufficient immediate registrations, we passed their first deadline, and pricing has increased.