

GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME

Pilgrimage in Northern Greece

Thessaloniki · Veria · Vergina · Philippi · Kavala · Mount Athos · Arnaia · Stagira

DURATION	GROUP SIZE	REGION	BEST SEASON	TOUR THEME
7 Days · 6 Nights	**10+ Pax**	**Macedonia & Chalkidiki**	**Mar–Nov**	**Paul & Orthodoxy**

A pilgrimage built for parish and church groups: the places where Paul brought the Gospel to Europe, and the living tradition of Orthodox monasticism. Your group celebrates services at Philippi and in Thessaloniki, sails along the Holy Mountain of Athos, and meets the nuns of an Orthodox convent in the Chalkidiki hills. Three nights in Thessaloniki, three by the sea in Ouranoupolis, and four UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the way. BenLeToni Tours has handled groups across Greece since 1992 – this programme is tailored for travel agencies and tour operators.

Made for your planning

Every day has a notes field, and the planning sheet on the last page collects what we need for a tailored proposal. Type into this PDF on screen or print it and write on it – then send it back to us.

Tour Route



Included In Our Offer

INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAMME

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation – 3 in Thessaloniki, 3 in Ouranoupolis – in 3- and 4-star hotels (5-star on request)
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✓ Private air-conditioned coach throughout the full itinerary
- ✓ Licensed guide for the entire programme
- ✓ All entrance fees to the sites and museums listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure days
- ✓ 24/7 local support contact during your group's stay in Greece
- ✓ Cruise along the coast of Mount Athos
- ✓ Services and the convent visit arranged by BenLeToni Tours

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses and gratuities
- Single room supplements (available on request)
- Optional excursions not listed in the itinerary
- Climate resilience fee, payable locally at the hotels

Full Programme

YOUR NOTES

1

Arrival in Thessaloniki

Arrival at Thessaloniki airport, where your BenLeToni guide meets the group. Transfer to the hotel and welcome drink with the guide. Overnight Thessaloniki.

2

Thessaloniki

City tour of Thessaloniki, the city of the two Letters to the Thessalonians: the Byzantine churches of Agios Dimitrios, Hagia Sophia and the Acheiropoietos, and the Rotunda – part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mass or service in the Catholic church of Thessaloniki, or in another church on request. Overnight Thessaloniki.

3

Veria — Vergina

Veria, the biblical Berea, whose people received Paul's word « with all readiness of mind » (Acts 17:11), and the steps where he is remembered as preaching. Vergina, ancient Aigai, and the royal tombs of the Macedonian kings. Return to Thessaloniki. Overnight Thessaloniki.

4

Philippi — Kavala — Ouranoupolis

Philippi, the first Christian community Paul founded in Europe. At the river, the baptistery of Lydia, the first Christian in Europe – the group celebrates a service there. Kavala, the biblical Neapolis, where Paul first set foot in Europe. Evening drive to Ouranoupolis at the gateway to Mount Athos. Overnight Ouranoupolis.

5

Mount Athos

Morning cruise along the coast of the Holy Mountain, past monasteries that have kept their rule of prayer for a thousand years. The cruise is open to everyone, as the boats stay offshore. Afternoon visit to the Byzantine tower of Ouranoupolis and its exhibition on the history of Athos. Overnight Ouranoupolis.

6

Orthodox convent at Arnaia — Stagira

Morning liturgy at an Orthodox women's convent near Arnaia, followed by a conversation with the nuns about monastic life (by arrangement). The mountain village of Arnaia. Aristotle's Park at Stagira, the philosopher's birthplace, with its view over the gulf. Overnight Ouranoupolis.

7

Departure

Transfer to Thessaloniki airport (about 2 hours) for departure.

Useful Information

Best time to travel
March to November. Easter and the feast days of the saints are special times to travel – book early. The Athos cruise runs from spring to autumn.

Group size
Minimum group size for this programme is 10 passengers. Coaches and guides are planned around the size of your group.

Dress code
Modest dress is required in all churches and at the convent – covered shoulders and knees, and women wear skirts at the convent. We advise all groups of this requirement in advance.

Walking difficulty
Easy to moderate. The archaeological sites have uneven ground and steps; the rest of the programme involves short walks.

Hotel category
Two bases, one hotel change. The programme uses a mix of 3- and 4-star hotels in Thessaloniki and by the sea in Ouranoupolis. 5-star hotels are available on request.

Customisation
Men in the group can apply for a permit (diamonitirion) to stay one night in a monastery on Mount Athos – we handle the application. The tour can be extended with Meteora, or combined with our Steps of Paul programme to Athens and Corinth.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can women take part in the Mount Athos day?
Yes, in the cruise. Women may not set foot on Mount Athos, but the boats stay offshore, so the whole group sails together.

Can men in our group visit a monastery on Athos?
Yes, with a permit (diamonitirion), which is limited in number and must be requested well in advance. We handle the application and the transfer by boat. The rest of the group continues the programme.

Can we celebrate Mass or worship during the tour?
Yes. The programme includes services at Philippi and in Thessaloniki, and we can arrange more. Tell us your denomination and whether a priest or pastor travels with the group.

Do we need licensed guides at the archaeological sites?
Yes. Licensed guides are required at the major archaeological sites in Greece. BenLeToni Tours arranges all guides as part of the programme – multilingual guides are available in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and Japanese.

Can the programme be customised?
Yes. Duration, hotel category, pace and included sites can all be adapted. Contact us with your requirements and we will send a tailored proposal.

YOUR NOTES

Planning sheet

Fill in what you already know and send this page to contact@benletoni-tours.gr. We reply with a tailored proposal within 48 hours.

AGENCY / TOUR OPERATOR

CONTACT PERSON

EMAIL

PHONE

GROUP NAME / CLIENT

TRAVEL DATES

NUMBER OF GUESTS

ROOMS: DOUBLE / TWIN / SINGLE

ARRIVAL FLIGHT

DEPARTURE FLIGHT

GUIDE LANGUAGE

HOTEL CATEGORY

☐ 3-star ☐ 4-star ☐ 5-star

CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME

SPECIAL REQUESTS (DIET, MOBILITY, CELEBRATIONS)

We look forward to welcoming your group to Greece.

CONTACT
contact@benletoni-tours.gr
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benletoni-tours.gr