

GREECE & ROME TOUR 2027



INFORMATION PACKET

PURPOSE

The purpose of this trip to Greece and Rome is to build our understanding of biblical sites and to enjoy fellowship with our Trinity church family. As we explore the lands where the early Church took root, we aim to grow closer to one another and encourage each other in faith.

We will enjoy prayer, worship, teaching, and group discussions. By immersing ourselves in the rich history of Christianity, we not only seek a deeper understanding of Scripture but also to see Scripture come to life. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of the early Church, learning from the Apostle Paul's missions and the early believers, and return with a strengthened bond as a Christ-centered community, ready to live out the Gospel together.

Trip leaders Pastors Andrei and Pastor Sam invite you to join us!

CONTACT

For **general trip questions** including the plan, travel, accommodations, and registration, please contact:

Sean Cox
SCox@trinitycc.com

For **all other inquiries**, please contact:

Pastor Andrei Sava
ASava@trinitycc.com



PLAN

We are using **Friendship Tours** travel agency. You can find more information about this tour agency on their website at ***friendshiptours.com***.

The total price includes:

- First Class Hotels, Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Deluxe, Air-Conditioned Motor Coaches
- Comprehensive Sightseeing per the Itinerary
- Professional Tour Guides

DAY 1 (MONDAY, FEB 22) – TRAVEL FROM LOS ANGELES TO ROME

See the two airfare options on page 4.

DAY 2 (TUESDAY, FEB 23) – ARRIVE IN ROME

If you purchase flights through Friendship Tours (Option #1), you will be met by your Friendship Tours representative and transferred to the hotel.

If you self-book flights (Option #2) you will need to arrange your own transportation to the hotel.

In the afternoon we'll visit the Basilica of St. Mary Major which was built on Esquilino Hill in 352 A.D., Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Cathedral of Rome. we'll also visit the "Holy Stairs" (which the Church brought from Jerusalem), St. John's Gate, Via Latina, Old Appia Way, Chapel of "Domine Quo Vadis?", Catacombs of St. Callixtus or St. Sebastian (the site of over 125,000 martyrdoms).

DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY, FEB 24) – ROME, VATICAN

We will begin with a tour of the Vatican, followed by a tour of "Ancient Rome" which includes visits to the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Basilica of St. Paul, and the Church of St. Peter.

DAY 4 (THURSDAY, FEB 25) – ROME, VATICAN, SISTINE CHAPEL, CATACOMBS

We will visit the Vatican Museum, Art Galleries, and Gardens, St. Peter's Basilica, the Round Hall, the Tomb of St. Helen and St. Constance, the Sistine Chapel with the works of Michelangelo, Galleries of the Chandeliers, Gallery of the Tapestries and Geographical

Maps, and the Library Hall. Afterwards, visit the Catacombs, the ancient meeting places of the early Church.

DAY 5 (FRIDAY, FEB 26) – ROME TO THESSALONIKI

This morning we'll go to the airport for a flight to Thessaloniki. After transferring to the hotel, we'll take a brief tour of the Biblical Thessaloniki where Paul founded the Church in 49-50 A.D. (Acts 16:12-18).

We'll then drive along an ancient road through mountain passes and plains to Amphipolis for a short trip to view the ancient Lion Statue.

We'll continue to Ancient Philippi, taking in two Christian basilicas, the Egnatian Way which Paul followed from the harbor of Neapolis (ancient port in Philippi). There we'll see the Roman Forum, the Citadel, the ancient theater, and the Ledia's brook.

We'll continue a short drive to Kavala and see ancient Neapolis where Paul landed on the way to Philippi.

Our day will conclude with a return to Thessaloniki for the night.

DAY 6 (SATURDAY, FEB 27) THESSALONIKI, VERIA, DELPHI

We'll drive from Thessaloniki through the plains of Thessaly. We'll visit the legendary home of the mythic Greek gods and continue to Veria, where Paul remained for several days. We'll end the day in Delphi and stay overnight.

DAY 7 (SUNDAY, FEB 28) DELPHI, ATHENS

We'll visit the sanctuary of Apollo, where the oracle delivered her famous prophecies in ancient times. We'll visit the museum and take in masterpieces of ancient Greek Art. Then we'll visit the ancient Temple of Apollo, the theater, the stadium, and see ancient Greece.

DAY 8 (MONDAY, MAR 1) ATHENS CITY

Today we'll visit the Acropolis, Mars Hill, and the Parthenon. ON a drive through the city, we'll see the National Library, the University, the Academy, the Presidential Palace, the Stadium, the Temple of Zeus, and Hadrian's Arch.

DAY 9 (TUESDAY, MAR 2) CORINTH, ATHENS

Drive to Corinth through Daphni and Eleusis. After crossing the Corinthian Canal, we'll arrive in ancient Corinth. We'll visit the ruins of Corinth where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. Included are the First Century shops, the Agora, Temple of Apollo and the Bema Seat. Drive up to Acrocorinth, the site of the Temple of Aphrodite.

DAY 10 (WEDNESDAY, MAR 3) TRAVEL FROM ATHENS TO LOS ANGELES

See the two airfare options below.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATIONS

FLIGHTS & AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Option 1: Pre-booked flights from Los Angeles through Friendship Tours

With Option 1, Friendship Tours will book your travel from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Rome. This price also includes airport taxes and airline fuel surcharges. Friendship Tours will manage the booking of the flights and, in the event of flight interruptions, will handle re-booking your flight. This price includes airport transfer to and from the hotels. You are responsible for travel to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Option 2: Book your own flights from anywhere

With Option 2, you are responsible for booking and handling your flights to and from any airport in the US to Rome. You are responsible for ground transportation to and from the airport. It is recommended to pre-book your ground transportation from the airport to the hotel in Rome using a trusted transportation service.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are selected by Friendship Tours, and the total price includes first-class hotels, a full buffet breakfast, and a daily dinner. Each trip participant is responsible for purchasing their own lunch (not included in the total price).

Participants traveling solo can select the option to have their own room or find another solo traveler to room with. If you choose solo room occupancy, a \$798 charge will be applied.

PASSPORT, ETIAS, EES INFORMATION

Validity: Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond your intended departure date (through August 22, 2027) from the Schengen Area (European area). While the minimum requirement is three months, having six months' validity helps avoid potential travel disruptions.

Blank Pages: Ensure your passport has at least one blank page.

European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS): Starting in 2025, visa-exempt travelers, including **U.S. citizens, must obtain an ETIAS authorization before entering 30 European countries, including Greece** and Italy. This system aims to enhance security by pre-screening travelers.

ETIAS Application Process: The application is completed online or via a mobile app, costing around \$7. It's valid for up to three years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. While most applications are processed quickly, **applying at least one month before your trip** is advisable to account for potential delays. You will receive information on where to register via email.

Entry/Exit System (EES): The EES is an automated IT system launched in 2025. It replaces traditional passport stamping with electronic registration, utilizing facial recognition and fingerprint scans to record entries and exits.

Proof of Sufficient Funds and Return Ticket: Be prepared to possibly show proof of sufficient funds for your stay (bank accounts, cash, etc.)

Carry a return or onward travel ticket (eTicket acceptable) as evidence of your intention to leave the Schengen Area within the permitted timeframe.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

During the trip, deluxe air-conditioned motor coaches are included in the total trip price. This includes transportation and gratuity to and from the hotels to the historical sites.

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS AND WEATHER

Participants will walk an average of 2–4 miles/day. The walkways are generally well maintained but, at times, will include a lot of stairs and dirt path inclines. The average temperature in Rome and Greece in February is between 50°F to 59°F, with a good chance of rain.

DAILY SCHEDULE

The days are full of travel and site visits. Evenings are typically free for rest or personal exploration in the different cities where we stop.

FOOD

Mediterranean cuisine. Full breakfasts and dinners are included in the cost. Lunches and mid-day coffee/snacks are at the expense of the participants. (If you have dietary restrictions, be sure to investigate to see how a Mediterranean diet affects your health).

PRICE

Price after deposit: \$4,687

Land Only (book your own flights) price after deposit: \$3,487

*If requesting solo room occupancy, an additional \$798 charge will be applied.



1

Complete the Online Trinity Registration Form

- Last day to **register** and pay your **non-refundable \$300 deposit** (per person) is **Sunday, August 30.**

2

Confirm Trip Documents Via Email

- After registering, Sean will send a Confirmation Email with:
 - Total trip cost based on your options
 - Information about purchasing optional travel insurance

3

Final Document Signature and Payment Drop off

- Last day to sign your trip documents, drop off a copy of your passport, and submit your final payment via check to "Friendship Tour Trust Account" is **Friday, October 30.**

1. ONLINE REGISTRATION

Scan the QR code and click "Registration" at the top of the page. **Please fill out one form per person.** The form includes filling in your personal contact info, \$300 non-refundable deposit, group info (if applicable), passport info, accommodations, and flight selection.

If you are in the process of obtaining a passport, please note "Pending" in the online Registration Form. Once your passport arrives, please email Sean a copy so that your Registration Form can be updated.

Paper registration form available upon request. Contact Sean.



2. CONFIRM DOCUMENTS VIA EMAIL

After you have completed the online form, you will receive a confirmation email from Sean with the total trip cost based on the options you selected for flights and accommodations. You will also receive information about purchasing optional travel insurance. Please review Sean's email before continuing to Step 3 on the next page.

3. FINAL DOCUMENT SIGNATURE AND PAYMENT DROP OFF

After you have completed the online form/payment and received a confirmation email, you will need to sign trip documents and submit final payment via check.

Come to the Trinity office during normal business hours (M-Th: 8:30-4:00 p.m. & F: 8:30-3:30 p.m.)

- Sign documents: **You will need to bring a photocopy of your physical passport** (or your physical passport).
- Deliver final payment check made out to “**Friendship Tours Trust Account**” for the remaining balance (per confirmation email from Sean based on your trip options).
 - If you filled out a paper registration form, you need to bring the non-refundable \$300 deposit made out to “**Trinity Community Church**” when you come to the office.

