

The Geneva School: Greece & Italy

May 29 – June 12, 2026
15 Day Daily Itinerary

Days 1 & 2, May 29 & 30 – Depart USA / Arrive Thessaloniki, Greece

Day 3, May 31 – Thessaloniki

Our first full day of touring serves as an orientation to Greece, with a basic Greek language lesson and cultural orientation. Venturing into Thessaloniki, we make our way into the heart of the city for a visit to the church of St. Demetrios, before making our way to the Roman Forum and then a gyro lunch in Aristotle square. From there we make our way to the Rotunda before visiting the landmark of the city, the White Tower. A stroll along the harbor front caps our first day of touring.

Day 4, June 1 – Philippi

Following breakfast we depart for Philippi. We first see Philippi, where we visit the site of Lydia's baptism followed by a tour of the archaeological site: bema, forum, basilicas, theater, city walls, and traditional location of Paul's imprisonment. While on site we have our lunch. We then make our way to the port of Philippi, the biblical city of Neapolis (today called Kavala) and tour the port, aqueduct, and mosaic of Paul. After touring, we return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

Day 5, June 2 – Berea & Vergina

Today we travel to Berea to see the Rostrum of Paul and the Jewish Quarter with its Synagogue. Our emphasis is upon Paul and his Synagogue Sermon (Acts 13). We continue our travel to Vergina, site of the Royal Tombs of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. We explore the museum and the Macedonian Tombs with their priceless artifacts, wall paintings, and edifices. The afternoon allows us time for a hike on the Mt. Olympus range. Overnight in the mountain village of Litohoro.

Day 6, June 3 – Meteora

Departing Litohoro we travel to Thessaly and central Greece. We visit the monasteries of Meteora perched high atop towering rock formations. We are introduced to Eastern

Orthodoxy with an orientation to basic doctrine, beliefs, and practices. During the afternoon we continue to Delphi for dinner & overnight.

Day 7, June 4 – Delphi

Morning field preparation then tour of archaeological site. Delphi was the most important religious center of classical Greece. There we see the sanctuary of Apollo, Delphic Pythia, Agora, Sacred Way, theater, and stadium. We also tour this significant museum with its bronze Charioteer. After lunch and free time we arrive late afternoon in Athens for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, June 5 – Athens

Our tour of Athens includes a visit to the Theater of Dionysios, Acropolis, Parthenon, Erechtheion, Temple of Athena Nike, Propylaia, and Acropolis Museum. We also visit the Areopagus (Mars Hill) and examine the sermon of Paul to the Athenians. We visit the agora and museum. The afternoon brings us into the Plaka for a walking orientation of this historic district. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Day 9, June 6 – Athens

Our second day in Athens allows us to further explore the city. In the morning we continue our tour of Athens with a visit to Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Zeus, before a fun-filled "recreation" of the Olympic games at the Panathenaic Stadium. We then make our way to the Evzones at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and catch a quick metro ride to the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. Our journey through the museum reveals many of the amazing finds that reflect the height of Greek culture throughout the ages.

Day 10, June 7 – Corinth

Crossing the Isthmian Canal we visit ancient Corinth where we see the Temple of Apollo, agora, bema, Peirene Fountain, and stoa. While in the agora we celebrate the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11) and spend time in worship. We also examine Paul's cultural context in the urban centers of the Roman world. We gather together for our final Greek meal at a local taverna. We offer our concluding remarks on Greece and begin our preparations for travel to Rome and Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Day 11, June 8 – Rome: Renaissance and Modern

Morning flight to Rome, Italy. We begin with an orientation to Italy and an examination of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul's crowning theological work. A short subway ride takes us to the Piazza del Popolo where we trace Italy's role in the renaissance and examine works by the Renaissance master Caravaggio. Heading down the historic Corso we visit the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Victor Emanuel Monument, Pantheon, and Imperial Fora. Overnight at our hotel within the historic old city of Rome.

Day 12, June 9 – Rome: Classical

Tour of the ancient civilization of Rome, focusing on its impact on the life and ministry of Paul. We begin at the world famous Colosseum where we examine Christian martyrdom. We then tour the Palatine Hill, home to the ancient emperors, before descending into the ancient Roman Forum, the very center of the empire. In the forum we see the Arches of Constantine, Titus, and Septimius Severus, Temple of the Vestal Virgins, rostra, Temple of Caesar, Senate House, and much more. In the afternoon we make our way to the basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls, and reflect on the martyrdom of the great witness to the Gentiles.

Day 13, June 10 – Florence: Duomo & David

In the morning we catch the fast train to the seat of Tuscany, Florence, one of the world's most amazing cities. Our walking tour will include many of the signature works of the Renaissance as we learn about the city that launched modern European culture. We'll start in the heart of Florence at the Baptistry of St. John before stepping outside for Ghiberti's famous Gates of Paradise, considered the beginning of Renaissance sculpture. From here we marvel at the grand Duomo and Brunelleschi's magnificent, red-tiled dome. We continue to the Duomo Museum, followed by a visit to the Academia where we see one of the crowning works of the Renaissance, Michelangelo's David. Students are then free to hike to the top of the Duomo, grab a gelato, or shop in the streetside leather market.

Day 14, June 11 – Rome: Early Church Sites, Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica

In the morning we visit the catacombs outside Rome, where early Christians were buried prior to the Edict of Milan. As we walk among the tombs we recall the words of Hebrews, being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Departing the catacombs, we visit the Vatican City, the nation-state home of the Catholic Church. In St. Peter's square we gaze up at the sculptures of Bernini before venturing into the Vatican Museum, home of

numerous masterpieces by Raphael, Da Vinci, and Caravaggio. We then enter the Sistine Chapel, world famous for Michelangelo's ceiling paintings and the Last Judgment, before visiting St. Peter's Basilica and seeing Michelangelo's *Pieta*.

Day 15, June 12 – Departure Rome/USA

Depart for home with new experiences, lasting memories, grateful hearths, and a deeper understanding of the life of the Apostle Paul!