

# January Interim 2025 – Opportunities as of 3 June 2024

Wartburg Theological Seminary

This particular document is still a work in progress, to be updated as new information becomes known. Please contact the faculty leader/advisor listed for each J-Term opportunity for more information about that particular J-Term course, including questions of tentative dates and anticipated costs.

See the summary list below (Part B, starting on Page 2) for courses planned for this coming January (or arranged to have travel or be taught in May or August, but still registered for in January). Please follow all e-mailed instructions from the WTS Registrar on submitting the needed preference form to express a request for your interested J-Term course(s). January courses can normally be taken by all Masters students (both degree students and Discovery non-degree students), as well in the case of some travel courses sometimes including spouses or guests of students or the seminary.

For more detailed information on courses, as it becomes available, see Part C of this document.

## PART A – J-TERM REQUIREMENT

**The January Interim Requirement:** All WTS degree students must complete one or more January Interim (aka “J-Term”) courses, one for each year of primary coursework as defined for their program. Master of Divinity degree students currently must complete three (3) J-Term courses. Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree students currently must complete two (2) J-Term courses. Students in the current one-year Master of Arts degree program (Fall 2019 and following) need to complete one (1) J-Term course.

**The Cross-Cultural “January” Requirement:** For students in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, as well as students in the older two-year Master of Arts degree program (but not students in the new one-year degree program), one of your J-Terms currently must be reserved for completing the Cross-Cultural requirement. Normally the means of fulfilling the cross-cultural requirement is by completing a designated course that is designed as a group-based course that involves immersion activities (and often travel of some form). Most of these eligible cross-cultural courses are January courses. Independent studies are normally not allowed for meeting the cross-cultural requirement except in situations approved ahead of time by the Academic Dean upon petition.

**J-Term Course Grading:** All J-Term courses are graded with Credit/No-Credit grading only.

**Limits to January Registration – One “J-Term” Course Per Year.** Due to financial aid restrictions (by the U.S. Department of Education and their Title IV program), only one course per year can be registered for in each January Interim. This includes courses where travel occurs outside of January (such as in August or May) if they are considered meeting the January course requirement and/or the cross-cultural requirement. This restriction includes independent studies. January courses have their own tuition fee.

## PART B – COURSE OFFERINGS

### I. CROSS CULTURAL COURSES

The following courses all meet the MDiv/MADM (and older MA degree) cross-cultural degree requirement when completed as a cohort, including pre- and post-January meetings. The faculty person named is the local contact for the course, and in most cases the person you will work with in completing the pre- and post-trip requirements for the cross-cultural requirement, as well as sign off on the final grade. Please see that person for more information about the specific trip or course. All cross-cultural courses are usually numbered MN 398W unless noted otherwise.

These cross-cultural courses will have some number of cross-cultural travel subsidies available for that course as provided through Wartburg's Financial Aid Office, which can be used by students completing their first cross-cultural experience as required for their degree program to offset some of their travel expenses. (See Barb Roling, Financial Aid Office, for details on how these cross-cultural travel subsidies work and your eligibility.) The number of these travel subsidies is currently left unspecified, to allow for some flexibility in reassigning monies to a different trip if one is over- or under-subscribed as compared to another.

#### 2025 International Cross-Cultural Travel Trips (travel and course in January):

**FOR INTERNATIONAL TRIPS, PLEASE DIRECTLY CONTACT THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR LISTED FOR THE LATEST DETAILS ON SPACE AVAILABILITY.**

- **Greece/Turkey** (MN 398W-L1) - led by Prof. Troy Troftgruben, [troftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:troftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu) See further details in Part C below.
- **Japan** (MN 398W-L2) – led by Profs. Man Hei Yip ([myip@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:myip@wartburgseminary.edu)) and Martin Lohrmann ([mlohrmann@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:mlohrmann@wartburgseminary.edu)) See further details in Part C below.
- **Tanzania** (MN 398) — led by Profs. Beth Hanson and Cheryl Peterson  
**THIS J-TERM COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

#### 2025 Domestic Cross-Cultural Courses (Travel and Course in January):

- **Tucson Immersion: Mission at the Borderlands** (MN 398W-L3) – led by Prof. Craig Nessian ([cnessian@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:cnessian@wartburgseminary.edu)), with Pr. Mateo Chavez. January 5-14, 2025. Taught on-site/in-person in Arizona. See further details in Part C below.
- **Dismantling Racism: A Process of Introspection and Attaining Awareness toward Faith Action** (MN 398W-L4) — **DATES: To Be Determined** ; led by Prof. Jan Schnell ([jrippentropschnell@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:jrippentropschnell@wartburgseminary.edu)), with the Rev. Lamont Wells. Tentative enrollment limit of 20 students. Taught Hybrid (on-campus and by Synchronous Zoom), but not asynchronous. Description from Prof. Schnell:

Dismantling Racism is open to any of our students; each student will be expected to take responsibility for describing their own need to learn. It is being offered with honest awareness that white students have specific work to do. This course aims for students to have a significant encounter with, arguably, two cultures previously less-than-familiar to them:

- a. BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People of Color are people of culture with many diverse perspectives of excellence. Hearing from many authors and speakers of color, learning how not to center white selves, recognizing the grinding impacts of constant, systemic racism, thinking theologically about contexts that include structural racism, and learning to celebrate BIPOC cultural excellence will help form valued leaders and hopefully shape the ELCA to act in alignment with antiracism.
- b. Whiteness; I would argue that many white students are as yet unfamiliar with their own whiteness. It is crucial to recognize one's own racial identity in order to care about all people being treated with dignity and to work for equity in our church and world. This course will invite students, in a supported, accompanied manner, to recognize their own whiteness and begin to come to terms with the immunity/privilege it affords them, and therefore the responsibility they are perfectly free to work with. Thus, this course has repercussions for how students view their own culture.

## II. Other January-Held Courses that can meet other degree (or concentration) requirements:

- **MN 397W-L1 J-term Rural Immersion:** North Dakota, Western Iowa, and Shalom Hill Farm

**Instructor:** Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen

**Probable Dates:** To Be Determined.

**Fulfills:** Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Requirement

**Course Description** Students, together with clergy and lay persons from small town and rural congregations, study issues affecting America's small town and rural (STaR) communities in a highly experiential learning environment. Clergy and lay persons from STaR congregations and communities are engaged as part of the course. Contexts include southwestern Minnesota, western Iowa, eastern South Dakota and North Dakota. The first week of the experience will be centered at Shalom Hill Farm

[www.shalomhillfarm.org](http://www.shalomhillfarm.org) .Implications for ministry and leadership in these contexts are explored.

- **MN 397W-L2 South Dakota Pastoral Practicum.** Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen is the point of contact, but not the instructor, as this will be locally led by the South Dakota Synod office in conjunction with congregations. Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Ministry requirement. Details are still being worked out. Students will be placed in an active, thriving congregation, where they will learn not only about the ministry of the congregation, but the specific context that shapes its character. Students will be matched with a seasoned pastor or deacon, who can serve as a mentor. This person will not only mentor the student, but also make sure that the expectations for both congregation and student are realistic, and give confidence and structure for the student.

### III. ELECTIVE J-TERM COURSES

#### A. Elective Courses Held during January

**Watch for more courses to be announced throughout the Summer and Fall Semester in 2024.**

- ***In Development***– A course on **Ministry Among People With Disabilities**; to be taught in partnership with the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). *Details will be announced as they become available.*
- **MN 396W-L1 Preaching, Embodiment, and Performance.** Taught by Prof. Samantha Gilmore, January 13-24, 2025 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays only), In-Person/Synchronous Zoom instruction only. *See further details in Part C below.*
- **MN 396W-L2 Loss, Grief, and Hope: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource.** Taught by Prof. Helen Chukka. Dates to be determined. *See further details in Part C below.*
- **MN 103W Pastoral-Diaconal Practicum** (arranged between you and a pastor/church, with a faculty member’s oversight). A specialized independent study whereby the student focuses on ministry in a church setting (e.g., “shadowing” a pastor, or completing a specialized ministry project, etc.) All pastoral practicums and independent studies must be approved by the Academic Dean. Students will complete an independent study form as part of the registration process in order to outline the goals of their practicum. *See the section below on independent studies for more information on the amount of work that needs to be arranged for.*

#### B. Elective Courses that Actually Meet July-August (Summer 2024), before January, and can be registered for as your one “J-Term” option for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- NONE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME

#### C. Elective Courses that Actually Meet in May-June (Summer 2025), after January, and can be registered for as your one “J-Term” option for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- NONE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME

### IV. Known J-Term Opportunities that are offered by/through another ELCA seminary:

Each year there are courses shared between the ELCA seminaries. Oftentimes such courses are shared through a long-standing cross-registration agreement between these seminaries whereby the student normally pays their home seminary the expected J-Term tuition fee, and then the student only pays the other host seminary any additional expenses needed for their local onsite participation.

- NONE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF AT THIS TIME

## **V. Other known January opportunities that are not part of the ELCA cross-registration program**

**J-Term HSP Offering.** **WATCH FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT STILL YET TO COME SOON FOR THE 2025 JANUARY (J-TERM) PROGRAM OFFERING.** In the meantime, you can learn more about the broader Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), from this web site, <https://hispanicsummerprogram.org/programs/hsp-exchange/>, as HSP is more than just a summer program. WTS is a supporting member of the program. Taking HSP courses involves a separate application process to the school offering the course, usually with a fairly quick deadline, with enrollment limited and no guarantee that you will be selected (although our being a member of our program does help somewhat). Taking HSP courses has its own tuition, which is usually minimal, and the student then arranges to transfer the credits back to Wartburg Seminary, at which time the completed course is applied to meet one of your J-Term requirements.

## **VI. INDEPENDENT STUDY or PASTORAL-DIACONAL PRACTICUM**

For those students who do not complete one of the cross-cultural courses or specified organized activity courses listed above, your remaining option is to complete an independent study or a pastoral-diaconal practicum. *For students in the new curriculum (Fall 2016 and after) for MDiv, MA, and MA in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, all J-Term independent studies are expected to meet the requirements for a 2-credit course (which equates to a minimum of 90 to 95 hours of work).* All Independent Studies in January must be approved by the Academic Dean before they can be registered for. There is an Independent Study Contract Form to be completed in conjunction with the faculty member who will oversee your independent study or pastoral-diaconal practicum, and the form is also signed by your faculty advisor and the Academic Dean. These contracts need to be finalized by the December registration week.

## PART C J-TERM 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**(Not all courses may have further detailed description available at this time;  
See the Registrar or the faculty contact person/instructor for more details)**

### **MN 398W-L1 GREECE / TURKEY**

See pages 11 to 15 at the end of this document for details from the instructor and the travel agency involved.

### **MN 398W-L2 JAPAN**

Instructors: Dr. Martin Lohrmann and Dr. Man-Hei Yip  
2 credit hours (credit/no credit only)

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This cross-cultural trip offers experiences of and reflection upon the history, experiences, and challenges of Christian ministry in Japan. Participants will learn through cultural immersion, conversation, visits to congregations and social ministries, readings, and journaling. A guiding theme will be the relationship between faith and culture facing Christians in Japan.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To deepen personal knowledge and faith through experiences of diverse religious cultures and Christian life in Japan.
2. To build relationships with and learn from Lutherans and other Christians in Japan through visits, conversation, and study.
3. To learn the blessings and challenges of being Christian in contexts where Christianity is a minority religion.

#### **PROCEDURE**

- A group of approximately 12-20 participants will spend about two weeks to Japan, beginning in Tokyo and the Lutheran college and seminary in Mitaka. The group will then travel to other parts of Japan—including Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Kumamoto—to learn about Japanese culture, Lutheran ministries, and international movements for peace.
- Priority for participation will be given to Wartburg Seminary students completing their cross-cultural immersion requirement. If capacity allows, other WTS community members (including alums and family members) will be welcome, with the understanding that they will participate fully in the immersion.
- Participants should expect significant amounts of walking.
- Tentative dates for travel: leave US on January 5, 2025, to arrive on January 6 in Japan; return trip to the US will take place on January 22, 2015.
- Estimated trip costs (including airfare): \$4000 per student.
- Current passports and updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations are required.

## EVALUATION

Course evaluation will be based on active participation and the completion of a journal that records experiences, questions, impressions, and insights.

## PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Silence* by Shūsaku Endō

*Mount Fuji and Mount Sinai: A Critique of Idols* by Kosuke Koyama

*A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai* by Paul Glynn

*The Boy and the Heron* (film), directed by Hiyaoy Miyazaki (Studio Ghibli, 2023)

## MN 398W-L3 TUCSON IMMERSION: Mission at the Borderlands

**Course Description:** This immersion gives students the opportunity to experience the borders of religion, politics, and culture. Students participate in an immersion trip to the US/Mexico border (Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico) to experience borderland ministries. Students will encounter the church's witness at the intersection of multiple cultures, legal jurisdictions, and socioeconomic situations as they listen to the people who live, work, and gather there. Students are invited into a learning space characterized by generosity, receptivity, and compassionate presence to one another and those they meet. Worship, spiritual practices, and mutual conversation will center the immersion.

### Objectives:

1. (Knowing) recognize and describe issues relevant to ministry in Latine contexts in the Southwest, as well as political, socio-demographic, and pastoral issues associated with immigration to the United States, especially from Mexico and Central America.
2. (Doing) summarize clearly and generously at least three key characteristics of pastoral ministry in Latinx contexts, as well as migration ministry.
3. (Being) cultivate pastoral dispositions of self-awareness, empathy, courage, and justice.

**Procedure:** The course/immersion meets for 10 days in the Tucson area, **January 5–14, 2025**. Lodging and most meals are provided at the Iglesia Lutheran San Juan Bautista (1130 East Bilby Road, Tucson, AZ), hosted by Pastor Mateo Chavez. The immersion will include cultural competency, pastoral awareness, and theological preparation with on-site exploration of life on the US-Mexico border. The format includes reading, daily journal reflections and a final reflection paper that will be due on January 24. The cost, including room, breakfast, and dinner, is **\$1250.00** (payable to Wartburg). Students are asked to bring meal money for lunches for each day in order to provide the opportunity to experience local cuisine. Students should bring their passports and make their own travel arrangements to and from Tucson. The congregation of Iglesia Luterana San Juan Bautista is looking forward to hosting you who are interested in getting a close view of what Latino Ministry is evolving into within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Evaluation:

1. Class preparation (readings) and participation in the experience.
2. Daily journaling to explore questions and observations that arise from the encounters with people and ministries in the borderland.
3. A critical reflection paper that captures the learning and insights from the experience with specific reference to the three objectives of the course.

### Required Texts:

- Jacqueline Maria Hagan. *Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey*
- Robert Chao Romero. *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity*
- Chart with summary of U.S. interventions in Latin America  
<http://www.zompist.com/latam.html>

### Recommended Resources:

- Kat Armas. *Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us About Wisdom, Persistence, and Strength*.
- Stephen Bouman and Ralston Deffenbaugh. *They are Us: Lutherans and immigration*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
- ELCA Latino Ministry Strategy Plan:  
[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA\\_Latino\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_English.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Latino_Strategic_Plan_English.pdf)
- ELCA Social Statement on Immigration, Declaration of Sanctuary Denomination and AMMPARO Resources on Sanctuary Overview and Basic Steps for ELCA Congregations to Observe the Sanctuary memorial at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)
- Virgilio Elizondo. *Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise*
- Daisy L. Machado. “The Unnamed Woman: Justice, Feminists, and the Undocumented Woman” pg. 161-174 chap 8) in *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology: Religion and Justice*, ed. Maria Pilar Aquino, Daisy L. Machado, and Jeanette Rodriguez.
- *The River and the Wall* (film). Available on Amazon.
- Albert R. Rodriguez. “Transcultural Latino Evangelism: An Emerging New Paradigm,” *Anglican Theological Review* 101:4 (2019): 673-683.
- Stephen Talmage. “We Are All Cousins: A Biblical Mandate.” In “Bishops on the Border: Pastoral Responses to Immigration,” by Mark Adams, Minerva G. Carcano, Gerald Kicanas, Kirk Smith, and Stephen Talmage.

**Critical Reflection Paper** (6 pages, double-spaced): addressing the following three areas:

- A. What do you see as the top 2-3 pressing social, political, and/or pastoral issues related to immigration in the United States (esp. from Mexico and Central America)?
- B. What would you identify as the 2-3 most important characteristics of faithful ministry in the borderlands among people in Latinx contexts?
- C. Select, identify, or create some form of artistic expression (for example, artwork, picture, poetry, painting) that captures important aspects of your experience. Briefly explain its significance in the paper and be ready to share it at a debriefing meeting in late January.

**Due January 24, 2025.**

### Some Highlights:

- San Xavier Mission, Yaqui Museum and Presidio
- Slide Show featuring Magdalena de Kino, Sonora, Mexico and Trip to Sentinel Peak
- Arizona Justice for our Neighbors
- Introduction to Lutheran Rosary



- Asylum-Seeker Shelter, La Casa de Misericordia de Todas las Naciones in Nogales

## **MN 396W-L1 PREACHING, EMBODIMENT, AND PERFORMANCE**

January 13-24, 2025

Samantha Gilmore

Residential and Synchronous Only

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; 9:00-11:00 am and 12:30-2:30 pm

### **Description**

This course will explore what has been called performance studies within homiletics, learning from scholars like Charles Bartow, Jana Childers, Ruthanna Hooke, and Teresa Fry Brown. Students will actively engage in seminar-style reading discussions and embody the performance practices they are reading about. At the end of the course, students will write a paper on their theology of embodiment and performance in preaching.

**Note:** Due to this course's highly participatory nature, synchronous students will be required to keep their cameras on during class.

### **Place Within the Curriculum**

This course has no prerequisites and is open to all. It is especially suited for those called to lead worship and preach.

### **Procedure**

Morning sessions will be oriented toward seminar-style reading discussions. Afternoon sessions will focus on practicing performance techniques.

### **Evaluation:**

- Arrive to class on time.
- Make substantive contributions to class discussions that display master's level engagement with and reflection on the readings.
- Actively participate in performance practices (I am happy to offer different ways to participate in the practices to fit the needs of your body).
- Give and receive feedback on performances in ways that honor each person's child of God-ness.
- Be cognizant of how little or how much space you are taking up in relation to your colleagues. If you are talking more than most, pull back to make room for others. If you are talking less than most, take the risk of sharing your thoughts. Every voice matters.
- RL students will attend class on campus.
- Absences of six hours or more will result in automatic failure of the course.

### **Bibliography**

*God's Human Speech: A Practical Theology of Proclamation* by Charles Bartow

*Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation* by Teresa Fry Brown

*Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre* by Jana Childers

*Sacramental Presence: An Embodied Theology of Preaching* by Ruthanna Hooke

## **MN 396W-L2 LOSS, GRIEF, AND HOPE: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource**

Two Credits

Grade or Credit/No credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew Bible I

Helen Chukka, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

Dates to be determined.

Residential/Synchronous Zoom (although if 3 or more commit to asynchronous learning, that option could also be made available)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*Loss, Grief, and Hope* introduces the biblical understanding of suffering and its effects represented in the pious practice called “lament.” The strategies of protesting, coping, and trusting God amidst various losses are accessible in the laments in the Hebrew Bible. This course explores these various responses of individuals and communities in the Scripture. It will look at expressions and specific forms of lament, as well as the biblical figures as models of piety and prayer and intends to present lament as a powerful and pious expression of faith in and for the Christian church.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- grow in understanding the nature, function, and power of laments
- describe the various forms of lament in the Hebrew Bible
- recognize the complexity of grief in the Hebrew Bible and distinguish it from the various stages of grief in psychology
- appreciate lament as a pious and powerful expression of faith
- transfer knowledge about lament in the Scripture as a congregational resource for various events including funeral services or personalized devotions

### **EVALUATION**

Students will be primarily evaluated on written assignments and class participation.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### Required

Bible (NRSV or NRSVue)

Billman, Kathleen, and Daniel Migliore, eds. *Rachel’s Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006.

#### Recommended (select chapters will be required but purchase is not required)

Kelly, Melissa M. *Grief: Contemporary Theory and Practice of Ministry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

- [470-455-6373](tel:470-455-6373)
- [info@eliastours.com](mailto:info@eliastours.com)



- [Home](#)
- [Upcoming Tours](#)
- [Host A Tour](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

More links

Photogallery

[Wartburg Theological Seminary - Greece & Turkey Study Tour - Tour](#)

[Wartburg Theological Seminary - Greece & Turkey Study Tour - Tour](#)

[Wartburg Theological Seminary - Greece & Turkey Study Tour - Tour](#)

# Wartburg Theological Seminary - Greece & Turkey Study Tour

January 7 - 18, 2025 Greece

[Book now](#)

\$3,990

- Need help for booking
- [470-455-6373](tel:470-455-6373)
- [info@eliastours.com](mailto:info@eliastours.com)

\$3,990

[Book now](#)

Need help for booking [470-455-6373](tel:470-455-6373) [info@eliastours.com](mailto:info@eliastours.com)

Overview

You are invited to join faculty and students from Wartburg Theological Seminary in a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey to visit sacred spaces of biblical significance and to encounter countries and people of rich and diverse cultural traditions today. Visit places where the Apostle Paul traveled as part of his ministry journeys. See and experience aspects of Orthodox Christianity in Greece and Islam in Turkey. Our group's mixture of students, alumni, and friends will make for an experience of seminary life on the road in two of the most fascinating countries in the world.

Please contact the group leader Professor Troy Troftgruben if you have any questions regarding the tour [ttroftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu](mailto:ttroftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu)

## DETAILS:

- The tour departs on **January 7, 2025**, and returns on **January 18, 2025**
- Departure Airport: **Chicago, IL (ORD)** (Other cities are available)

## PRICING:

- **\$3,990** per person based on double occupancy - space is limited
- Single room supplement: **\$890**

## Call Us

- **\$300** per person with registration to secure space
- Balance due on or before **October 1, 2024**

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

**TK 006 07JAN ORD - IST 830P 405P 08 JAN**  
**TK1893 08JAN IST - SKG 840P 900P 08 JAN**

**TK 005 18JAN IST - ORD 320P 610P 18 JAN**

*\* Flight times, flight numbers, equipment, gates, and seats are subject to change. For the most current information check the airline website.*

January 7 - 18, 2025 Greece  
Inclusions/Exclusions

## What is included in the tour

- Airfare from Chicago, IL (ORD) (Other cities are available)
- 11 nights in 4-star hotels (double occupancy)
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Entrance fee to all sites
- All ground transportation in a private tour bus

## What is NOT included in the tour

- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Lunch
- Personal Expenses
- **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is required and not included in the purchase price. For your convenience, we offer travel insurance through \*Travelex Insurance Services. For questions, quotes, or to purchase travel insurance, visit [Travelex Insurance](#) or call **(800) 228-9792** and use the code **26-0057** for Elias Tours.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 - January 7: Departure from the USA

Depart from Chicago, IL (ORD) for an overnight flight to Thessaloniki, Greece. Meals and overnight on board.

## **Day 2 - January 8: Into the Footsteps of Paul - Thessaloniki**

[Call Us](#)

companions established the first Christian communities. On arrival, we will be met at the airport for a transfer to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

## **Day 3 - January 9: Thessaloniki - Kavala - Philippi**

Follow the Via Egnatia, a remnant of Rome's highway system, viewing Roman and Greek tombs and ruts of ancient chariot wheels. Next, stop in Philippi, where Paul preached his first sermon in Europe and baptized the first Christian convert on European soil. Among the ruins located on the rocky ledge above the town's main road is the prison into which Paul and Silas were thrown. It was in Philippi that Octavian and Anthony defeated Brutus and Cassius in 42 BCE. Free time in the old city of Kavala Port where Paul came to the city, Return to Thessaloniki to explore the ancient city where Paul planted a church that would later receive two New Testament epistles. View one of the most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Demetrius. Continue along the waterfront to the massive White Tower and nearby triumphal Arch of Galerius. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

## **Day 4 - January 10: Kalambaka - Meteora - Delphi**

We spend some time today marveling at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their cave-like Monastic community of Meteora. Take in the striking monasteries that crown the summits of these pinnacles with their wooden galleries and corniced rooftops. Dangerously hanging over the stunning abysses, these primitive dwellings compose one of the most fascinating sites on earth. A special treat awaits with a visit to two of these timeless monasteries to see the exquisite specimens of Byzantine art on display. Drive to Delphi to stay overnight.

## **Day 5 - January 11: Delphi - Athens**

Breakfast at the hotel and we begin our exploration of the ancient site of Delphi. The pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, where the oracle of Apollo spoke, was the site of the omphalos, the 'navel of the world'. Blending harmoniously with the superb landscape and charged with sacred meaning, Delphi in the 6th century B.C. was indeed the religious center and symbol of unity of the ancient Greek world. We then travel directly to the center of Athens. free time for the rest of the day. Overnight Athens.

## **Day 6 - January 12: Full-Day Tour in Athens - Areopagus and the Acropolis**

Start our day with worship at a local Orthodox church. Full-day tour of Athens, which gives you an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that comprise Athens. Start with the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896. Pass by the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch, which is not far from the Acropolis and Agora (marketplace). Climb up the Areopagus (Mars Hill), which served as the meeting place for the Areopagus Court, the highest court in Greece, and is the location of one of Paul's most important presentations at the time of his visit to Athens during his second missionary journey (Acts 17:16–

34). It was where he addressed the religious idolatry of the Greeks who even had an altar to the "Unknown God." Visit the ancient Roman agora. On the world-renowned Acropolis visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and, finally, "the harmony

[Call Us](#)

the Metropolitan Cathedral. Traditional Greek Dinner. Overnight Athens.

## **Day 7 - January 13: Corinth**

Depart for a full-day tour to Ancient Corinth, a center of trade for many centuries. Our first stop will be the Isthmus of Corinth where the Peloponnese and central Greece meet, as well as the Aegean and Ionian seas. The canal that crosses it was completed at the end of the 19th century and saves ships the more than 250 miles it takes to go around the Peloponnesian peninsula. We will visit Ancient Corinth with its amazing artifacts, some of which date back to 6000 B.C., and are housed in the museum. The remains of the city, which include the agora (market) and the temple of Apollo (6th century BC) clearly show how rich and important Corinth was in antiquity. The Romans rebuilt the city in 44 B.C. to later make it the provincial capital of Greece. On our way back to Athens, Free time in Athens. Overnight in Athens.

## **Day 8 - January 14: Athens - Izmir**

Depart Athens mid-morning, arriving in Izmir. Visit the archaeological site of ancient Smyrna (one of the seven churches of Revelation). Drive to and overnight in Kusadasi.

## **Day 9 - January 15: Kusadasi - Ephesus**

Visit Ephesus (a major focus of the Apostle Paul and one of the seven churches of Revelation) for an in-depth visit of the archaeological site, including the museum. Visit the Basilica of St. John and the Temple of Artemis / Diana (little remains of either). As time permits, visit the House of the Virgin Mary. Overnight Kusadasi.

## **Day 10 - January 16: Izmir - Istanbul**

Depart Izmir this morning for Istanbul. Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full-day tour with lunch, and visit the Grand Bazaar, then we will visit Suleymaniye Mosque, Pierre Loti Hill, Today's Istanbul honors and preserves the legacy of its past while looking to its modern future. The variety of this city fascinates its visitors, for its museums, churches, palaces, mosques, and bazaars. Meet with a Muslim Professor. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in Istanbul. Overnight Istanbul.

## **Day 11 - January 17: Istanbul**

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, depart from the hotel to visit the ancient city. Visit the Museum of the Ancient Orient then We visit the Blue Mosque, well known for its interior decorations. Next, we visit the Hippodrome from the Byzantine period and then the Aya Sophia church from the 6th century. After lunch, we

will visit the Topkapi Palace, the residence of the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire, famous for its excellent collection of jewelry and porcelain. Free time for the rest of the day! Overnight Istanbul.

[Call Us](#)

Check out and transfer to the airport for our flight back to the USA.

**NOTE:** The schedule is subject to change due to various factors and at your Tour Leaders' and Guide's discretion.

Tour Location

Greece [View on Map](#)

Loading the map...

- [OVERVIEW](#)
- [INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS](#)
- [ITINERARY](#)
- [TOUR LOCATION](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Resources](#)

[Travel Insurance](#)

[Payments](#)

[Host A Tour](#)



---

[Online booking system by Vacation Labs](#)

© 2024 Elias Tours