

CORINTH EXCURSION

PRICE: \$100

(based upon a minimum of 30 participants)



THIS IS A PRE-CRUISE OPTIONAL TOUR ON DECEMBER 2, 2023. This tour follows in the footsteps of Paul, as he lived and preached in Corinth and wrote two letters to the Corinthians. The tour will likely last between 5-6 hours from pick-up to drop-off at the port for boarding. *Requires Athens hotel the night before.*

Our motor coach will pick us up at the Royal Olympic Hotel in Athens and take us along the scenic coastal road that leads to the Corinth Canal and Corinth.

After an hour's drive, we will reach the famous **Isthmus**, one of the most significant and strategic locations in Greece and the Mediterranean, because it connects the mainland of Greece with the Peloponnese Peninsula. The Isthmus is 6.4 km (4 miles) in length and only 24.6 m (80.7 feet) wide at sea level, making it impassable for many modern ships. The **Corinth Canal** is constructed at the narrow point of the Isthmus. This stop offers the opportunity to take photos of truly breathtaking views before continuing to Ancient Corinth.

Next, we will explore one of the most important Christian destinations in Greece with our private tour of the biblical archaeological site of **Ancient Corinth**. Here we will see the **Temple of Apollo**, the **Agora** (Corinth's ancient marketplace) where the Apostle Paul addressed the Corinthians from the podium, and the **Archaeological Museum of Corinth** featuring important findings and impressive sculptures. Ancient Corinth is the heart of the city where the Apostle Paul lived and preached for two years. Here he established a church as well as one in ancient **Kenchreai**, which we will drive by.

Our driver will then take us for a leisurely lunch prior to boarding our cruise.

EXCURSION COST INCLUDES:

- Pick-up at 8:30 am at the Royal Olympic Hotel in Athens
- Excellent English-speaking licensed local tour guide with in-depth knowledge of ancient and modern Greek history
- Comfortable first-class motor coach with professional driver and luggage compartment
- Entrance fees to Ancient Corinth site and museum
- Headphones
- Lunch in Corinth or Athens
- Taxes and tips to guide, driver, and restaurant
- Drop off at Piraeus Port in time for boarding

CORINTH IN THE BIBLE

(GotQuestions.com)

Corinth was significant in the ancient Roman world because of its geography, wealth, and regional influence. In the Bible, Corinth is significant because of its connection with the apostle Paul's missionary work. Corinth was the capital of the Roman province of Achaia and was situated on the Isthmus of Corinth, and about 40 miles west of Athens in Greece. Providing a natural refuge for the city was the Acrocorinthus, a large monolithic rock rising about 1,800 feet above the surrounding plain. Corinth had a large population of both Jewish and Gentile residents.

Paul spent about eighteen months in Corinth during his [second missionary journey](#) ([Acts 18](#)). Both Jews and Gentiles believed Paul's message about Jesus, and these new believers became the [Corinthian church](#). The New Testament epistles of 1 and 2 Corinthians are letters Paul later wrote to these believers. Notably, Corinth is also the place where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, fellow tentmakers who became ministry coworkers ([Acts 18:2](#), [18–19](#), [24–28](#)).

Paul first traveled to Corinth after spending time preaching in Athens (see [Acts 17:16–18:1](#)). Upon arriving in Corinth, Paul met [Aquila and Priscilla](#), who were tentmakers like the apostle, so Paul lived and worked with them ([Acts 18:2–3](#)). As was his custom, Paul reasoned in the Jewish synagogue every Sabbath, sharing the truth about Jesus, for as long as the Jews and God-following Gentiles there would endure it ([Acts 18:4–5](#)). When opposition and abuse arose, Paul took the message of the gospel more directly to the Gentiles ([Acts 18:6](#)). Utilizing the house of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue, Paul continued to share the message of the gospel. Many Corinthians placed their faith in Christ, including the synagogue ruler and his family ([Acts 18:7–8](#)).

In Corinth the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, telling him not to fear but to keep speaking. God promised, "For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city" ([Acts 18:10](#)). Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching the word of God and successfully establishing a group of believers there. Paul returned to visit the Corinthians at least twice ([2 Corinthians 13:1](#)). He also wrote them several letters to address problems in the church. Two of those letters are in our Bibles today, known as 1 and 2 Corinthians. Paul addressed

issues including division in the church, immorality in the church, freedom concerning foods, spiritual gifts, and more. Paul also defended his ministry in Corinth and his calling as an apostle because false teachers were leading the Corinthians astray.

First Corinthians addresses several issues of sexuality. There was a large following of the cult of Aphrodite among the Gentiles in Corinth—her temple was atop the Acrocorinthus, and her worship involved temple prostitution. In fact, the city had so many prostitutes that well-known Greeks, including Plato, openly referred to prostitutes as “Corinthians.” Although many natives of Corinth placed faith in Jesus, many were still influenced by their immoral surroundings, which promoted sexual immorality. In 1 Corinthians, Paul mentions the problem of sexual sin in the Corinthian church ([1 Corinthians 5:1–2](#)). God ultimately used this problem to bring about Paul’s inspired writing on sexual purity, marriage, and singleness ([1 Corinthians 6–7](#)).

Corinth was home to many people with diverse backgrounds, a characteristic reflected in the Corinthian church that contributed to some division and confusion. Previously legalistic Jews needed to hear about the freedom of the New Covenant in Christ; previously pagan Gentiles needed to be reminded that the gospel is not a license to sin. Both groups needed to learn to love the other and live at peace. Paul famously explains what true love is in [1 Corinthians 13](#). In our fractious world, this message of self-sacrificial love based in the person and work of Jesus Christ is equally important.

Paul gave the Corinthians a list of sinful behaviors that characterize those who will not enter God’s kingdom, then he declared, “And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” ([1 Corinthians 6:11](#)). God changes lives! In fact, “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” ([2 Corinthians 5:17–18](#)).

Paul was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. Zeus, for whom a temple was built, was the sky and thunder god in ancient Greek religion, who rules as king of the gods on Mount Olympus. Begun in the 6th century BC, this temple was finally completed during Hadrian’s reign in the 2nd century AD. Today 15 of the original columns are still standing.