



St. Paul Footsteps in Greece May 2019

A Journey through History, Geography, &
Traditions

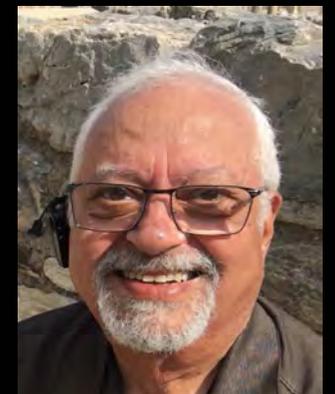
Mike Azer, Ph.D. with contribution from Mr. Jacob Salama and
Mr. George E. Habib
St. Mina Church, Holmdel, NJ

PROLOGUE



In a tour like this one it is difficult to pick the first photo as introduction for the picture book based on the most important site. This is why I decided to pick a photo for the whole group, this turned out to be equally difficult because most of the time all the group members were so absorbed by the sites and few paid attention to the calls for group photo. So, I picked a photo that has as many members as possible which turned out to be this one at the house of Virgin Mary in Ephesus, taken on May 18, 2019 at 2 PM. I hope I have captured the highlights of this tour to admit them to our remembrance, and who knows, may be also to plan for more tours in this beautiful country.

Note: GEH denotes photos by Mr. George Emil Habib, JS denotes Mr. Jacob Salama, AE denotes Mr. Adel Ebeid, & ME denotes Mr. Mina Ebeid.



ON THE WAY TO HYDRA ISLAND, FIRST STOP IN ONE-DAY CRUISE



Me and my dear lady



Me, Jacob, and our ladies



George and me



Me, Safaa, Samia, and William



Ragaa, Jacob, Amira, and Mona



Edward and his mother Tereza

HYDRA



Annamaroy Perna of Hydraiki Cruises toured us the Saronic Islands: Poros, Hydra, & Aegina



"Zorpa the Greek" is very popular almost National



Hydra impenetrable historical artillery



The only available "living" transportation (JS)



James Bond tree and hotel

HYDRA: VIRGIN MARY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



Athens from the Cruise



Mountains everywhere witnessing for Noah flood sediments.
Approaching Poros



Looks like one of the ancient warships moved by multitude of slaves using oars leftover from Alexander's armada.



Cruise tracks in the water



Hydra Island (GEH)

HYDRA: VIRGIN MARY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY



Virgin Mary Assumption



Patriarchs' crowns



The first mechanical clock installed in the clock tower



James Bond tree



The Hotel where James Bond stayed during "for your eyes"

POROS & AEGINA ISLAND - APLEE TEMPLE



Arrived to Poros Island



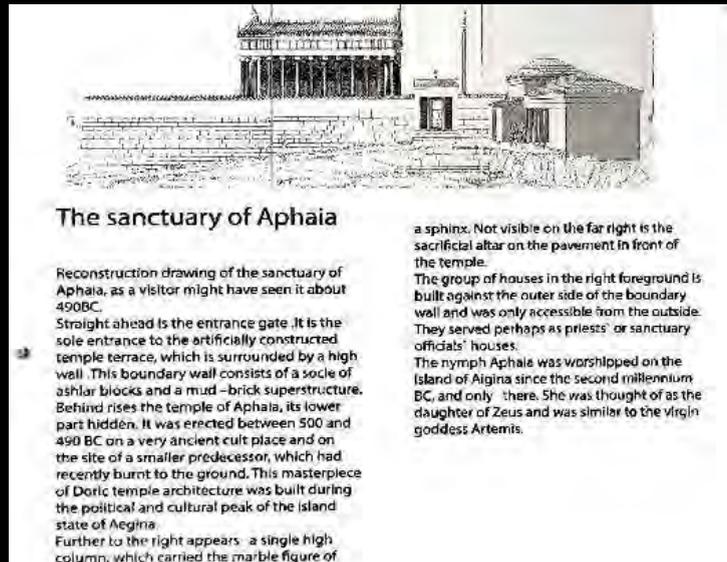
Some Islands have as many Churches as the number of its families



Poros from Annamaroy Perna of Hydraiki Cruises



Best kept Greek temple, Aplee (Aphaia), Aegina Island



Reconstruction project



Ragaa, George, and Me

AEGINA ISLAND: ST. NECTARIOS CHURCH



Saint Nectarios Monastery



Inside the Church of Saint Nectarios



ATHENS



My dear lady interviews one of the leftover Centoriums



Inventory Photo before ascending to the Parthenon atop the Acropolis



ATHENS - ACROPOLIS, AGORA, & THE PARTHENON



The Parthenon, the pinnacle of the Acropolis of Athens, part of the Agora where St. Paul preached



The Roman Theater, part of Athens Agora





THE ROMAN THEATER IN THE ACROPOLIS IN ATHENS AGORA
WHERE ST. PAUL
PREACHED THE GOSPEL (ME)



George & Me



Karima, Eva, Adel, & Mina (ME)

ATHENS - ACROPOLIS, AGORA, & THE PARTHENON



On the way down



Erechtheion Temple (dedicated to Athena and Poseidon)



CORINTH: CANAL, TEMPLE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, & AGORA



Canal looking towards the Mediterranean Sea



A 2000 years dream fulfilled in October 28, 1893; 24 years after the Swiss Canal



Corinth Canal looking towards the Aegean Sea



Corinth Canal Monument



Nice lunch break



Doric Temple

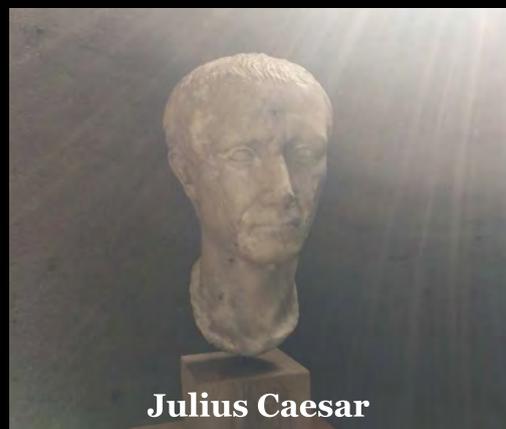


In Corinth Museum (the headless)



Toys

CORINTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



Julius Caesar



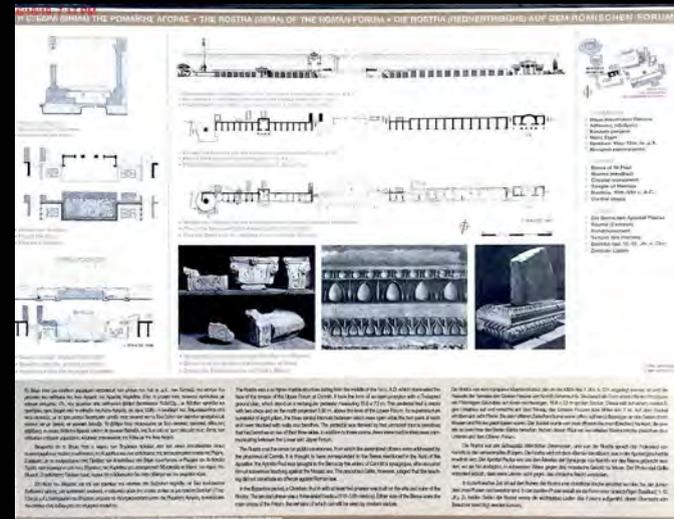
Octavios

Gaius
(Julius)
Caesar



Nero

CORINTH DORIC TEMPLE



Church Archaia

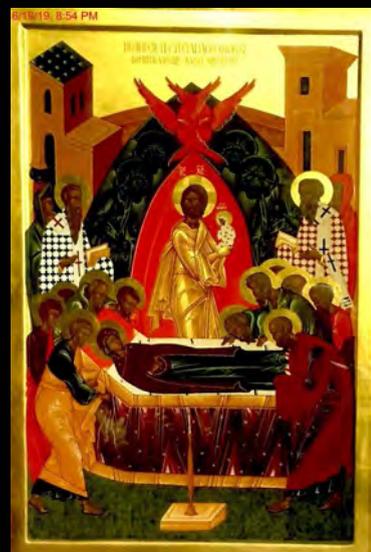
CELESTIAL MAJESTY CRUISE: MYCONOS



KUSADASI, EPHESUS: VIRGIN MARY HOUSE



TEREZA & EDDIE TAKING A SIP FROM THE SPRING ONCE THE VIRGIN MARY DRANK FROM



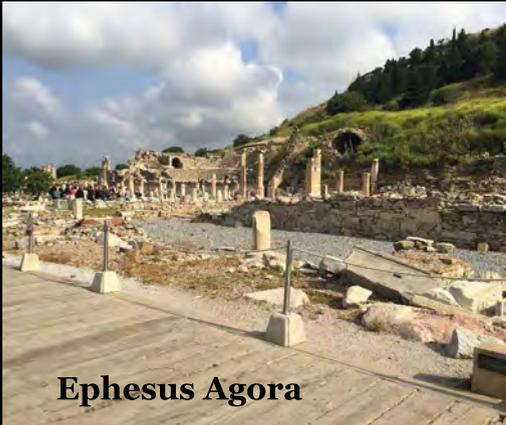
EPHESUS: VIRGIN MARY HOUSE



MONA TAKES A SIP FROM A SPRING VIRGIN MARY USED



EPHESUS AGORA



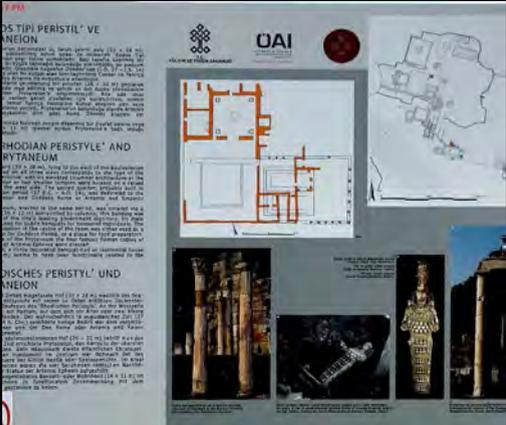
Ephesus Agora



Highway through Agora



Roman Theater



(ME)

EPHESUS AGORA & LIBRARY

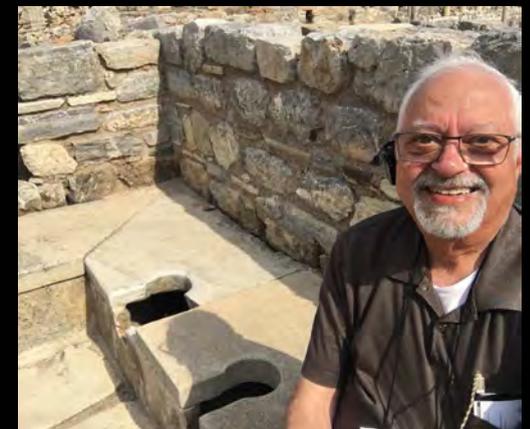


Public latrine

LATRINA (TUVALET)
 Bu yapı, aynı zamanda suya ulaşım için kullanılan bir yapıdır. Bu yapı, suyun akmasını sağlar ve suyun akmasını sağlar. Bu yapı, suyun akmasını sağlar ve suyun akmasını sağlar.

THE LATRINE
 The public latrine could be reached from the Agora. The latrine was built on a hillside and was used by the citizens of Ephesus. The latrine was built on a hillside and was used by the citizens of Ephesus.

IE LATRINE
 In der überdeckten Akademiestraße sind die öffentlichen Latrinen. Die zugängliche Gemeinschaftslatrine ist über die Akademiestraße zu erreichen. Die Latrine ist ein dreigeschichtiges Gebäude, das aus drei Stockwerken besteht. Die Latrine wurde vom Episkopal-Museum restauriert.

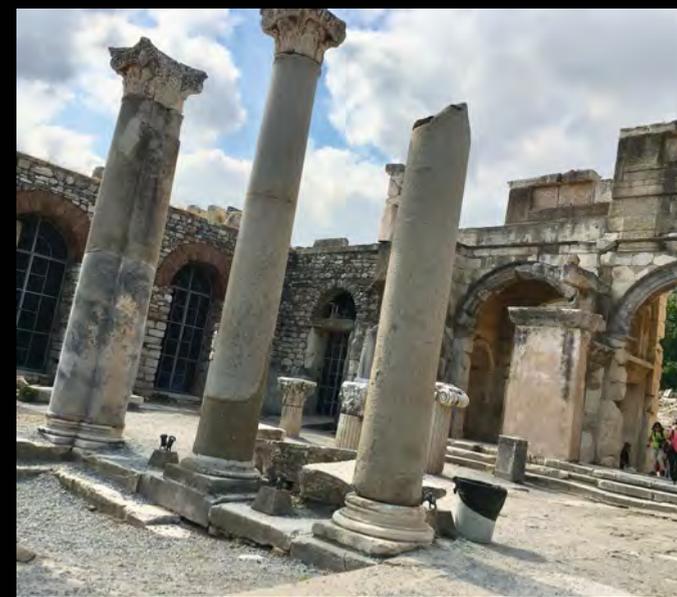


Ephesus Library, third after Alexandria & Pergamon, built in honor of Roman Senator Celsus by his son circa 116 AD



EPHESUS LIBRARY

EPHESUS AGORA & LIBRARY



TETRAGONOS AGORA - THE COMMERCIAL MARKET
 The Commercial Market was already founded in the 4th century B.C. Its walls have gone back to an expansion under Augustus (27 B.C. - A.D. 14) when a square courtyard (side length 124 m) with three gates in the north, west and south (a central covered walkway 124 m) enclosed on all sides by two-story, two-story high walls with a central courtyard. At the east, the 'Marble Street' is located. One building was built in the upper stories of the Agora during Emperor Nero's reign (A.D. 54-68); this probably succeeded in a great part. After a devastating earthquake at the end of the 4th century A.D., a completely new reconstruction took place at all the main structural elements of the Agora, using architectural pieces from the Roman Empire. In the 19th century A.D., the market hall received its present-day appearance. In the 19th century, the market hall received its present-day appearance. In the 19th century, the market hall received its present-day appearance.

DIE TETRAGONOS AGORA - DER HANDELSMARKT
 Der Handelsmarkt wurde bereits im 4. Jahrhundert v. Chr. gegründet. Die sichtbare Form geht auf eine Erweiterung unter Augustus (27 v. Chr. - 14 n. Chr.) zurück, die einen quadratischen Innenhof (124 m Seitenlänge) mit drei Eingängen im Norden, Westen und Süden umschloss. In der Mitte befand sich ein zentraler überdachter Gang (124 m). Im Osten lag die 'Marmorstraße'. Ein Gebäude wurde im oberen Stockwerk der Agora während der Herrschaft von Nero (n. Chr.) erbaut. Dies war wahrscheinlich ein großer Erfolg. Nach einer verheerenden Erdbebenkatastrophe wurde im 5. Jahrhundert n. Chr. ein vollständiges Neuaufbau an den Hauptstrukturelementen der Agora durchgeführt. Im 19. Jahrhundert erhielt der Markt seinen heutigen Aussehen. Im 19. Jahrhundert erhielt der Markt seinen heutigen Aussehen.



PATMOS ISLAND: REVELATION CAVE



PATMOS: REVELATION CAVE



Three finger tips in the cave ceiling



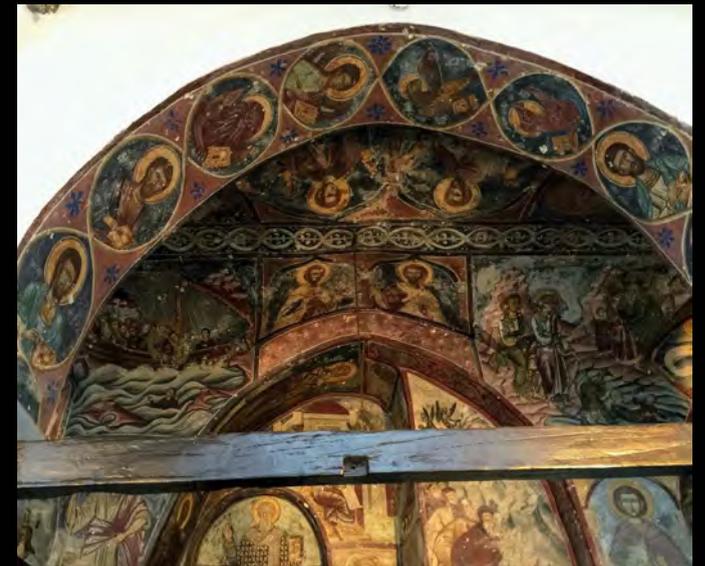
St. John headrest place (JS)



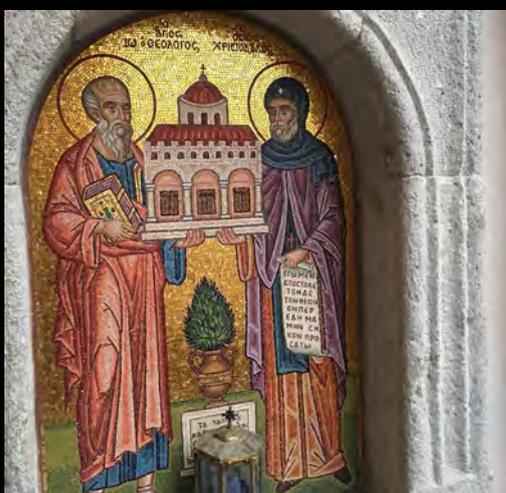
A notch in the cave wall St. John leaned on it to lay down or stand up



PATMOS: ST. JOHN MONASTERY



PATMOS: ST. JOHN MONASTERY



(GEH)

St. John Monastery (ME)

CRETE ISLAND: MNOAN KONOSSOS PALACE



ΔΥΤΙΚΗ ΑΥΛΗ ΔΥΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΗ

Η αυλή καταλάμβανε περίπου το 1/3 της έκτασης του παλατιού, ενώ η Δυτική Προσώπη αποτελούσε τον κεντρικό χώρο εισόδου του παλατιού. Η Δυτική Προσώπη αποτελείται από δύο τμήματα, την Δυτική Προσώπη και την Ανατολική Προσώπη. Η Δυτική Προσώπη αποτελείται από δύο τμήματα, την Δυτική Προσώπη και την Ανατολική Προσώπη. Η Δυτική Προσώπη αποτελείται από δύο τμήματα, την Δυτική Προσώπη και την Ανατολική Προσώπη.

WEST COURT, WEST FACADE

The court is covered by the so-called 'Processional Colonnade', which dates back from the rest of the palace and extends each side. One level is distinguished by the so-called 'Processional Colonnade', which dates back from the rest of the palace and extends each side. One level is distinguished by the so-called 'Processional Colonnade', which dates back from the rest of the palace and extends each side.



ΝΟΤΙΑ ΠΡΟΠΥΛΑΙΑ

Τα Νότια Προπύλαια όπως τα βλέπουμε σήμερα είναι αποτέλεσμα της αποκατάστασης του Α. Έβανς, ο οποίος αποθέσπει εδώ το γλυπτό του «Κατασκευαστή» (Fig. 1). Η τοιχογραφία απεικονίζει έναν άνδρα που κρατάει ένα σκεύος για σπονδή (ιστό). Ο σκεύος συνδέεται με την τοιχογραφία της «Πρόσευσης» που κατα τον Έβανς καταλάμβανε εδώ, στα Νότια Προπύλαια.

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'SOUTH PROPYLEAUM'

The 'South Propyleum', as we see it today, is a result of the restoration of Evans who put up a copy of the 'Cup-Bearer' fresco here (Fig. 1). The wall painting depicted a man holding a libation vase (ityron). Its theme is connected with the 'Procession Fresco' which, according to Evans, reached here, the 'South Propyleum'.



ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΠΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΝΟΑΝ ΠΑΛΑΤΙΟΥ ΣΤΗΝ ΤΗΝ ΤΑ ΤΗ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΞΟΔΟ

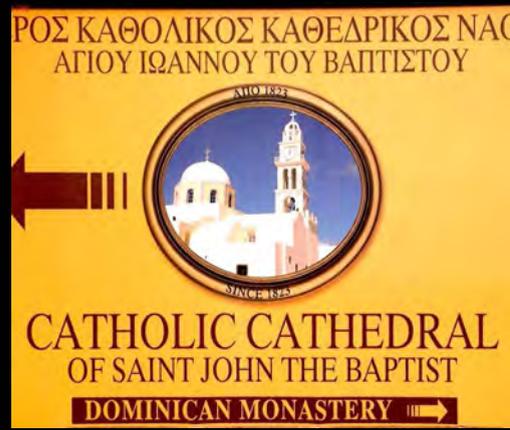
PLAN OF KNOSSOS

RECOMMENDED ROUTE FROM THE 'HALL OF THE DOUBLE AXES' TO THE 'QUEEN'S MEGARON' TO THE EXIT

1. Queen's Megaron	2. Hall of the Double Axes
3. Lapidary's Workshop and 'School room'	4. East Entrance
5. 'Magazine of the Giant Pitfall'	6. 'Corridor of the Draught board'
7. 'Customs House'	8. 'Theatre'



SANTORINI ISLAND: THIRA



SANTORINI: THIRA THEN HEADING TO KALAMBAKA



Like all Greece islands, Santorini is solid evidence of world-wide flood which covered the highest pre-flood mountains. Flood sediments formed these mountains with their distinctive layers.



METEORA-KALAMBAKA: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST MONASTERY



METEORA-KALAMBAKA: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST MONASTERY



FROM SKETES TO MONASTERIES

During the middle of the 14th century monks from the Holy Mountain arrived in the area, fleeing the Ottoman raids on Athos. Among others, Athanasios (later Osios Athanasios the Meteorite), who founded in ca 1340 a monastery, known today as the monastery of the Transfiguration of Christ or Great Meteoron. He introduced in the region the essence of cenobitic monasticism. Moreover, he called "Meteoron" the broad rock upon which he founded the monastery, a placename that would prevail for the entire cluster of rocks. Gradually, most of the rocks became inhabited. There are 24 monasteries mentioned in the 16th century. Nowadays 6 monasteries survive, while in the surrounding area the remains of numerous abandoned and deteriorating monasteries, sketes and hermits living quarters are still visible.

Forms of monastic life

Cenobitic monasticism: Monks share meals in a common refectory, are not allowed to own any money and obey an Abbot.
Idiorhythmic monasticism: Monks have the right to own property, have private meals prepared by themselves and are not subject to an abbot.



METEORA-KALAMBAKA: ST. STEPHEN MONASTERY



HOLY MONASTERY OF ST. STEPHAN - HOLY METEORA

ΧΕΙΜΕΡΙΝΟ ΩΡΑΡΙΟ: 9.30 π.μ. - 1.00 μ.μ. & 3.00 μ.μ. - 5.00 μ.μ.
 ΘΕΡΙΝΟ ΩΡΑΡΙΟ: 9.00 π.μ. - 1.20 μ.μ. & 3.30 μ.μ. - 5.30 μ.μ.

Η ΙΕΡΑ ΜΟΝΗ ΚΑΘΕ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ ΠΑΡΑΜΕΝΕΙ ΚΛΕΙΣΤΗ
 ΚΑΙ ΚΑΘΕ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΑΝΟΙΓΕΙ 9.30 π.μ.

ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥΜΕ ΝΑ ΕΙΣΕΡΧΕΣΘΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΙΕΡΑ ΜΟΝΗ ΜΕ ΕΥΠΡΕΠΗ ΕΝΔΥΜΑΣΙΑ
 ΚΑΙ ΣΕΒΑΣΜΟ ΣΤΗΝ ΙΕΡΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΜΕΤΕΩΡΗΤΙΚΟΥ ΧΩΡΟΥ.

WINTER VISITING HOURS: 9:30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
 SUMMER VISITING HOURS: 9:00 a.m. - 1.20 p.m. & 3.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

THE HOLY MONASTERY IS CLOSED EVERY MONDAY
 AND EVERY SUNDAY OPENS AT 9.30 a.m.

PLEASE SHOW RESPECT FOR THE HOLY METEORA AND ENTER THE HOLY MONASTERY
 DRESSED ACCORDINGLY.

СВЯТОЙ МОНАСТЫРЬ КАЖДЫЙ ПОНЕДЕЛЬНИК ЗАКРЫТ
 И КАЖДОЕ ВОСКРЕСЕНЬЕ ОТКРЫВАЕТСЯ С 9.30 УТРА.
 ПРОСИМ ПОСЕТИТЬ МОНАСТЫРЬ В ПРИЛИЧНОЙ ОДЕЖДЕ И УВАЖЕНИЕМ
 К СВЯЩЕННОСТИ СВЯТОМЕТЕОРСКОГО МЕСТА.



METEORA-KALAMBAKA: ST. STEPHEN MONASTERY



Ώρες λειτουργίας Ἱερᾶς Μονῆς
Visiting hours of the Holy Monastery

Χειμερινή περίοδος - Winter time:
9.30 π.μ.-1.00 μ.μ. & 3.00 μ.μ.-5.00 μ.μ.
Θερινή περίοδος - Summer time:
9.00 π.μ.-1.30 μ.μ. & 3.30 μ.μ.-5.30 μ.μ.

Ἡ Ἱερά Μονή κάθε Δευτέρα παραμένει κλειστή
καὶ κάθε Κυριακή ἀνοίγει 9.30 π.μ.
The Holy Monastery is closed every Monday.
On Sundays it opens at 9.30 a.m.



FILIPPI - ST. LYDIA CHURCH



Thessaloniki on the way to Filippi



Got to go under these sediments always

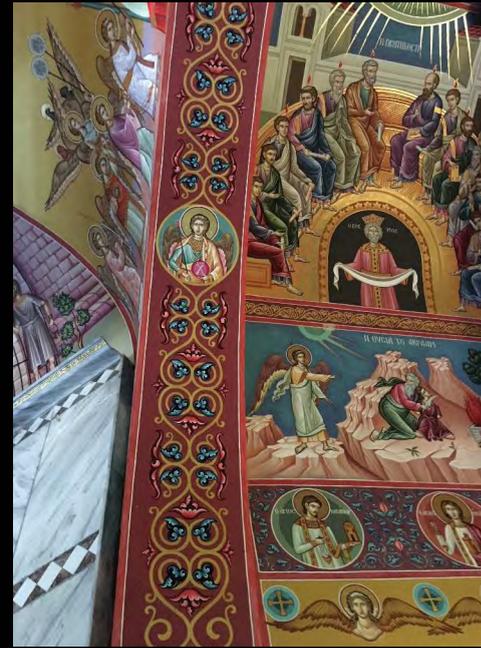


St. Lydia Church by the river Zygakti where she was baptized



Scenes from St. Lydia Church in Filippi by the River Zygakti where it is believed she was baptized by St. Paul

FILIPPI - LYDIA - AGORA - ROMAN THEATER



"14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshiped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." Acts 16:14-15



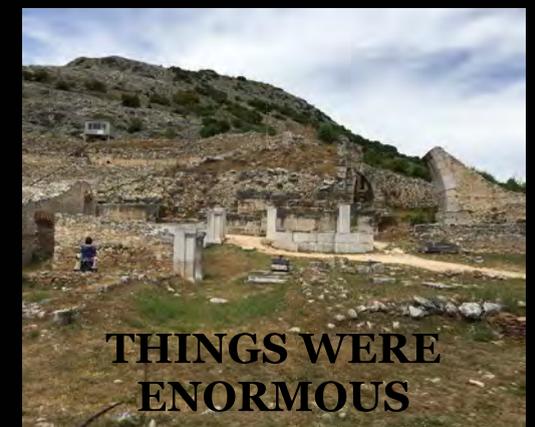
FILIPPI AND ST. PAUL PRISON



Roman Theater



Private latrine?



THINGS WERE ENORMOUS

KAVALA



“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.” Acts 16:9



Mohammed Ali vacation residence and statue From Google



With my cousin and his lady after more than half a century



US THERE REVIEW



Me and my lady Isis on the Annamaroy Perna of Hydraiki Cruises in the Aegean Sea



Jacob and his lady Mona on the Annamaroy Perna of Hydraiki Cruises in the Aegean Sea



George with the Ephesus Library in the background



Mina, Mariam, Karima, and Eva in Myconos (AE)

US



Eddie, Tereza, & Eva as just getting out of Athens Acropolis



Me, Safaa, Samia, and William left to right on the boat



George, Mina, Jacob, Eddie, Me, Mona, Ragaa, & Evoun at the Parthenon



Eddie and his mother Teresa, we almost missed the cruise because they thought the wake up call was prank call :)

US



George and Me at the Parthenon



US IN PHILIPPI



Jacob, Xenia, Mona, Safaa, Mariam, Ragaa, Tereza, Me, Adel, Karima, Eva



Isis and Karema on the Cruise



Mariam, Isis, Mofeda, Adel, Karima, Eva, Mina, Me, Nahid in Mykonos



Mofeda and Nahid in Kosadasi



PIRAEUS, SEDIMENTARY MOUNTAIN LEFT BY NOAH FLOOD



HYDRA ISLAND



APHAIA (APLEE) TEMPLE IN AEGINA ISLAND (BEST KEPT TEMPLE)



ST. NECTARIOS CHURCH - AEGINA ISLAND



THE REAR END OF BOTH
ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND
BUCEPHALUS HIS FAVORITE HORSE



MY LADY & ONE OF LEFTOVER
CENTURIUMS



THE PARTHENON ATOP ATHENS ACROPOLIS



RAGAA, EVOUN, MONA, JACOB, GEORGE & ME AT THE PARTHENON



**ERECHTHEION TEMPLE (DEDICATED TO ATHENA & POSEIDON), ATHENS
ACROPOLIS**



**DORIC TEMPLE IN CORINTH AGORA WHERE ST. PAUL MUST HAVE
PREACHED**



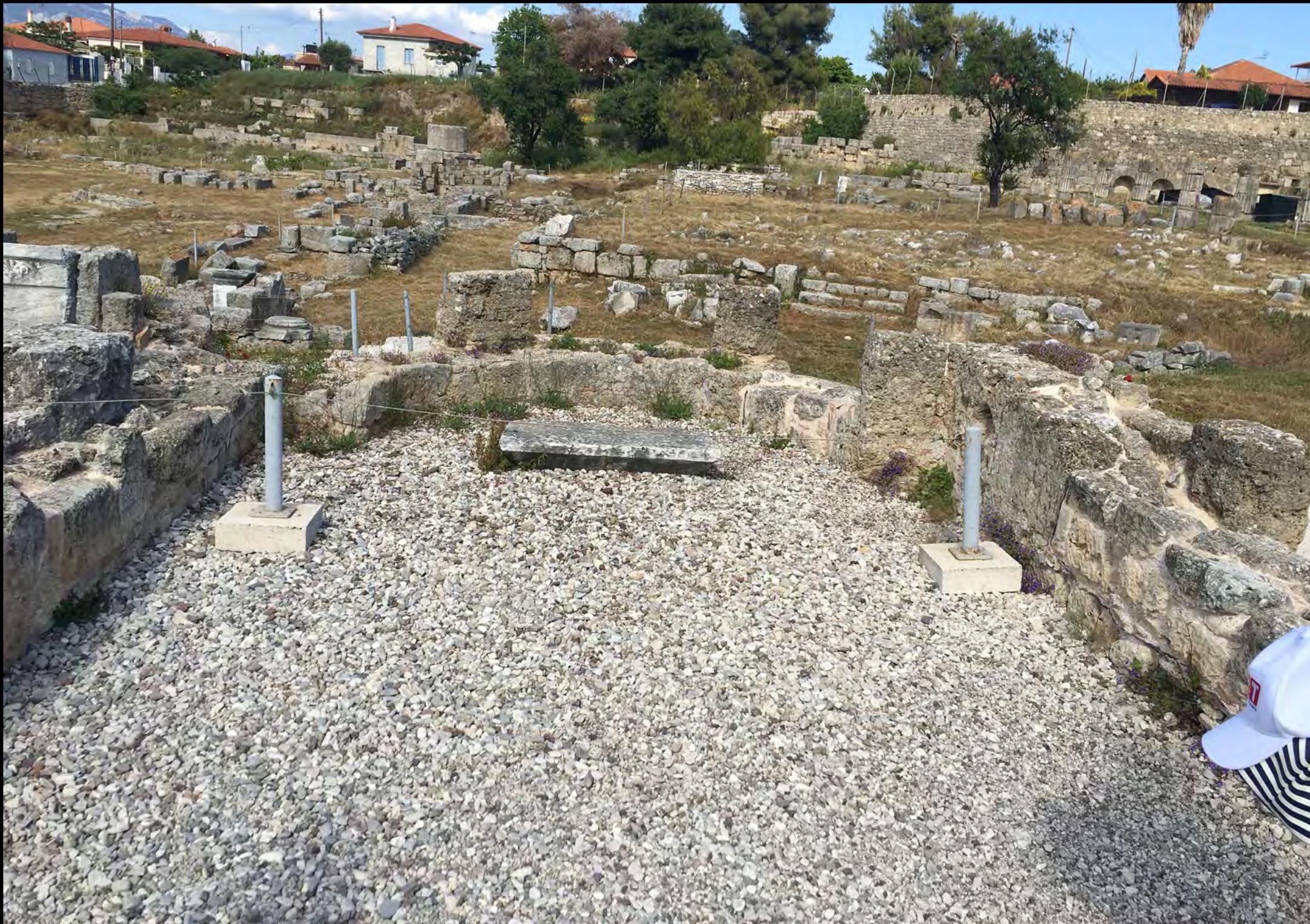
VIRGIN MARY HOUSE IN EPHEBUS



ME & GEORGE AT VIRGIN MARY'S SPRING (JS)



HEADLESS STATUES IN CORINTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM COULD BE MASS PRODUCED TO ADD LATER AT REQUEST CUSTOMIZED CUSTOMERS' HEAD AT LOWER COST



ARCH OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH ALTAR, CORINTH AGORA

US & EPHESUS
LIBRARY, THE THIRD
AFTER ALEXANDRIA &
PERGAMON, BUILT IN
HONOR OF THE
ROMAN SENATOR
CELSUS BY HIS SON
CIRCA 116 AD



(GEH)





ST. JOHN MONASTERY IN PATMOS ISLAND



THE CAVE WHERE ST. JOHN SAW THE REVELATION. THE CEILING RESEMBLES 3 FINGER TIPS PUT TOGETHER LIKEWISE WE DO WHEN WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS (JS)



ST. JOHN HEADREST LOCATION



ST. JOHN SUPPORT NOTCH



ALTAR INSIDE THE CAVE





**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THIRA, SANTORINI
BUILT 1823 AND REBUILT 1970 AFTER 1956 EARTHQUAKE**



LEAVING SANTORINI AND ITS MAJESTIC SEDIMENTARY AND VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS



SANTORINI: THIS MOUNTAIN, LIKE MOST, IS SEDIMENTARY; SHOWING HOW HIGH WAS NOAH FLOOD ABOVE THE CURRENT SEA LEVEL



The room service innovation (GEH)



Another one :)



(GEH)





KALAMBAKA DOWNTOWN (GEH)



ONE OF THE METEORA MAJESTIC FORMATIONS WITH MAJESTIC US



MONASTERY OF GREAT METEORON TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS



METEORA TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY



THE ROAD TO THE HOLY TRINITY (AGIA TRIADA) MONASTERY



ON THE WAY TO THE MONASTERY



IN KALAMBAKA AMAZING FORMATIONS LEFTOVER FROM NOAH FLOOD



THE HOLY TRINITY (AGIA TRIADA) MONASTERY



ST. STEPHEN MONASTERY

FYI: ALL METEORA MONASTERIES FROM
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteora>



MONASTERY OF GREAT
METEORON TRANSFIGURATION
OF JESUS



Monastery of Rousanou-St.
Barbara



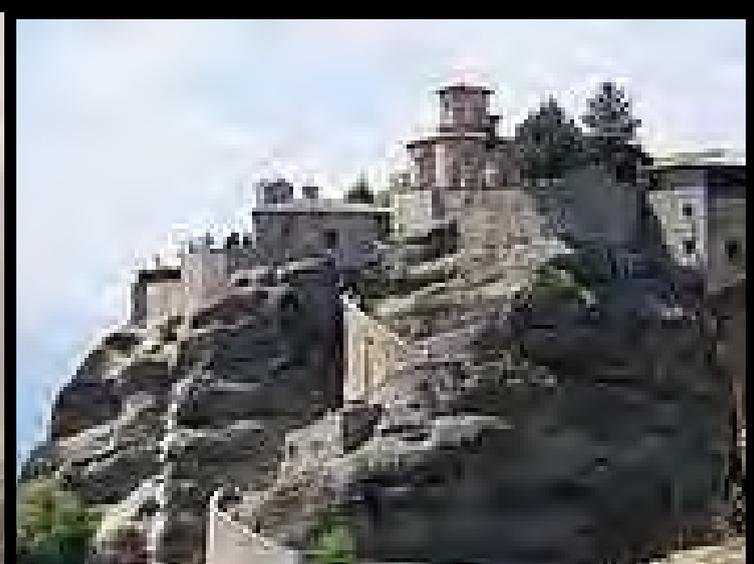
Monastery of St Nicholas
Anapausas



Monastery of St. Stephen



Monastery of the Holy Trinity



Monastery of Varlaam



ST. LYDIA (FIRST EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN) CHURCH IN PHILIPPI



IN ST. LYDIA CHURCH IN PHILIPPI



RIVER ZYGAKI WHERE ST. PAUL BAPTIZED LYDIA



PHILIPPI PRISON WHERE ST. PAUL AND SYLA WERE SINGING

"25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.
26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." Acts 16:25-34



THE PLACE IN KAVALA WHERE ST. PAUL DREAMED “A MACEDONIAN STOOD ON FAR SHORE AND CALLED ACROSS THE SEA, “COME OVER AND HELP US”” "Acts 16: 25-26



THE OLD TOWN IN KAVALA, OBSERVE THE BYZANTINE FORTRESS IN THE BACKGROUND ABOVE THE HILL. THE ORIGINAL NAME OF THIS CITY WAS CHRISTOPOLIS MEANING CHRIST CITY (GEH)



GEORGE WITH ST. NECTARIOS CHURCH - AEGINA ISLAND (GEH)



BEAUTY ON THE ROAD IN PATMOS: "...TO GIVE THEM BEAUTY FOR ASHES"
ISIAH 61:3



ME & MY DEAR LADY AND A
ROMAN CENTURIUM IN ATHENS

MY LADY WITH A ROMAN DONKEY IN
SANTORINI



MY DEAR ISIS WITH NATIVE GREEKS AND IN ST. LYDIA CHURCH



ISIS & MONA



MONNA, ISIS, ME, & JACOB IN PATMOS ISLAND



GEORGE, JACOB, & ME ON THE AEGEAN SEA



MONA AND HER DEAR JACOB WITH THE PARTHENON



JACOB AND HIS DEAR LADY MONA (JS)



GEORGE IN KALAMBAKA DOWNTOWN (GEH)



ME AND MY LADY
IN METEORA





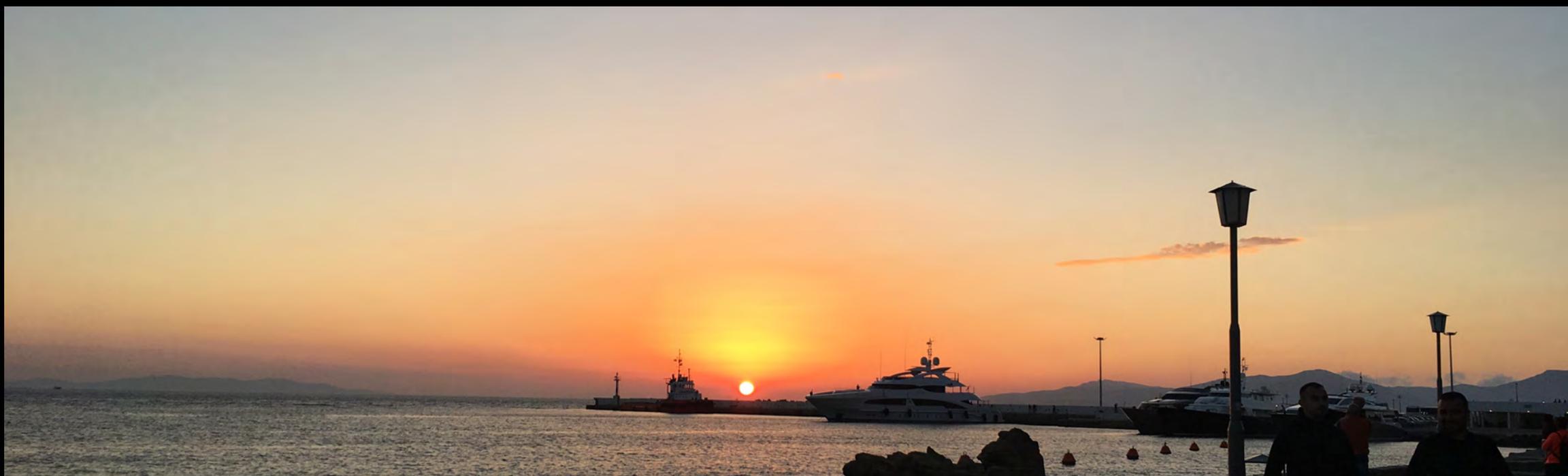
ME, XENIA (THE A+ TOUR GUIDE), & MY DEAR LADY ISIS



US IN FRONT OF ST. PAUL DREAM PAINTING IN KAVALA



SUNSET IN MYKONOS ISLAND



To learn about St. Paul missionary journeys you need to read the Holy Bible, specifically the Book of Acts. To read the Book of Acts then tour the footsteps of St. Paul suddenly you are overwhelmed by the feeling that you are reading about real people, in real places, in real times. We are very happy to have this tour organized by an excellent travel bureau TPT Mr. Philippi Ghabbour guided by outstanding tour guide Ms. Xenia Biri.