

St. Olaf Study Travel

Go behind the seen

Itinerary

In the Footsteps of Philip, Alexander the Great, St. Paul and Beyond: Three Balkan Countries

Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Bulgaria

June 11–26, 2010

Friday, June 11 **Depart United States**

Group flight departs Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Saturday, June 12

Arrive Athens (D)

On arrival in Athens, we are met by our national guide, who will stay with us for the duration of the program. Transfer in private coach to either the hotel to freshen up or directly to the new Acropolis Museum for a guided visit. Group lunch. Check in at the hotel. Free time. Group dinner. Overnight at Herodion Hotel.

Sunday, June 13

Athens — Thessaloniki (D)

Early morning flight to Thessaloniki. Transfer in private coach directly to Pella to visit the remains of the ancient capital city of Alexander the Great and the museum with its unique pavement mosaics. Return to Thessaloniki.

Monday, June 14 **Thessaloniki/Day Excursion (B, D)**

Day Excursion to Vergina to visit the Royal Tomb of King Philip II and the museum. Continue to Verroia to visit the monument of St. Paul, who preached here. Lunch on your own here or in Edessa, famous for its waterfalls. Afternoon return to Thessaloniki. Group dinner and overnight in hotel Mediterranean Palace or similar.

Tuesday, June 15 **Thessaloniki – Ohrid (B, D)**

Drive to Ohrid, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Ohrid is a charm-filled old town with red-roofed houses, sidewalk cafés, and rustic fish restaurants surrounding the world's second deepest lake after Lake Baikal in Russia. Ohrid is acclaimed as one of the true beauty spots in all of Europe, and UNESCO has declared it a World Heritage Site. (Descriptions from frommers.com)

Walking tour of Ohrid. Lunch on your own. Group dinner and overnight in first class hotel Millennium or Donco.

Wednesday, June 16 **Ohrid (B, D)**

Guided tour of the monument of St. Cyril and Methodius, Upper and Lower Gates, city museum, churches of St. Sofia, Virgin Mary and St. Clement, the ancient theater, Perivleptos ("Mother of God the Most Glorious," a completely preserved medieval monument), Samoils fortress, and Ohrid's marketplace. Lunch on your own and some free time. Group dinner and overnight in Ohrid.

Thursday, June 17 **Ohrid (B, D)**

Visit the church and beautifully renovated monastery of St. Naum. The original church and monastery were built in 900 by St. Naum, a pilgrim, buried in 910 in a small beautifully frescoed chapel. Continue to Bitola for lunch (pay on your own), and then visit ancient Heraclea, famous for its dazzling mosaics, ancient theater and Roman baths, and perhaps the most vividly preserved city from ancient times

