

Cruise to Greece with Family

June-July 2021

We met in Athens at a hotel near the airport and the next day transferred to the cruise port to board our ship, The Celebrity Apex.



This brand-new ship is now on its second voyage. It is beautiful and they heard my requests from the past: enough room in the shower that I can turn around, three outlets as well as USB ports in a central box on the desk. They spared no expense in making this a truly remarkable vessel.

Our first stop was to the island of Rhodes, which in Greek means Roses. Here is where the giant colossus was reported to have stood with one foot on each side of the bay. In fact, I understand that it was too big to get it to stand upright.



We also visited a potter who was making these vases on his wheel.



The acropolis, meaning “high city”, acro like acrobat and polis like police or politics. 400 BC



We took a burro ride up the mountain and visited this glorious temple.



Our last stop was this medieval city surrounded by moats and drawbridges where the streets became narrower to slow down an army and zig zagged to prevent artillery from a straight shot. We had a very tasty Greek lunch in the town.

The next day was Santorini, a beautiful island with black beaches and clear, blue water. We were treated to beach couches.



The town has these characteristic white houses.



We celebrated our granddaughter's 15th birthday on board with a big celebration provided by the crew.



Upon our return to Athens, we went on a private tour of the antiquities. Our first stop was the Acropolis.



Next the Temple of Zeus remains with 13 columns, some being restored.



We stopped to visit the Olympic stadium that was established for the first “modern” Olympics. The Olympics were canceled between 400 and 1890 as the events for the gods were inconsistent with Christian precepts.



The Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are guarded by this select military brigade.



We took a group photo from the hill at the top of the city. You can see the Acropolis on the hill across the city but what is so impressive is how large the city of Athens is.





On Sunday we tried a Greek experience, the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox church. This little church was just a few blocks from our hotel. The service was sung by two men while the priest handled the elements.

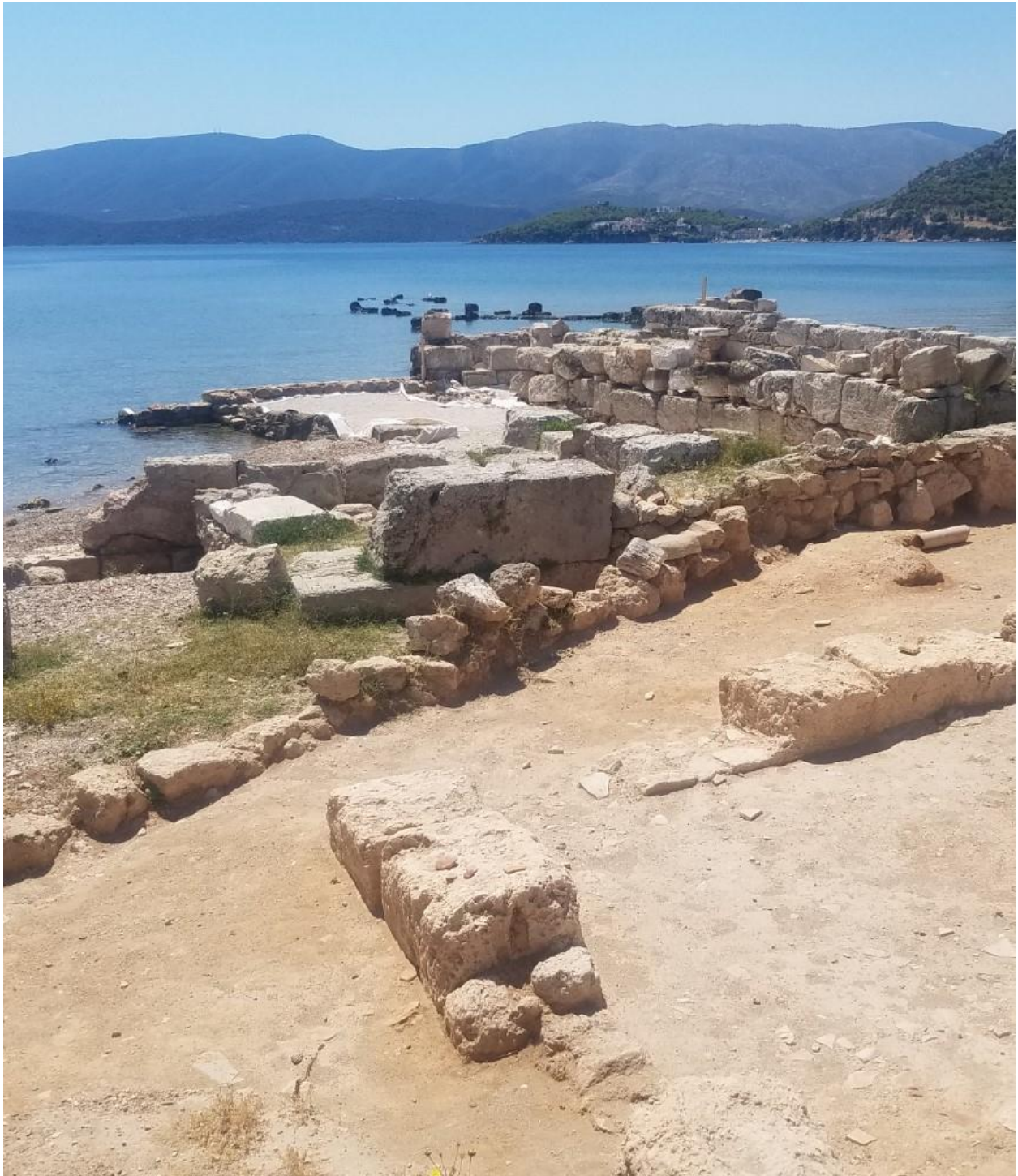


Our next stop was Corinth, the city where Paul preached. We visited the square where he may have preached, there is a church commemorating his visit and Ancient Corinth has a temple to Apollo which is very well preserved.

The Corinthian canal joins the Ionian Sea to the Aegean Sea via their gulfs.



The Port where Paul may have landed has town ruins.





In the town of Ancient Corinth there is a museum and a Temple to Apollo. I thought this tomb was interesting with the bones intact.



Here is the temple of Apollo, the god of Music.

The modern city of Corinth from a viewpoint on a hill.



A fortress guards Ancient Corinth



Paul speaking to the Corinthians, at his church.



Paul's church



It was a wonderful trip and a great chance to catch up with our son and his family.

Jim