

Greece & the Greek Isles in the Footsteps of Paul

Day 7 - Delphi and Greek Countryside

An early morning disembarkation from the ship and on to the bus. We were greeted by Lilly, our tour guide for the rest of our trip, and our bus driver George.

Once we got beyond the Athens metro area, the landscape began to change - fertile rolling hills with cotton fields gave way to mountains and olive trees. We stopped to take pictures of the hills and valleys and town of Arachova.

We stopped for lunch at a family owned and run restaurant - the food was the best we have had so far. Entrees that were offered included Greek salad, cabbage rolls, chicken and pork kabobs and fried cheese. Baklava and ice cream for dessert. All were delicious.

We then drove to the ruins of the Temple of Apollo in Delphi. This place of worship and dedication was established some 400 years before the time of Jesus and was shut down when the Roman Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the religion of the land and all others were banned.

The journey up the hill past the stores, homes, treasury, temple and amphitheater was breathtaking and amazing.

One of the images that I will take from that is the inscriptions of the names of freed slaves on the walls leading up to the temple.

According to a Wikipedia article about this practice:

Slaves belonged to their masters until they served long enough or until they gathered the necessary sum of money for their liberation. When that moment came, the act of manumission had to be guaranteed by a god, most commonly Apollo. The slave was thus fictitiously sold to the deity, so that the sale action could never be violated. The act was recorded on inscriptions with a rather formulaic expression. The majority of the manumission inscriptions of Delphi are gathered in two main spots: on the supporting wall of the parodoi of the theatre and on the polygonal wall, particularly the part which served as back wall to the portico of the Athenians. Most of the inscriptions date between 200 B.C. and 100 A.D.

We toured the museum - artifacts and sculptures dating back over 2500 years ago. We made it to our beautiful hotel in Larissa and another fabulous spread of food. Another day of wonder and awe.

**Peace,
Pastor Charlie**

