



FOLLOWING ST. PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY

15 days – 14 nights

Embark on a profound 15-day pilgrimage tracing the footsteps of St. Paul across **Greece** and **Turkey**, a journey where faith, history, and culture come together in an unforgettable spiritual experience. This carefully crafted itinerary invites you to walk the same lands where the Apostle to the Nations preached, taught, suffered, and planted the earliest seeds of Christianity.

Your journey begins in the timeless city of **Istanbul**, where Byzantine and Ottoman legacies coexist in magnificent harmony. From there, travel through **Asia Minor**, visiting cities central to early Christianity, including **Nicaea**, **Sardis**, **Thyatira**, **Laodicea**, **Pergamum**, and **Ephesus**—home to one of the Seven Churches of Revelation and a cornerstone of Paul's missionary work. Stand among ancient ruins where Scripture was lived, councils were held, and faith was tested and strengthened.

Crossing into **Greece**, follow Paul's historic arrival into Europe. In **Philippi**, reflect at the prison where **Paul** and **Silas** were held and at the baptismal site of **Lydia**, Europe's first Christian convert. Continue to **Thessaloniki**, **Veria**, and **Corinth**, cities where Paul preached passionately and wrote epistles that continue to shape Christian belief today. In **Athens**, ascend Mars Hill, where **Paul** boldly addressed the philosophers of his time, proclaiming the "unknown God." Alongside these sacred sites, enjoy UNESCO World Heritage monuments, breathtaking landscapes, welcoming coastal towns, and the rich cultural traditions of both countries. Expert-guided visits, comfortable accommodations, and thoughtfully paced days ensure time for reflection, discovery, and connection.

This is more than a tour—it is a journey of faith, understanding, and inspiration. Walk where **St. Paul** walked, deepen your spiritual insight, and experience the living history of Christianity. Let this extraordinary pilgrimage inspire your heart and strengthen your faith..

DAY 1 (Friday) ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL

Arrival at Istanbul and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day free & overnight in Istanbul

DAY 2 (Saturday) ISTANBUL

Replenishing with breakfast at the hotel, begin to the full day tour wandering in and around the gems of historical Istanbul. Start the day with a visit to Hagia Sophia, a marvel of world architecture. Continue the experience with Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque with its six minarets and perfect dome, which is inspired from Saint Sophia. Next, visit the Hippodrome which once stood as one of the purest examples of Constantinople's classical Byzantine origins. Today, it is the home of the famous Obelisk of Theodosius and the Serpentine Column. In the afternoon, continue with Serefiye Cistern, which was built during the reign of Theodosius II (408 - 450) one of the oldest water structures in the Historic Peninsula of Istanbul. To complete the day, stroll within the Grand Bazaar, which was one of the earliest and most significant projects undertaken by Sultan Mehmet II following his conquest, with 61 covered streets and over 3,000 shops which attract between 250,000 - 400,000 visitors daily. Return to the hotel. Overnight (B)

DAY 3 (Sunday) ISTANBUL – IZMIR – BURSA

After breakfast, departure to ancient Nicaea (Iznik), a city with a prestigious past that preserves many Byzantine and Ottoman monuments. Capital of Bithynia until the founding of Nicomedia (Izmit), Nicaea is famous for holding the Ecumenical Council where Arianism was condemned. Visit of the church of Santa Sofia. Continuation to Bursa, capital of the Ottoman Empire. Visit of the Great Mosque, the Green Mosque and the Green Mausoleum. Overnight in Bursa. (B)

**PRICE PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE OCCUPATION
EUR 2.230.-**

Surplus Single Room EUR 490.-

**HIGH SEASON INCREMENT
(July – August) EUR 255.-**

DEPARTURES 2026

On private basis every Friday from April through November.

If you are planning to start another day of the week, please let us know to update the costs.

INCLUSIONS

- Private transfers airport-hotel-airport.
- 14 nights hotel accommodation in selected 3*** and 4**** Hotels (Upgrade possible)
- Daily breakfast
- Guided city tours in Istanbul, Thessaloniki and Athens
- Guided visit of Ephesus
- Full day tour to Pamukkale visiting Sardis, Philadelphia and Hieropolis on the way
- Full day tour to Kavala and Philippi
- Day trip to Meteora visiting two monasteries
- Visit the archaeological sites of Delphi & Corinth
- 24 hours assistance phone number.

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- City taxes (to be paid directly at the hotels)
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides, conductors and porters.
- Personal expenses





DAY 4 (Monday) BURSA - SARDIS - PAMUKKALE

Breakfast and departure to Sardis the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia (Rev. 3:1-6). Drive to Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) the seat of a Christian bishopric during Byzantine times, also referred to as the New Jerusalem. Our guide will delve into the importance of these cities for Christianity by visiting the remains of the church of San Juan. Continue to Pamukkale. Upon arrival, visit of the ruins of the ancient city Hierapolis, its name means "Sacred City" due to the cult of its ancient inhabitants to the "Great Mother" (Mary). The necropolis is very large, with hundreds of stone tombs. At about 500 meters we will find the Acropolis, totally destroyed by seismic movements. Its theater, rebuilt by the Italians, is excellent. Overnight. (B)



DAY 5 (Tuesday) PAMUKKALE – LAODICEA – KUSADASI

Breakfast at the hotel. You head to Laodicea Ad Lycum on the south bank of the Lycus River, one of the Seven Churches addressed by St. John in the Book of Revelation (Rev.3:14-22). Drive to Kusadasi. Dinner at the hotel and overnight. (B)



DAY 6 (Wednesday) KUSADASI - EPHESUS – IZMIR

After breakfast, you will visit Ephesus one of the Seven Churches in Revelation (Rev. 1:11). The highlights are: the Double Church where in 431 the Third Ecumenical Council was held, the Library of Celcius, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan and the Theatre and the Temple of Artemis. Continue to the House of Virgin Mary and the Basilica of St. John "The Evangelist". Transfer to Izmir and overnight stay. (B)



DAY 7 (Thursday) IZMIR – PERGAMUM - CANAKKALE

Breakfast and drive to Thyatira one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11;2:18-29), a bustling commercial town where early Christians lived and worshipped. Visiting its site offers a glimpse into the faith and daily life of the early Christian community. Continue to Pergamum, famous for its Acropolis and Hellenistic heritage, also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Explore its ancient temples, theater, and ruins, reflecting both the city's cultural prominence and its early Christian history. Overnight. (B)



DAY 8 (Friday) CANAKKALE - ALEXANDROUPOLIS Crossing Greek border

After breakfast we start our trip from Çanakkale to Alexandroupolis drive through charming villages and scenic countryside. Arrive in Alexandroupolis, a vibrant Greek coastal city known for its iconic lighthouse, fresh seafood, and warm hospitality. Overnight stay. (B)

DAY 9 (Saturday) ALEXANDROUPOLIS - KAVALA/PHILIPPI - THESSALONIKI

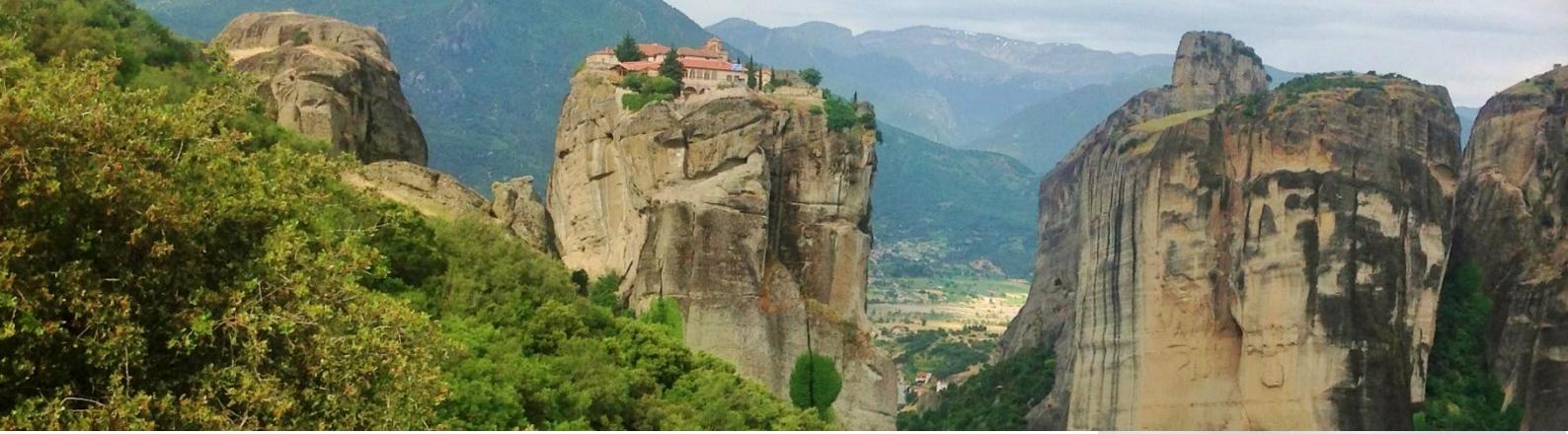
After breakfast we depart for Philippi, the town where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity, as early as 49 AD. "And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days..." (Acts 16:11-12). Paul preached to the Jewish congregation outside the city walls. Among those who converted to Christianity, were Lydia and her family. In Philippi, we will visit the archaeological site (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE) to see the ancient theater, the forum, the remains of early Christian churches and the Prison of St. Paul. Next, we'll drive to the nearby Baptismal site of Lydia to make our pilgrimage. We will continue towards the city of Kavala, the ancient city of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. It was later renamed Christoupolis, meaning city of Christ, because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. Before we depart, we'll see the monument which commemorates Paul's landing to Neapolis, as well as the Aqueduct of the Roman times. Overnight in Thessaloniki. (B)



DAY 10 (Sunday) THESSALONIKI

Tour of Thessaloniki, divided into a lower part, modern, with a regular and orderly layout, and an upper part, surrounded by walls, with narrow streets of oriental character. Visit to the Byzantine churches of St. Demetrios and St. Sophia, enriched by valuable monasteries, which testify to the prestigious activities of Thessaloniki during the centuries of the Eastern Roman Empire. We continue with a panoramic visit of the lower part, with the symbolic and refined rotunda of St. George, the Galerius Gate and the excavation area of the Roman Forum. Possible free time for other attractions such as Platia Dikastirion, passing by Leoforos Aristotelous, the promenade with the imposing white tower. Overnight in Thessaloniki. (B)





DAY 11 (Monday) THESSALONIKI – VERIA/VERGINA – KALAMBAKA/METEORA

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Veria, a city full of churches, if they total about 50. Some of the central streets retain almost intact their ancient Ottoman atmosphere, the churches were once used as barns and warehouses, among the most important Maegalou Alexandhrrou and Hristos with restored frescoes. Continuation to Vergina site visit, where the excavations carried out have revolutionized Macedonian archeology, bringing to light the burial chambers belonging to Philip II and other members of his royal family. You can admire the ruins of the Palace of Palatitsia, this complex was built during the 3rd century BC, as the summer residence of the Macedonian King Antogone Gonatus. Continue to Kalambaka, dinner and overnight.

DAY 12 (Tuesday) KALAMBAKA – DELPHI - ATHENS

After breakfast, we'll start our journey to Delphi. Arrive in Delphi and visit the archaeological site of Delphi (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE). Delphi is located on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. According to the Greek mythology, it was Zeus who determined the Delphi was the "Omphalus" (the center) of "Mother Earth" (Gaia). The Delphic Oracle of Gaia was already important from as early as 1400 BC. From about 800 BC, it was rededicated to god Apollo, who provided answers to his pilgrim's questions via his priestess, Pythia. Excavation at Delphi, have uncovered a plethora of artifacts. During our visit to the archaeological site we'll see the remains of the Apollonian Sanctuary: treasure houses, impressive retaining walls, the Temple of Apollo, the Altar, the Theater and more. In the nearby Museum we'll admire artifacts found during the excavations: worship idols, exceptional statues, votive offerings, and more. The pride of this museum is the "Bronze Charioteer", a masterpiece of the Classical era. Lunch in the nearby area. Departure for Athens. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B)

DAY 13 (Wednesday) ATHENS

After breakfast we will explore the city of Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. During our panoramic bus tour we'll pass by the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Greek Parliament, Syntagma Square, the Academy, the University and the National Library. After we reach the foot hills of the Acropolis, we'll continue on foot to visit the Areopagus (Mars' Hill), where Paul preached to the Athenians (Acts 17:16-34). Next we'll accent the Sacred Acropolis (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE), which is crowned by Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Parthenon (Temple of Goddess Athena), The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike and the Erechtheion. We'll continue with a visit to the new Acropolis museum, one of the top five museums in the world. This stunning museum was built to house the findings and sculptures of the Acropolis. After the tour there will be free time in Plaka (old Athens). Overnight in Athens. (B)

DAY 14 (Thursday) ATHENS - CORINTH

After breakfast we will depart with our coach to ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-18). The journey is scenic and it passes by important historical sites, like Salamis, Eleusis, Megara and the Corinth Canal (coffee and photo stop). Ancient Corinth was a thriving town, with two busy ports: Lechaion and Cenchreae. It was destroyed by the Roman Legions in 146 BC and revived by Julius Caesar in 44 BC. Apostle Paul arrived in Corinth at 50 AD and stayed the longest, working as a tent maker for Priscilla and Aquila, leaving his strong legacy in the area. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians is a universal praise to love. We'll visit the local museum and the impressive archaeological site: the Forum, the Temple of Apollo, the Odeon of the Roman times, the Bema where Paul was brought before Gallio to be judged for disturbing the peace. Before ending the tour and return to Athens, we will pass by the ancient Greek port of Cenchreae (Acts 18:18) from where Paul departed towards Ephesus. Return to Athens and overnight. (B)

DAY 15 (Friday) ATHENS

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure for private activities. At the given time, transfer to the Athens International Airport for your departure. End of our services. (B)



(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner