



ST. PAUL'S STEPS IN TURKEY AND GREECE

13 days – 12 nights

Step into an extraordinary journey that traces the footsteps of one of Christianity's most influential figures—the **Apostle Paul**. **St. Paul's Steps in Turkey and Greece** is a deeply enriching pilgrimage that spans two continents, weaving together faith, history, and culture in the very lands where Christianity first took root and spread to the world.

This carefully curated journey begins in **Turkey**, the cradle of early Christian communities. Here, you will explore legendary cities such as **Ephesus**, where **Paul** preached and taught for years, leaving a legacy that resonates to this day. You will walk among the **Seven Churches of Revelation**, visit ancient cities like **Pergamum, Sardis, Laodicea, and Philadelphia**, and reflect on the powerful messages addressed to the early Christian world.

Crossing from Asia into Europe, the journey follows **Paul's** historic path into **Greece**, where his mission forever changed the spiritual landscape of the continent. In **Philippi**, you will stand where **Paul** delivered his first sermon in Europe and baptized Lydia, the first European Christian. In **Thessaloniki**, you will explore the city where **Paul** preached and later wrote his epistles, walking along the ancient **Via Egnatia** that once carried his message across the Roman world.

The pilgrimage continues to **Athens**, where faith and philosophy met at the **Areopagus**, and to **Corinth**, where **Paul** lived, worked, and wrote letters that remain central to Christian teaching. Along the way, breathtaking landmarks such as **Meteora's** monasteries, **Delphi's** sacred sanctuary, and vibrant coastal cities enrich the journey with moments of wonder, reflection, and cultural discovery.

Blending spiritual depth with historical insight and comfortable travel, this journey offers a profound connection to the **Apostle Paul's** transformative mission. It is an invitation to walk where Scripture unfolded, to reflect on faith's beginnings, and to experience an unforgettable journey across **Turkey** and **Greece**—where history, belief, and inspiration come alive.

DAY 1 (Friday) ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL

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

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 – EPHESUS - PAMUKKALE

After breakfast, take the scheduled flight to Izmir. Drive to 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 Basilica of St. John "The Evangelist". Continue to Pamukkale. Overnight in Pamukkale. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPATION

EUR 1.950.-

Surplus Single Room EUR 425.-

HIGH SEASON INCREMENT
(July – August) EUR 220.-

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.
- 12 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 and Hierapolis
- Full day tour to Kavala and Philippi
- Visit the archaeological site of 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) PAMUKKALE – HIERAPOLIS – LAODICEA – PHILADELPHIA – SARDIS - IZMIR

After breakfast, early departure to visit the ancient city of Hierapolis and the thermal springs with calcium rich water creating shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites. Continue 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). Continue and visit Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) the seat of a Christian bishopric during Byzantine times, also referred to as the New Jerusalem. The next stops are Sardis the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia (Rev. 3:1-6) and Church of St. Polycarp symbolized the community of the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse. Overnight in Izmir. (B)

DAY 5 (Tuesday) IZMIR – THYATIRA – PERGAMUM - CANAKKALE

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11;2:18-29) that was 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. Pergamum was 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. We drive then to Canakkale, a historic coastal town strategically located on the Dardanelles Strait, the narrow waterway that has linked the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara since antiquity. Known in ancient times as the gateway to Troy, Çanakkale has long stood at the crossroads of civilizations, empires, and trade routes between Asia and Europe. Overnight in Canakkale. (B)

DAY 6 (Wednesday) CANAKKALE – ALEXANDROUPOLIS Crossing Greek-Turkish borders

After breakfast, the journey continues through charming villages and rolling rural scenery as you cross the Turkish-Greek border, symbolically retracing the passage from Asia into Europe—much like the early Christian missionaries who carried their message westward. This transition marks a meaningful moment in the pilgrimage, connecting two continents and two rich cultural worlds. Arrive in Alexandroupolis, a welcoming coastal city, overlooking the Thracian Sea. The city is instantly recognizable by its iconic lighthouse, which has stood as a symbol of the city since the late 19th century. Alexandroupolis is also known for its relaxed atmosphere, modern character, and warm hospitality, offering a pleasant contrast to the ancient sites visited earlier in the journey. Overnight stay in Alexandroupolis. (B)

DAY 7 (Thursday) 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 8 (Friday) THESSALONIKI

Breakfast on board. 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 9 (Saturday) 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 Alexandhrou 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. (B)

DAY 10 (Sunday) 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 11 (Monday) ATHENS

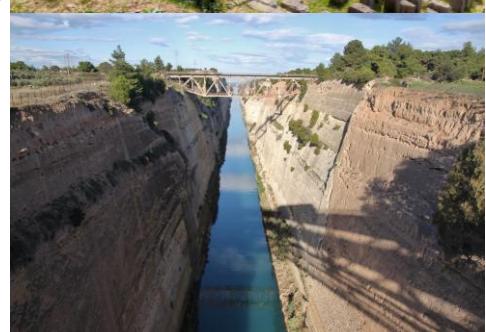
After breakfast we will explore the city of Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. During our panoramic bus tour we'll pass by the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Greek Parliament, Syntagma Square, the Academy, 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 12 (Tuesday) 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 13 (Wednesday) ATHENS

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



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