



Tekton Ministries

"Serving God's people on their journey of faith"



Pilgrimage to

GREECE and TURKEY
In the Footsteps of St. Paul



April 16th - 27th, 2018

PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY

† Day 1 – April 16: Depart U.S.A.

Today we fly out of Seattle as we begin our journey east to follow in the footsteps of the first great missionary disciple, St. Paul.

† Day 2 – April 17: Arrive Athens

After the long flight, we arrive in Athens and will head to the hotel to check in and relax. Mass will either be celebrated either en-route during our layover or at St. Dionysius Catholic Cathedral of Athens if our flights arrive early enough in the afternoon.

† Day 3 – April 18: Athens

Today our journey begins as St. Paul's journey often began; by diving into the secular world. While the remainder of our pilgrimage will be devoted to sacred sites of Christianity, we would be remised to not visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the Ecretheum. In Acts of the Apostles, chapter 17, St. Paul began his mission in Athens, gaining a handful of followers for Christ and thus planting the seeds of the faith in Greece. We will take time for prayer at Holy Apostles Church (which dates back to the 10th century) and the Mitropoli (Cathedral), the seat of the Archbishop and hub of the Greek Orthodox Church. In the afternoon we'll take a short drive to where St. Paul lived for nearly two years in Corinth, to see the ancient ruins and where Fr. Strange will celebrate an outdoor Mass.



† Day 4 – April 19: Athens / Kalambaka

Our journey through the Mediterranean continues north today as we leave Athens. Our first stop is at the Byzantine monasteries at Meteora that seem to precariously perch on the very edge of the cliffs. We will ascend to these sacred retreats via cable car, but you can only imagine how hundreds of years ago monks were ascending on foot! Our final place for prayer today will be the Kalambaka Cathedral, Church of the Dormition, for vespers with the community.

† Day 5 – April 20: Kalambaka / Thessaloniki

St. Paul leads us further into his journey to Thessaloniki, home of another early New Testament community he evangelized. Mass will be offered at the "Dais of the Apostle Paul," in Veria and we will also spend time at the Byzantine basilica of the Resurrection of Christ. Once in Thessaloniki, we will have time for prayer at the Byzantine churches of St. George, St. Demetrius, and Ágia Sophia. The evening will be free to explore the city.



† Day 6 – April 21: Thessaloniki / Kavala

We begin our journey today toward Philippi, where St. Paul preached and baptized some of the first Christians in Europe, and descend into a crypt that served as a prison for St. Paul when he was held captive here. Mass will be offered by Fr. Strange alongside the river where St. Paul preached 2000 years ago and baptized Lydia, his first European convert. Our day ends in Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis, where St. Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy & Silas. St. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. We will have time for prayer at the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Nicholas Church.

† Day 7 - Apr 22: Kavala / Bergama

Early this morning we will depart from Kavala and drive to the Greek-Turkish border and cross into Turkey. Then take a ferry across the Straits of the Dardanelles to Canakkale. Proceed to Pergamum, the most favored of the Seven Churches where Christianity was introduced very early. Here we will see the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, the fabled Acropolis and the Royal Gate. Overnight in Bergama.



† Day 8 - Apr 23: Bergama / Kusadasi

This morning we will visit Asclepion, one the foremost healing centers of the ancient world. Then proceed to Thyatira, another of the Seven Churches. Then drive to Sardis, the Lydian capital city where money was first minted, to visit the marble road of the Roman Gymnasium and the remains of the Artemis Temple which symbolized one of the Seven Churches. Continue on to Izmir and visit the Church of St. Polycarp, the oldest church in ancient Smyrna, where we will celebrate Mass (subject to permission). Polycarp, the fourth Bishop of Smyrna, is known as one of the first Christian martyrs. Proceed to Kusadasi for overnight.

† **Day 9 – April 24: Kusadasi / Patmos / Kusadasi**

Today we retreat to Patmos, the island where St. John was exiled and where God granted him the divine revelation. We will celebrate Mass at the Grotto of Revelation and take a retreat-like pace for the day at the Monastery of St. John for personal prayer, reflection, adoration, and confession with Fr. Strange.

† **Day 10 - Apr 25: Kusadasi / Izmir / Istanbul**

This morning we will depart Kusadasi and proceed to the House of the Virgin Mary which is believed to be the last residence of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. According to tradition, Mary was brought to Ephesus by the Apostle John after the Resurrection of Christ and lived out her days there. After Mass we will proceed to Ephesus where St. Paul spent two years during



his ministry. It was to this community that St. Paul wrote his Epistle to the Ephesians. St. Paul implored the Ephesians to cease their worship of Artemis and to turn to Christianity. We will see the great theater where Paul addressed the crowds and visit the site of the scene of the riot from which Paul escaped. Visit the Temple of Diana which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Church of the Virgin Mary, and the Tomb of St. Luke. Then visit the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by the Emperor Justinian. In the late afternoon we will return to Izmir to catch a flight to Istanbul, ancient Constantinople. Upon arrival in Istanbul we proceed to our hotel for check-in.

† **Day 11 – April 26: Istanbul**

Our final day on pilgrimage we begin at Hagia Sophia one of the most famous churches of the ancient World. Even though Istanbul is a predominantly Muslim city, its Christian roots are ancient and there is still a small remnant, actively practicing our faith. We will visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the “first among equals” of the Orthodox Patriarchs. We will worship with the community of St. Mary Draperis Kilisesi, an active Catholic parish in Istanbul, and have the chance to visit two more local communities – the Basilica of St. Anthony and the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

† **Day 12 – Apr 27: Istanbul / U.S.A.**

Transfer to the airport to catch our return flight home.



Pilgrimage Price: \$3,310.00

per person/double occupancy

For a single occupancy please add \$459.00

For land only, please subtract: \$1,074.00

These rates include:

- * Arrangements for daily Mass
- * Roundtrip economy airfare from Seattle
- * 10 nights accommodation in First Class and Superior First Class hotels
- * All hotel taxes and service charges
- * Breakfast and dinner daily
- * Comprehensive sightseeing with licensed guides in Greece and Turkey
- * All entrance fees as per itinerary
- * Chartered boat for Patmos excursion
- * Port tax in Kusadasi
- * Greece/Turkey border taxes
- * Land transportation by private deluxe motor coach
- * Arrival and departure transfers (group flights only)
- * Porterage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels

These rates do not include:

- * Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$32.40 on the Turkish Airlines flight per person and \$414.41 on the Lufthansa flights per person, subject to change until the time of ticketing), added to final invoice
- * Turkish entry visa (\$20.00 per person for U.S. citizens. This visa needs to be prearranged prior to departure. The “e-visa” can easily be obtained online by visiting www.evisa.gov.tr)
- * Gratuities for guides, drivers, and hotel staff
- * Lunches, drinks with meals, extras at hotels and any expenses of a personal nature

Departures from other airports available upon request.

Register online at:

www.tektonministries.org



For more information, please contact:

Tekton Ministries

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Carmel, IN 46032

Phone: (317) 574-4191
or Toll Free (866) 905-3787

Email: pilgrimage@tektonministries.org

Register Online on our Website:
www.tektonministries.org

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 75 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 74 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 28 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$75.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$175.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 14 - 7 days prior to departure \$700.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. U.S. citizens require visas for Turkey, but not for Greece. Turkey has adopted a new "e-visa" which can easily be obtained online by visiting www.evisa.gov.tr If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Air travel is in economy class on Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes made within 90 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$446.81 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/Turkey Entry Visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered

seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

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