



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO

GREECE & TURKEY

September 18-30, 2023

FOLLOW IN
ST. PAUL'S
FOOTSTEPS



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages to the Holy Land for more than 20 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you where the seeds of Catholicism were first planted to be spread across the world. Although we visit more than 50 sites in this holy and historic region, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

● Day 1 - Monday, September 18

Depart USA

Our spiritual pilgrimage begins as we depart on our transatlantic flight to Athens. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

● Day 2 - Tuesday, September 19

Arrive Athens

Upon arrival in Athens, we will be greeted by our guide and transferred to our hotel with the remainder of the day free for personal activities. (D)

● Day 3 - Wednesday, September 20

Athens / Delphi / Meteora / Kalambaka

Depart Athens and drive north to Delphi, the center of the ancient world. We will take a walking tour of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Temple of Apollo, which served as the home of the Oracle of Delphi. Then proceed to Meteora, where we will experience one of the most unusual and spectacular highlights of the pilgrimage as we visit a number of world-famous Byzantine monasteries perched precariously atop the summits of gray rock pinnacles of varied sizes and shapes. Originally Greek Orthodox monks fled to caves in the vicinity for protection and solitude. 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! The panoramic view is breathtaking, and their spiritual artwork is splendid. Our final place for prayer today will be the Kalambaka Cathedral – Church of the Dormition – for vespers with the community. Following vespers, we will check into our local hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Acropolis

● Day 4 - Thursday, September 21

Kalambaka / Thessaloniki

Today we will depart Kalambaka and proceed through the ancient city of Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, to Veria (known in

Biblical times as Berea) where St. Paul fled after he was threatened in Thessalonica. We will celebrate Mass at the Bema of the Apostle Paul, from which he preached to the local Christians. After Mass, we will see the small Byzantine Basilica of the Resurrection of Christ and one of the town's most notable monuments, the 14th century Agios Vlasios, dedicated to St. Blaise. Finally, we proceed to Thessaloniki which St. Paul visited on his second missionary journey in 49 A.D. and where he founded a church. These Christians were the Thessalonians, to whom Paul later wrote two letters. Visit the old city ramparts, the Archaeological Museum, and St. George's Church – an ancient Roman monument that was transferred into a church. Then see the two most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Demetrius, dedicated to a distinguished member of the Roman army and a martyred Christian convert, and St. Sophia. Overnight in Thessaloniki. (B, D)



Temple of Apollo - Delphi

● Day 5 - Friday, September 22

Thessaloniki / Kavala

Today we will travel to Philippi, the place where St. Paul began his missionary work in Europe. The highlight of the day will be an outdoor celebration of Mass alongside the river where Paul preached and baptized Lydia, his first European convert. We will visit the nearby Greek Orthodox church and then conduct a prayer service at the place where St. Paul was held in prison. While in Philippi, we will also visit the ruins of a basilica, the Forum, the Agora (marketplace), aqueduct, Acropolis, and theater. Next, we will travel along the Via Egnatia to biblical Neapolis, later renamed Christopoulos because it was the first European city to accept Christianity and is known today as Kavala. It is a beautiful modern seaport town and the place where St. Paul landed in Greece after his voyage from Troas. After visiting the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Nicholas Church we check into our hotel in Kavala for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

● Day 6 - Saturday, September 23

Kavala / Canakkale / Pergamum / Thyatira / Izmir

Early this morning we will depart from Kavala and drive to the Greek-Turkish border to cross into Asian Turkey across the Strait 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. We will also visit the Asclepion, one of the foremost healing centers of the ancient world. On to Thyatira, another of the Seven Churches addressed in the Book of Revelation. Continue on to Izmir for overnight. (B, D)

● Day 7 - Sunday, September 24

Izmir / Smyrna / Sardis / Kusadasi

Following breakfast, we will visit the Church of St. Polycarp, the oldest church in ancient Smyrna, where we will celebrate Mass. Polycarp, the fourth Bishop of Smyrna, is known as one of the first Christian martyrs. 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. Proceed to Kusadasi to check-in to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon will be free to explore this colorful port town with its Mediterranean beaches and Grand Bazaar. (B, D)

● **Day 8 - Monday, September 25**

Kusadasi (Ephesus)

This morning we travel to nearby 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. We will then return to our hotel in Kusadasi for overnight. (B, D)

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, September 26**

Kusadasi / Patmos

Transfer to the pier at Kusadasi to embark on a three-day cruise of the beautiful Greek Isles. This afternoon we will arrive at the island of Patmos, where St. John received the mystical Revelation which forms the last book of the New Testament. Upon arrival we will take a shore excursion to the Grotto of Revelation and the 11th century Monastery of St. John which houses the original script of the Gospel. (B, D)



● **Day 10 - Wednesday, September 27**

Rhodes*

Sail into the harbor of the great island of Rhodes, the legendary home of the Greek Sun God Apollo. This island was the site of rich and powerful cities as early as 1100 BC and it was the stronghold of the Knights of St. John who built their remarkable medieval ramparts and castles in the 13th and 14th centuries. St. Paul also set sail from here on his way to Ephesus. Visit the island on your own or join one of the optional shore excursions offered by the cruise line. (B, D)

● **Day 11 - Thursday, September 28**

Heraklion* / Santorini*

This morning we arrive to the port of Heraklion on the island of Crete, the southernmost of the Greek Isles and the legendary birthplace of the Greek god Zeus. Heraklion, the capital of Crete and its principal commercial port, is just three miles away from the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. The Archaeological Museum in Heraklion displays many of the treasures found during the excavations. You may wish to visit the island on your own or take an optional excursion. After visiting Crete, we will set sail and arrive on the island of Santorini, one of the most beautiful islands on the Mediterranean. You'll have your choice of several optional excursions, but Santorini is easily done on your own. Take time to explore this gorgeous island and stroll through its quaint winding streets and whitewashed alleys and enjoy the local flavor of its many cafes and tavernas. (B, D)

● **Day 12 - Friday, September 29**

Piraeus / Athens

After an early morning disembarkation at Piraeus we will be met at the pier by our local guide and drive into Athens. Explore Ancient Greece with visits to the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheum. In the 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. Drive around the city of Athens to see the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Presidential Palace. In the afternoon drive along the scenic coastal road and follow fairly the same route that the Apostle took to the ancient city of Corinth where he preached and lived for nearly two years. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place, the Bema and the Temples. We'll celebrate Mass in Corinth before returning to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free for personal activities and exploring Athens on your own until our farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

● **Day 13 - Saturday, September 30**

Athens / USA

Transfer to Athens airport for departure. We will arrive home with images and appreciation of the ministry of St. Paul, Classical Turkey and Greece. (B)

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



* There will be a variety of optional shore excursions offered by the cruise ship while docked at Rhodes, Heraklion, and Santorini and these excursions are NOT included in the pilgrimage cost.



GREECE AND TURKEY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy w/ airfare **\$4,480.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

• **Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges** **\$419.58**
(subject to change until final ticketing)

• **Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff** **\$170.00**
(estimated)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST **\$5,069.58**

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add **\$1,015**
- Land-only option: **\$3,504** (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

June 2023

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Atlanta on Delta Airlines
- 8 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- 3 night/4 day cruise on Celestyal Cruises
- Knowledgeable, friendly, local guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary (excluding drinks)
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant on day 12

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals, Turkish entry visa, COVID-19 testing (if required)

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$850.00 per person at the time of booking, made in two payments. \$300 is due when you submit your registration and the other \$550 will be charged when we process your registration. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due by June 15, 2023. Reservations made after June 15, 2023, are not guaranteed. Payments beyond the initial deposit made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 90 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 21 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 (see below for cancellation information for the cruise portion of this pilgrimage): If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1,000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 14 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.

Cruise Cancellation Information: The following cancellation penalties are set forth by Celestyal Cruises for the cruise portion of the pilgrimage: Cancellations received 125-65 days prior to departure will result in a loss of any deposits paid. Cancellations received 64-35 days prior to departure will result in a 35% penalty on the total cruise fare. No refund will be made for cancellations received within 34 days of sailing, no shows, or for guests who do not complete their cruise. Cancellation charges are calculated based on total fares paid to Celestyal Cruises for all trip components. Cancellation charges will apply notwithstanding that the company is able to rebook the cabin in question.

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 do not require visas for Greece, but will need one for Turkey. 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 Delta 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 or cancellations made within 120 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: Currently, Greece and Turkey require proof of medical insurance coverage for the duration of your stay. We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$419.58 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/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.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.



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