



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO
GREECE

September 9-18, 2024

**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 9

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 10

Arrive Athens

Upon arrival in Athens, we will be greeted by our local guide and then transfer to our hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day will be free. Overnight Athens (B/D)

● Day 3 - Wednesday, September 11

Athens

This morning we will visit the ancient Acropolis with its magnificent Parthenon (447-432 BC). The Acropolis served as the worship center for the entire pantheon of Greek gods. Like Corinth, Paul visited Athens on both his Second and Third Missionary Journeys. We will stop at the Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill, the site of the Shrine of the Unknown God, where we will listen to St. Paul's daring speech (Acts 17:22-31). Other elements of our tour will include the Agora with its most impressive buildings, the Stoa of Attalus and the Temple of Hephaistos; the Roman Forum; and the Temple of Zeus Olympios. We will also enjoy a guided tour of the National Archeological Museum followed by a panoramic sightseeing tour where we will see the National Garden, the National Library, the University of Athens, the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Presidential Palace, and the Panathenaic Stadium. Overnight Athens (B/D)

The Acropolis - Athens



● Day 4 - Thursday, September 12

Athens

Today enjoy a scenic drive along the coastal road past the wonderful beaches of Glyfada, Vouliagmeni, and Varkiza while enjoying splendid views of the Saronic Gulf. Pass through some of Athens' most beautiful suburbs to Cape Sounion where we visit the 5th Century B.C. Temple of Poseidon with one of the most breathtaking panoramic views in the world (on a clear day you can see at least seven islands). Return to Athens and visit the renowned "Plaka" district, located around the base of the Acropolis. Overnight Athens (B/D)



● Day 5 - Friday, September 13

Athens

This morning we will drive along the scenic coastal to ancient Corinth which St. Paul visited on both his second and third missionary journeys. We will stop at the Isthmus of Corinth, a central shipping canal that connects the Aegean and Adriatic Seas and celebrate an outdoor Mass at the Harbor of Cenchreae, Paul's port of departure for his voyage to Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Our tour will begin with the museum and continue with an inspection of the archeological remains. Highlights will include the Temple of Apollo, the Temple of Octavia, the theater, the North Market, the Forum, the shops, the Bema, and numerous other locations of interest. Return to Athens with the remainder of the afternoon free. Then drive to Mycenae, the legendary home of the Artreides that gave its name to civilization throughout the Greek World. We will visit the famous Tomb of King Agamemnon and see the Lion's Gate, part of the great Cyclopean Wall. Continue through Argos to Nafplio, a beautiful and well-known town by the seaside, which was once the capital of Greece. Continue with a visit to the Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus. Return to Athens. Overnight Athens (B/D)

Corinth



● Day 6 - Saturday, September 14

Athens / 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.

The tour will also include the theater, the stadium where festivals and games were held in honor of the Sun God, and the museum that contains exquisite pieces of sculpture among which is the Bronze Charioteer. Then proceed to Meteora where we will experience one of the most unusual and spectacular highlights of the pilgrimage as we visit a few world-famous Byzantine monasteries perched precariously atop the summits of gray rock pinnacles of varied sizes and shapes. The panoramic view is breathtaking. Originally Greek Orthodox monks fled to caves in the vicinity for protection and solitude, and to gain greater security, went even higher. Their spiritual artwork is splendid. After visiting Meteora we will continue to Kalambaka for overnight. *Overnight Kalambaka (B/D)*



● **Day 7 - Sunday, September 15**
Kalambaka / Thessaloniki

Today we will depart Kalambaka and proceed through the ancient city of Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, to Veria where St. Paul fled after he was threatened in Thessalonica. We will celebrate Mass at the “Dais of the Apostle Paul,” and then visit the Bema, the monument to the Apostle Paul; the small Byzantine basilica of the Resurrection of Christ; and one of the town’s most notable monuments, Hagios Vlasios, which is dedicated to St. Blaise. We will then proceed to Thessaloniki which St. Paul visited on his second missionary journey in 49 A.D. and where he founded a church, was heavily persecuted, and wrote two letters to the residents. *Overnight Thessaloniki (B/D)*



● **Day 8 - Monday, September 16**
Thessaloniki

Today we will visit the Old City Ramparts and St. George Church, as well as two beautiful basilicas, St. Demetrius, which is dedicated to a member of the Roman army who converted to Christianity and later was martyred, and St. Sophia. We will also visit the famous Archaeological Museum, and some other points of interest including the White Tower, the Arch of Galerius, the Palace of Galerius, a Roman Forum, the statue of Alexander the Great, and the Royal Tombs of Vergina. *Overnight Thessaloniki (B/D)*

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, September 17**
Thessaloniki / Philippi / Kavala / Thessaloniki

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. We will also conduct a prayer service at the place where St. Paul was held in prison. While in Philippi, we will visit the ruins of a basilica, the Forum, the Agora or 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, which today is known as Kavala. It is a beautiful modern seaport town and the place where St. Paul landed in Greece after his voyage from Troas. We will visit the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Nicholas Church and then return to Thessaloniki for our farewell dinner at a local restaurant and overnight. *Overnight Thessaloniki (B/D)*

● **Day 10 - Wednesday, September 18**
Thessaloniki / USA

Transfer to the airport in Thessaloniki to catch our return flight home, bringing with us all of the graces and blessings of this pilgrimage. *(B)*

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



GREECE PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy w/base airfare **\$3,565.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

• **Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges** **\$519.00**
(subject to change until final ticketing)

• **Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff** **\$140.00**
(estimated)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST **\$4,224.00**

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add **\$628**
- Land-only option: **\$3,236** (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

June 2024

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Chicago O'Hare on Turkish Airlines
- 8 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- 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 9

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals

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 90 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 89 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. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 16 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 \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 46 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 45 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 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.

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. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Greece. 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 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 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: 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 \$519 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 co-operating 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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