



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

YOU'RE INVITED ON A
PILGRIMAGE TO

TURKEY

June 8-18, 2026

**FOLLOW IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL**



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages to the Holy Land for more than 25 years. Working closely with your group leader 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 numerous sites in this holy and historic region, time for prayerful reflection is an important part 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, June 8**
Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart for Istanbul. Meals and drinks will be served aloft.

- **Day 2 - Tuesday, June 9**
Arrive Istanbul

Upon arrival in Istanbul, we will be met by our guide who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Depending upon our arrival time, we will enjoy a brief orientation tour of the city before transferring to our local hotel for dinner and overnight.

(D) Overnight Istanbul

- **Day 3 - Wednesday, June 10**
Istanbul

Today we enjoy a full day of sightseeing encompassing Istanbul's Byzantine and Ottoman Heritage. We begin with a visit of Hagia Sophia Museum which is known as one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, followed by the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet – also known as the Blue Mosque. Journey to the Roman Hippodrome built by the Roman Emperor Septimus Severus in 203 AD which houses the Egyptian Obelisk and Serpentine Column. This afternoon, our day continues with a visit of Topkapi Palace, the residence of Ottoman Sultans between the 15th and 19th centuries. Conclude our day with a visit to the Basilica Cistern, built by Emperor Justinian in 542 AD. (B, D) Overnight Istanbul



- **Day 4 - Thursday, June 11**
Istanbul / Canakkale

After an early breakfast, depart Istanbul and drive along the Sea of Marmara's picturesque northern coast. Before crossing the Dardanelles, we will visit Gallipoli, the famous site of the World War One battle. Cross the Dardanelles into Asia Minor and proceed to legendary Troy to see the city made famous in Homer's poems. We will also visit Troas where St. Paul had a vision in which he was called to Macedonia before checking into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Overnight Canakkale



- **Day 5 - Friday, June 12**
Canakkale / Izmir

Depart Canakkale and drive to Pergamum, the most favored of the Seven Churches of Asia where Christianity was introduced very early. Here, we will see (weather permitting) the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, the fabled Acropolis and the Royal Gate. Continue to Thyatira, another of the Seven Churches. Then proceed to Izmir to visit the Church of St. Polycarp – the oldest church in ancient Smyrna. St. Polycarp was the fourth Bishop of Smyrna and is known as one of first Christian martyrs. (B, D) Overnight Izmir



- **Day 6 - Saturday, June 13**
Izmir / Kusadasi

Early in the morning we drive to Sardis, the Lydian capital city where money was first minted, to visit the marble road of the Roman Gymnasium. Then proceed to Ephesus where St. Paul spent two years during his ministry and later sent his letter to the Ephesians. Visit the archaeological site of Ephesus, where we see the great theater where Paul addressed the crowds and visit the site of the scene of the riot from which Paul escaped. We will also see the House of Virgin Mary on Mount Nightingale which was officially declared a shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in 1896 and has become a popular place of pilgrimage. Proceed to the nearby colorful port town of Kusadasi for overnight. (B, D) Overnight Kusadasi

- **Day 7 - Sunday, June 14**
Kusadasi / Pamukkale

Today, we will visit Miletus where St. Paul stopped on his Third Missionary Journey on his way back to Jerusalem. Then visit

Laodicea, another of the Seven Churches of Asia – the one chastened for being lukewarm. Afterwards, proceed to the spa city of Pamukkale where we will enjoy the view of the cascading water from the cliffs forming crystallized, dazzling white “frozen waterfalls”. We will visit the ruins of the Roman health spa of Hierapolis and see the magnificently preserved Necropolis, Main Street, and Gates. (B, D) *Overnight Pamukkale*

• Day 8 - Monday, June 15

Pamukkale / Konya / Cappadocia

After a very early breakfast we will drive east to Konya via Yalvac (Psidia Antiochia). In Konya, the historical city of Iconium, we will visit the Mausoleum and Museum of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, the famous Muslim scholar, philosopher and founder of the Mevlevi Sect, known also as Soufism. We will also learn about his followers, known as Whirling Dervishes for their unique way of worship, and may have a chance to see them in prayer. In the midafternoon, we will proceed to Cappadocia visiting en route the famous Seldjuk Caravanseails (camel caravan inn) of Sultanhani. Dinner at hotel. (B, D) *Overnight Cappadocia*



the winding strait separating Europe and Asia, where we will enjoy the sight of marble palaces, 15th century fortresses and small fishing villages alongside modern buildings and two stunning ultramodern suspension bridges. After disembarking, visit the impressive 19th century Dolmabahce Palace with its unique Bird Pavilion and 600 meters façade on the Bosphorus. The next visit will be to Kariye Mosque (Saint Savior in the Chora), which is a Byzantine monastery complex dating back to 8th century AD. Only the church of Jesus Christ the Savior remains today which houses marvelous golden Byzantine mosaics and frescoes depicting the life of the Virgin Mary and Christ. The next stop will be at the Imperial Suleymaniye Mosque which is considered to be the most beautiful and impressive mosque in Istanbul. Our last stop before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight will be at the Grand Covered Bazaar, built by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror between 1455-1461 in an attempt to enrich the economic life in the city. (B, D) *Overnight Istanbul*



• Day 11 - Thursday, June 18

Istanbul / U.S.A.

Early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight home, taking with us all the blessings and graces of this pilgrimage.

• Day 9 - Tuesday, June 16

Cappadocia

Three million years ago, violent eruptions of the Mt. Erciyes and Mt. Hasan volcanoes covered the surrounding plateau with volcanic rock which wind and weather have eroded into hundreds of strangely shaped pillars, cones and “fairy chimneys”, often very tall, and in every shade from pink through yellow to russet brown. In this unique landscape the early Christians made countless cave churches, chapels, and monasteries, as well as founding a number of underground cities, used during the ancient times as places for Christians to retreat and live in until danger from their persecutors had passed. We start our tour of this unique region in Uchisar, where we will enjoy a panoramic view of the area, followed by the Goreme Valley Open Air Museum. This valley houses rock churches and monasteries, all painted with colorful early Christian religious frescoes. Avanos, on the banks of Kizilirmak River, displays attractive architecture and is renowned for its handcraft. Continue to Pasabagi, which provides a panoramic view of the most impressive examples of “fairy chimneys”. In Cavusin, there is a triple-apse church and monastery of St. John the Baptist as well as several chapels and some of the best examples of rock houses that are still inhabited. In Kaymakli, we will visit the Kaymakli Underground City, which is a huge refuge carved by early Christians that served as hideout from persecutors. This evening before our farewell dinner we will attend a Whirling Dervishes Ceremony. (B, D) *Overnight Cappadocia*

• Day 10 - Wednesday, June 17

Cappadocia / Istanbul

Early this morning we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival, we embark upon a cruise along the Bosphorus,

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



GREECE PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare	\$4,395.00
Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges	\$649.57

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST **\$5,044.57**

Estimated gratuities to guide/driver **\$160.00**

(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add **\$526**
- Land-only option: **\$3,271** (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

March 2026

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Minneapolis on Lufthansa/United Airlines and Turkish Airlines
- 9 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 non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit 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. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 17 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). 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, \$300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 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 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 Lufthansa/United Airlines 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 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: It is required that you purchase CSA 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 \$649.57 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), CSA travel insurance (required), passport/visa fees, 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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