

In the Footsteps of St. Paul and St. John

Greece and Turkey



Day 01

Our journey begins as we board our transatlantic flight. **“Prepare for a Journey of a Lifetime.”**

This Pilgrimage retraces the steps of the great Apostles, Paul and John, taking us on a journey through history, geography and the tremendous beauty of the places where these saints left their footprints, forever.

Day 02 Athens (D)

We begin in ancient Athens. We are met upon arrival and transferred to our hotel. Remainder of day at leisure to relax from your journey.

Day 03 Athens – Corinth (BD)

From the Temple of Zeus to the Acropolis, Athens was once the intellectual and cultural center of the world. Stand where Paul made his famous *‘Men of Athens’ speech*. Tour this culturally-rich city to introduce you to such landmarks as the **Acropolis**, the Parthenon, the Agora, the Stadium and the Arch of Hadrian. Visit the **Plaka**, the oldest section of Athens. Later follow the scenic coastal route that Paul took to the ancient city of Corinth where he first brought the message of Christianity to Greece; where he lived and preached for 2 years.

Day 04 Athens - Delphi (BD)

Motor coach through olive groves high among the slopes of Mt. Parnassus to Delphi, center of the ancient world to visit the Temple of Apollo and the renowned Oracle, the museum, and theatre. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

Day 05 Athens - begin 3-day cruise - Mykonos (BD)

Transfer to the port city of **Piraeus** to embark on a 3- day cruise of the beautiful **Greek Isles and Turkey**. Our first stop will be **Mykonos**. The dazzling white beauty of a typical Cycladic island with a sophisticated international atmosphere. Stroll through the quaint winding streets and enjoy the local flavor of its many cafes along the waterfront of ‘Little Venice’. Return to the ship for your trip to **Rhodes**, the legendary home of the *Sun God, Apollo*.

Day 06 Rhodes (BD)

It is here, that the Apostle Paul landed during his voyages and where the crusading **Knights of St. John** built the medieval city. Sightseeing includes the imposing **Castle of the Temple Knights** and an excursion to the **Acropolis of Lindos**, with the blue green **Aegean Sea** beneath it and the sophisticated white-washed artists’ colony at its foot.

Day 07 Patmos - Kusadasi (Turkey) - Ephesus - Pamukkale (BD)

This morning we arrive at the island of **Patmos** where **St. John** wrote the **Book of Revelations**. *Visit the cave where he lived*, now the site of a monastery housing priceless icons and manuscripts. Afternoon, sail to the Turkish port city of **Kusadasi** where we’ll be met by our private motor coach and guide. Drive to **Ephesus**, one of the greatest cities of antiquity to see the **Basilica of St. John** and the extensive ruins of the city. Walk the colonnaded *marble streets, temples, baths, the library and the theater where the silversmiths rioted against St. Paul*, the city of Third Ecumenical Council and the site of the **Temple of Diana**, one of the **Seven Wonders of the World**. Visit the **home of the Virgin Mary**, visited by Pope Paul VI in 1967. Continue to **Pamukkale**, meaning ‘Cotton Castle’ formerly known as **Hierapolis** (Holy City). Overnight and dinner in Pamukkale.

Day 08 Pamukkale - Laodicea - Philadelphia - Sardis - Izmir (BD)

Morning sightseeing of **Hierapolis** amidst the unique formations of **Pamukkale** and the natural pools of thermal baths; dazzling terraces of white limestone. We continue to **Laodicea**, one of the *Seven Books of the Book of Revelations*. Continue to ancient **Philadelphia**, referred to as the ‘New Jerusalem’ to see the *remaining walls* of yet another one of the **Seven Churches**. Continue to **Sardis**, the **third of the Seven Churches** of Asia, the Capitol of the Lydian Kingdom to see the remains of the **Temple of Artemis**, a Byzantine church, a synagogue and a large gymnasium. Proceed to **Izmir**, the third largest city in modern Turkey. In Paul’s times it was known as **Smyrna**. This too was one of the Seven Churches.

Day 09 Izmir - Perganum - Troy – Canakkale (BD)

Today, enjoy an orientation tour of **Izmir** for a look at the **Agora** to see remains of the Roman statues. Continue to **Pergamum** the *most favored of the Seven Churches*, to see the **Altar of Zeus**, referred to as the ‘**Thorne of Satan**’ in the **Book of Revelations** where the first Christian was put to death. Continue to the ancient city of **Troy**, famous in *Homer’s Iliad* for the legendary **Trojan Horse**. Visit the excavations showing layers of this civilization, and the recreated “**Wooden Horse**.” We continue to **Canakkale**, a beautiful resort where the sea of Marmara begins and **Aegean Sea** ends.

Day 10 Canakkale - Istanbul (BD)

After a relaxing morning, we cross the **Dardanelles Strait** by ferry to European Turkey. Continue to exotic **Istanbul**, *ancient Constantinople*, which sits between two continents - Europe and Asia. Balance of the day at leisure to relax and marvel at the skyline dotted with over 400 mosques.

Day 11 Istanbul (BD)

Full day sightseeing in **Istanbul**, ancient capital of two great empires, Byzantine and Ottoman. Today we’ll visit the Basilica of **St. Sophia** once the largest Christian churches, now a museum; the famous **Blue Mosque** with its six minarets and its sparkling interior. Continue to the Hippodrome and the Underground Cistern. Also visit **Topkapi Palace**, home to the Ottoman sultans for many centuries and the **Grand Covered Bazaar**, housing about 4,000 tiny shops under a canopy of hundreds of domes. **Ladies, bargains galore!!!**

Day 12 Istanbul (BD)

Free day at leisure to explore this fascinating city. Opt for an ‘*optional*’ Bosphorus cruise sailing towards the **Black Sea** passing some of the most magnificent Summer Palaces of the Ottoman sultans or shop for last minute souvenirs including leather and Turkish rugs. Tonight, enjoy a Festive Farewell Dinner.

Day 13 Morning transfer to Istanbul airport for our flight home. (B)

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home with fond memories of our wonderful Pilgrimage together, exciting cultures discovered and great friendships made along the way.