



CHRIST COLLEGE STUDY TOUR

GREECE AND TURKEY

10-28 APRIL 2025

LED BY
DR MURRAY SMITH

19
DAYS

TRAVEL ONLY AUD\$ **10,890***
(i.e. not enrolled for academic credit)

STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR CREDIT:

ACT Level 500-700	\$4,370 upfront	Fee-help	\$7573
ACT Level 800-900	\$4,370 upfront	Fee-help	\$7882
OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:			\$1,895

FULLY ESCORTED

*Prices subject to change. Conditions apply. Based on minimum of 15 participants.

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Join us on the trip of a lifetime as we follow in the footsteps of the apostles across the biblical sites of Greece and Turkey. In Greece, we will visit Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, and Philippi, where Paul and his companions preached the gospel, suffered persecution, and planted churches. In Turkey, we will visit the major early Christian centre of Ephesus, as well as other churches mentioned in Revelation 2-3, and take a boat ride out to the island of Patmos, where Jesus appeared to the apostle John. Along the way, we will also have a chance to soak up the history and culture of these two ancient and fascinating lands, including visits to Olympia, Delphi, Meteora, Troy, Istanbul, and Gallipoli. The study tour promises to enrich your understanding of the Bible, and strengthen your faith in the One of whom it speaks. Dr Murray Smith has expert knowledge of the New Testament and its ancient context, and wide experience in leading study tours to biblical lands. He will provide in-depth teaching in context, connecting the sites we see both to the Scriptures and to Christian life and ministry today.



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest & obtain a booking form from Olive Tree Travel, Christ College or BY
2. To secure your place a deposit of \$500 is required by 6th December 2024
3. The final balance will be due in late February 2025

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Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
info@olivetretravel.com.au www.olivetretravel.com.au
103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



DAY 1 THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2025

DEPART SYDNEY

Depart Sydney this evening on our Emirates flight bound for Dubai and onward to Athens.

DAY 2 FRIDAY 11 APRIL 2025

ARRIVE ATHENS

On arrival into Athens this morning, we will transfer to a connecting Emirates flight to Athens, the capital of Greece, and one of the oldest cities in the world with a history spanning 3,400 years. Home of the great minds, philosophers, and teachers of ancient times such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle, Athens is the birthplace of democracy and a cradle of Western Civilization. We will check in to the hotel and enjoy a relaxed afternoon settling into this ancient city. For those who are keen to get out and about, there will be an optional walk through La Plaka to the New Acropolis Museum (entry €20). Early dinner and overnight at our hotel in Athens. (D)

DAY 3 SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025

ATHENS

This morning we walk to Areopagus or Mars Hill, the site where trials were heard before the Council of Elders and where the apostle Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians. Next, we visit the world-renowned Acropolis. We will walk through the architectural wonders of the Golden Age of Pericles; the Parthenon, the Propylaea, and the Erechtheion. Next, we'll visit the ancient Agora (marketplace) where Athenians gathered, not only for commercial purposes, but also for political and religious ones. Here we see the well-preserved Stoa of Attalus and the museum inside. After a short break, we'll visit and take a tour of the National Archaeological Museum, one of the greatest archaeological museums in the world, which contains the Mask of Agamemnon, bronze statues of Zeus and Augustus, and a wealth of other treasures. Our day will end exploring some of the highlights of the city on a panoramic drive. From our bus, we will see the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, and the Roman Forum. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (BD)

DAY 4 SUNDAY 13 APRIL 2025

ATHENS / CORINTH / OLYMPIA

Today we drive south along the coastal road to visit ancient Corinth. Our first stop is the Corinth Canal, which separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the Ionian and Aegean Seas. As we continue on our way to Corinth, we will also see the port of Cenchrea (from where Paul sailed for Ephesus) and the Diolkos (slipway) on which ships were dragged across the isthmus. The highlight of the day will be an extended visit to ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century BC. Here, under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, Paul preached and lived for two years. The vigorous and mostly Gentile Church he founded here in AD 50. caused him much grief and prompted him to write the two Corinthian letters. We will visit the ruins of the ancient city where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla, see the remains of 1st century shops, the bema (judgement seat) where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, the Fountain of Peirene, the Temple of Apollo, the Odeon, and the famous Erastus Inscription. We will also spend some time in the museum. After lunch, we drive up to Acro-Corinth for a photo stop of the excellent views over the isthmus, and those with energy can climb to the top to see the (limited) remains of the ancient temple to Aphrodite. In the later afternoon we drive west across the Peloponnese to Olympia for dinner and overnight. After dinner we will gather for worship in our hotel. (BD)

DAY 5 MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025

OLYMPIA / DELPHI

This morning we explore Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The first games were held in Olympia in 776 BC and thereafter every 4 years until their decline in AD 394. They were revived in 1896 and continue since then to be a primary quadrennial international event. The Olympic flame is lit on this ancient site and relayed by runners to the cities where the Games will be held. We shall visit the archaeological site with the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, the Ancient stadium, the Hippodrome and the Temple of Hera. We then visit the Archaeological Museum which houses amongst other antiquities, the statue of Hermes of Praxiteles and the beautifully carved metopes and pediments of the temple of Zeus. In the afternoon, we relax on the long but beautiful drive to Delphi. (BD)

DAY 6 TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2025

DELPHI / KALAMBAKA

In antiquity Delphi was known as the centre of the earth for it was believed that when Zeus released two eagles from opposite sides of the world they would meet in Delphi. The city reached its height in power in the 4th century BC as the sanctuary to the god Apollo, and pilgrims would gather here to seek advice from the great oracle, Pythia, on various matters which included waging wars. We explore the sanctuary by walking up the Sacred Way to see the treasuries, the theatre, the stadium, and the Temple of Apollo. Next, we will visit the Museum of Delphi and marvel at the unique collection of artefacts from the excavation, including the famous Gallio inscription, and the bronze

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“Charioteer”, one of the best-preserved ancient works of metallurgy. In the afternoon we drive north to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2025

KALAMBAKA / METEORA / BEREA

We commence the day with a visit to two of the Meteora Monasteries which stand amongst striking scenery, perched on top of huge rocks, and making them appear to be suspended in mid-air. Here we will get the opportunity to see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. In the afternoon we drive further north to the town of Berea (Verias), dubbed “Little Jerusalem” for the many churches that are built across it. Here we will visit the Bema of Paul where the apostle stood and preached the gospel to the Bereans in 49 AD. Dinner and overnight in Veria. (BD)

DAY 8 THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025

VERGINA / THESSALONIKI

Today we visit Vergina to see the magnificent burial chamber of Phillip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great), as well as the ancient theatre and palace complex. We then head north to Thessaloniki and enjoy a brief tour of the city, viewing the Byzantine walls, with their stunning views over the city, the traditional site of Jason’s house and the White Tower on the foreshore before dinner and overnight at our hotel. (BD)

DAY 9 FRIDAY 18 APRIL 2025

THESSALONIKI / KAVALA (NEAPOLIS)

Today we continue our exploration of Thessaloniki, a major Greek city. Paul wrote two letters to the church in Thessaloniki. The city was built about 315 BC by King Cassander, brother-in-law of Alexander the Great, who named the city after his wife Thessaloniki. It was a major commercial centre in Roman times as well as the second largest and wealthiest city during the Byzantine era. We will visit the Thessaloniki archaeological museum to view the “politarchs” inscriptions, the Triumphal Arch of Galerius standing on the Egnatia Way and the limited remains at the forum. Lunch included today as tonight is Good Friday and restaurants are closed. A supermarket stop to buy some provisions will be made. In the afternoon we drive to Kavala (ancient Neapolis) for overnight. (BL)

DAY 10 SATURDAY 19 APRIL 2025

KAVALA / PHILIPPI / GALLIOLI / CANAKKALE

This morning we explore the ancient site of Philippi. The city was established by Philip II of Macedonia in 358 BC, and it was here that Octavian and Anthony defeated Brutus and Cassius, the last defenders of the Roman Republic in 42 BC. The apostle Paul first arrived at Philippi around AD 50, where he preached the gospel, baptised Lydia, and planted the church – the first on European soil. We will view the baptismal site and visit a crypt dating from the Roman period that is thought to have served as a prison for Paul. We will also see the famous Acropolis, the Market Place, Basilica, and the theatre. After lunch, we drive east and cross the nearby border into Turkey at Ipsala where we will be met and greeted by our waiting Turkish guide and driver. We drive south along the Aegean coastline to Gallipoli, historically famous for being the site of many battles during World War One. We will visit Anzac Cove, Kirkpatrick’s grave, Lone Pine, and the Nek. Finally, we cross the Dardenelles by ferry and check into our hotel in Canakkale for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 11 SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2025

CANAKKALE / TROY / TROAS / ASSOS / SOMA

Our first stop today is Troy. Referred to in Homer’s “Iliad” and “Odyssey”, Troy has nine cities built on top of each other. Troy VI is the city of the famous Trojan War of Homer where the legendary heroes included Agamemnon, Achilles, Ulysses, and Nestor on the Greek side, and Priam, Hector, and Paris on the Trojan side. We will then proceed to nearby Troas, which was a busy port situated south of Troy. Recent excavations have revealed a dozen different cities covering 3000 years of human occupation. During his stay in Troas, Paul had a dream in which he saw a vision of a man asking him to “Come over to Macedonia and help us,” after which he decided to go to Europe. All in all, Paul stopped and preached here four times, including the fateful night when Eutychus fell out of the window! Here we see the remains of the ancient site, and the harbour. We then continue to Assos, perched high on a cliff and offering breathtaking views overlooking the Aegean Sea and the island of Lesbos. The Acropolis here carries the impressive Temple of Athena. Arriving in Assos on foot from Troas, the apostle Paul preached here and went down to the little port on the shore to board the boat for his return journey to Jerusalem. At the end of the day, we will proceed to Soma for dinner and gathered worship in our hotel. (BD)

DAY 12 MONDAY 21 APRIL 2025

SOMA / PERGAMUM / KUSADASI

We begin the day with an extended visit to the hauntingly beautiful town of Pergamum, founded in 399 BC. We will ride the cable car to the upper city and there see the Temple of Trajan (Trajaneum), the Altar of Zeus, the Temple of Dionysus, the ancient theatre, and the 200,000-volume library which was surpassed only by that found in Alexandria

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at the time. Later we descend to the lower city and visit the Asclepieion, which was a famous health centre where methods of treatment included blood transfusions, music therapy and meditation. We will finish the day by travelling south to the port city of Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 13 TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2025

KUSADASI / EPHESUS / KUSADASI

Today we visit the famous city of Ephesus. Ephesus, as we will see, is in a very good state of preservation and the overall existing view of this ancient city will make it evident that it was a wealthy, cultural, and commercial centre in the 1st century. Paul's preaching in the area resulted with the uproar of the Guild of Silversmiths and the evangelisation of the whole province of Asia. Highlights include the ancient temple to the Roman Emperor, the 'slope' houses, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, the brothel, and the large theatre in which the riot of Acts 19 took place. Not far from the theatre, we visit the Church of St Mary, where the early Church Council of Ephesus took place in AD 431, affirming the full divinity of Christ. We then proceed to the nearby Temple of Artemis, considered as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Finally, we will also visit the Ephesus Museum with its many artefacts from ancient Ephesus, including a colossus of the Roman emperor Titus, and a statue of the goddess Artemis. Our day will conclude with a visit to the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist which commemorates the strong early church tradition that the apostle John came here with Mary, the mother of Jesus, following the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Dinner and overnight is in Kusadasi. (BD)

DAY 14 WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2025

KUSADASI / PATMOS / KUSADASI

Today we will enjoy a day trip on our own privately chartered ferry to the island of Patmos where the apostle John was imprisoned and where he received and wrote the Revelation. If bad weather or other circumstances preclude this sea journey, we will instead visit Priene, Didyma, and Miletus (with its famous "godfearer" inscription), and later Sirince village for wine tasting and some free time or visit the port city of Izmir. Dinner and overnight is in Kusadasi. (BD)

DAY 15 THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2025

KUSADASI / APHRODISIAS / COLOSSAE / LAODICEA / PAMUKKALE

We will commence the day with a visit to the remarkable site of ancient Aphrodisias, where the highlights include the stadium, the Baths of Hadrian, the theatre, the "Bishop's Palace", and the museum. We continue to see the unexcavated mound at nearby Colossae, the site of the town to which Paul addressed his letter. From there we proceed to Laodicea, another one of the Seven Churches, where the remains are found on a flat-topped hill. Christianity came to the area during the time of Paul, brought by Epaphras of Colossae. Laodicea became the seat of a Bishopric and hosted an important Ecumenical Council in the 4th century AD. Highlights will be the water tower, stadium, and the Council chamber. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Pamukkale with the opportunity to enjoy bathing in the thermal springs. (BD)

DAY 16 FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025

PAMUKKALE / HIERAPOLIS / SARDIS / IZMIR / ISTANBUL

This morning we explore Hierapolis, founded by Pergamum king Telephos and named after his wife Hiera. Most likely, the very large Jewish element in this city was an important factor in the rapid expansion of Christianity. During the Byzantine period the city became the seat of the diocese with a large Christian church dedicated to St. Philip who was martyred here in AD 80. Highlights include the Roman Baths, the Temple of Apollo, the theatre, and the beautiful, calcified terraces. After lunch we drive to Sardis, the last of the Seven Churches on our itinerary, and a city which also holds a prominent place in Greek mythology. Highlights include the 3rd century AD synagogue, the gymnasium, the House of Bronzes, the Temple of Artemis, and, of course, the church. Later we continue to Izmir (ancient Smyrna) for our evening flight to Istanbul for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 17 SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2025

ISTANBUL

Today we explore the wonderful cosmopolitan city of Istanbul. After breakfast, we visit Hagia Sophia, one of the great architectural marvels of the early church. We then continue to the Church of St Irene in Topkapi Palace, where the Council of Constantinople (AD 381) finalized the famous Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed. While there, we make a brief visit to the treasury section of the palace, which was the seat of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries. After lunch, we visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, which has significant biblical artefacts, including ancient Hittite treaties, artwork from the sacred way in ancient Babylon, inscriptions from the Temple wall and Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem, the Alexander sarcophagus, and much more. In the later afternoon, we will visit the Hippodrome, the sportive and political centre of the Old City, and the Underground Cistern built by Justinian in AD 535. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Istanbul. (BD)

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DAY 18 SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2025

DEPART ISTANBUL

Early this morning, our last day of our tour, we enjoy a private cruise on the Bosphorus to take in this amazing city from the water, before heading to the Grand Bazaar to enjoy the sights and sounds of this world-famous market. We will then be transferred to Istanbul Airport in time to check in for our return Emirates flights this evening via Dubai.

DAY 19 MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025

ARRIVE SYDNEY

Arrive back to Sydney with wonderful memories of our study tour!

Itinerary subject to change

PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class airfares to/from Sydney with Emirates Airlines into Athens and out of Istanbul via Dubai.
- Domestic flight ticket from Izmir to Istanbul
- All current airport & departure taxes
- Porterage, tips & gratuities throughout
- 16 nights in accommodation in shared twin rooms
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all breakfasts at hotels and dinners at hotels or local restaurants.
- Lunch on 18/4 - Good Friday (instead of dinner)
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach, possibly a 36 seater depending on group size.
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Headsets
- Wi-Fi on the buses (subject to network connectivity)

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Drinks with meals
- Personal payments
- The services that are not mentioned in "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance
- Lunches
- Turkish Visa - USD\$60 for Australian passport holders

PROPOSED HOTELS (OR SIMILAR)

- 2 nights at Stanley Hotel in Athens
- 1 night at Europa Hotel in Olympia
- 1 night at Amalia Hotel in Delphi
- 1 night at Divani Meteora Hotel in Kalambaka
- 1 night at Aiges Melathron Hotel in Veria
- 1 night at Imperial Plus Hotel in Thessaloniki
- 1 night at Hotel Oceanis in Kavala
- 2 nights at Port Bosphorous Hotel in Istanbul
- 3 nights at Elite World Hotel in Kusadasi
- 1 night at Doga Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale
- 1 night at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Canakkale
- 1 night at Ramada by Wyndham Soma in Soma



NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest & obtain a booking form from Olive Tree Travel, Christ College or BY [CLICKING HERE](#)
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3. The final balance will be due in late February 2025

WHO TO CONTACT:

Jenni Smith
 jsmith@christcollege.edu.au
 Christ College
 1 Clarence Street, Burwood NSW 2134
 (02) 9744 1977
 www.christcollege.edu.au



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info@olivetreetravel.com.au

www.olivetreetravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185