



PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND TURKEY

INCLUDES: 3 DAY AEGEAN CRUISE & OPTIONAL CAPPADOCIA EXTENSION

28TH MAY –
12TH / 14TH JUNE 2025

ESCORTED BY
**FR AURELIO
FRAGAPANE**



16

OR

18

DAYS

MAIN PILGRIMAGE:
PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)

OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

UPGRADE TO AN OUTSIDE CABIN:
PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (FOR OUTSIDE CABIN UPGRADE):

**OPTIONAL CAPPADOCIA
EXTENSION:**
PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:

\$8,890*

\$1,795

\$165

\$150

\$1,390*

\$225

**FULLY
ESCORTED**

*Prices subject to change. Conditions apply. Main package based on minimum of 25 pilgrims. Cappadocia extension based on minimum of 10 pilgrims.

REGISTER HERE



"The Church now more than ever needs to recapture the spirit and zeal of St Paul in order to become a missionary people. What a wonderful way in the Jubilee Year 2025 to be renewed in our baptismal calling by being immersed in the very roots of Christianity by following the footsteps of St Paul."

Fr Fragapane

MAIN PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class airfares to/from Melbourne with Emirates Airlines into Athens and out of Istanbul
- All airport & departure taxes, group visa for Jordan
- Porterage, tips & gratuities throughout
- 5 nights hotel accommodation in Greece, 3 nights on the cruise (inside cabin), 5 nights hotel accommodation in Turkey in shared twin rooms
- 3 nights full board on the cruise in inside cabins, shore excursions during the cruise, select drinks on the cruise
- Private shore excursion of Ephesus including Mass at House of Mary
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Headsets

OPTIONAL CAPPADOCIA EXTENSION INCLUDES:

- Return economy class airfares Istanbul to Kayseri
- Porterage, tips & gratuities throughout
- 2 nights' accommodation in a unique cave hotel
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Headsets

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE:

- Drinks with meals, except on the cruise
- Personal payments
- The services that are not mentioned in "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance
- Lunches except on the cruise

NEXT STEPS

- Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Fragapane, Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE](#)
- To secure your place, a deposit of \$500 per person will be required by 2nd September 2024 (unless sold out prior)
- The final balance will be due in late March 2025



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DAY 1 WED 28 MAY | DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Australia this evening on your Emirates flight to Dubai. Upon arrival in Dubai, transfer to your Emirates flight bound for Athens.

DAY 2 THU 29 MAY | ARRIVE ATHENS

Upon arrival in Athens, you'll be assisted, met and escorted to the waiting driver. When ready, load the bus and depart for the hotel. Check-in and have time some free time. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

DAY 3 FRI 30 MAY | BOARD CRUISE, MYKONOS

We'll board our Celestyal cruise ship in the late morning, sailing for Mykonos at 13:00 pm. **We can arrange a morning Mass before departing for the port to board the cruise.** You can explore and enjoy dinner on Mykonos from 18:00 to 23:00. Return to the ship for onward sailing overnight. (BD)

DAY 4 SAT 31 MAY | KUSADASI (EPHESUS), PATMOS

We arrive in Kusadasi at 7:00 in the morning and meet the guide for an excursion to the well-preserved ancient ruins at Ephesus where the Apostle Paul founded a church. **Celebrate Mass at the House of Mary.** At 13:00, continue onward to Patmos, arriving at 16:30. We'll join an excursion to the cave of the Apostle John, the author of Revelation as well as the monastery. Depart Patmos at 21:30. Overnight on board. (BLD)

DAY 5 SUN 01 JUNE | CRETE, SANTORINI

We arrive in Crete at 7:00 am where you'll have an excursion to visit the Minoan palace of Knossos, where we will be able to explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies'. We will also hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur. We depart Crete at 12:00 pm, arriving in Santorini at 16:30 where you will have free time on your own to explore the island. Depart Santorini at 21:30, sailing overnight to Athens. (BLD) **Mass to be arranged on the ship.**

DAY 6 MON 02 JUNE | ATHENS, CORINTH

This morning, we will arrive back at the port of Lavrion at 6:00 am. We will disembark and continue on a mesmerizing trip to the Ancient Corinth and the Bema of St Paul. We will drive through the coastal road to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two Seas, the Ionian and the Aegean. We will continue to Ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century B.C. While visiting the archaeological site we will come across the Temple of Apollo, the agora, the sacred spring and the Peirene Fountain. The apostle Paul resided in Corinth for 18 months in A.D. 51–52. Here he wrote the First and Second Epistles to the Corinthians. We will visit the site of the Bema of St. Paul, where he preached.

Possibility of having a short Mass at the Bema of St Paul.

In the afternoon we will explore Athens and we will visit the Acropolis. Athens, the capital of Greece, is one of the oldest cities in the world spanning a history of 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 the cradle of Western Civilization. We will walk through the architectural wonders of the Golden Age of Pericles; the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheion. We will walk to Areopagus or Mars Hill, the site where trials were heard before the Council of Elders and where St Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians.

Then we will enjoy a bus tour which will guide us through the highlights of Athens; House of Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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DAY 7 TUES 03 JUNE | VIA HOSIOS LOUKAS, METEORA

This morning we load the coach and leave Athens to drive via Livadia to the monastery of Osios Loukas, a World Heritage site, overlooking a remote valley 23km southeast of Arahova, located between the villages of Distomo and Kyriaki. It is considered a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture and one of Greece's best-preserved monasteries. In recognition of its importance, the Monastery of Osios Loukas was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990. Built in the Byzantine times, this monastery has often been in the centre of conflict during the Greek Revolution, due to its geographical location. Major destruction was caused by the Ottoman troops during the Greek Liberation War (1823) and by the bombarding during the World War II (1943). **Possibility of having Mass in the surroundings of the Monastery or at the hotel in the evening.** We continue towards Kalambaka, where we check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 8 WED 04 JUNE | METEORA EXPLORATION, THESSALONIKI

This morning, we commence the day with a visit to two of the Meteora Monasteries, dating back to the 14th century, which stand amongst striking scenery, perched on sheer-sided rock pinnacles of varied and spectacular shapes making them appear to be suspended in mid-air. Here we will get the opportunity to see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art and gain insight into the mystic world of the monks still residing there. This site is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Time permitting, we can arrange Mass at the Catholic Church of Immaculate Conception or at the hotel.** Continue to Thessaloniki where we enjoy a city tour and a brief visit to one of the Byzantine Churches followed by hotel check in, dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 9 THU 05 JUNE | THESSALONIKI, PHILLIPI, KAVALA

This morning, we make the short trip to Philippi where Paul preached his first sermon and baptized the first Christians on European soil. We first visit the baptismal site where Lydia surrendered her life to Christ. **(Option to celebrate Mass at this location).** In Philippi we visit the Roman crypt where St Paul was imprisoned. See the famous Acropolis, the Marketplace, the Basilica, and the Theatre. Visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St. Paul had established a house of prayer. Continue to Kavala (Ancient Neapolis), Greece spectacular mainland port with a most elegant harbor. Paul landed here with his disciples, Timothy, and Silas. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. This ancient city of Neapolis was later renamed Christoupolis as it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will see the Aqueduct and the Acropolis in this beautifully located city, known since the 5th century as Kavala. Dinner and overnight in Kavala. (BD)

DAY 10 FRI 06 JUNE | KAVALA, CANAKKALE

This morning, we depart Kavala and cross the nearby border into Turkey at Ipsala where we will be met and greeted by our waiting Turkish guide and driver. We will visit a local organic winery for some tastings from these lovely vineyards located between the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean. Then we will cross the Dardanelles by ferry and arrive at our hotel in Canakkale for dinner and overnight. (BD)

DAY 11 SAT 07 JUNE | CANAKKALE, TROY, TROAS, ASSOS

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 three times, including the fateful night when Eutychus fell out of the window! 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 drive back to Canakkale for dinner and overnight in our hotel. (BD)

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DAY 12 SUN 08 JUNE | CANAKKALE, ISTANBUL

After breakfast at the hotel and check-out and drive towards Istanbul. The journey takes approx. 4-5 hours. On arrival in Istanbul, we'll begin with a scenic cruise on the Bosphorus in our privately chartered boat, the natural waterway that divides Asia from Europe. We will view imperial palaces, castles, palatial homes, and the two magnificent suspension bridges. If time permits, enjoy a brief visit to the Spice Bazaar, where we'll experience the smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme rising from every store, the same smells that filled the air over 400 years ago. We will check into our Istanbul Hotel for dinner and overnight. We will proceed to our hotel for check-in. and dinner. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Istanbul. (BD)

DAY 13 MON 09 JUNE | ISTANBUL

Today we explore the wonderful cosmopolitan city of Istanbul. After breakfast, we will visit the Hippodrome, the sportive and political centre of the Old City, and the Underground Cistern built by Justinian in AD 535. We will also see Hagia Sophia, one of the great architectural marvels of the early church, and the Blue Mosque, famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique for its six minarets. Then we visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, which has significant biblical artefacts, including ancient Hittite treaties, artwork from the sacred way in ancient Babylon, the inscription from Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem, the Alexander sarcophagus, and much more. We continue onto Topkapi Palace, seat of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries, and view the treasury section. Whilst there, we visit the Church of St Irene, where the Council of Constantinople (AD 381) finalised the famous Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Istanbul. (BD)

DAY 14 TUE 10 JUNE | ISTANBUL

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart from the hotel to drive to the Bosphorus Bridge for a visit to the Asian side of Istanbul. Bosphorus Bridge, also called the First Bosphorus Bridge, is one of the two intercontinental suspension bridges spanning the Bosphorus Straits (Turkish: Boğaziçi), thus connecting Europe and Asia. (The Second Bosphorus Bridge is the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge.) The bridge is located between Ortakoy, on the European side and Beylerbeyi, on the Asian side. We shall cross over to the Asian side. The Beylerbeyi Palace: The Beylerbeyi Palace is one of the mansions built by the Bosphorus in the 19th century under the influence of Western architecture. The rich exterior of the Palace complements the extravagantly decorated interior. The Beylerbeyi Palace was used as a summer palace by Sultan Abdülaziz (1861-1876). During the reign of Sultan Abdülaziz and Abdülhamid II, the palace acquired the characteristics of a state-guest house beginning with its allocation to the foreign states' sovereigns and presidents during their official visits. The first important guest, who was entertained at the Beylerbeyi Palace, was Empress Eugenie of France. After the visit to the Beylerbeyi Palace, you will drive up to Çamlıca Hill the highest point of Istanbul. Çamlıca Hill: It looks like a crown of kings. It is a hill about which many poems and songs in Turkish literature were written. It welcomes its visitors with its unique view of Istanbul. It is one of the highest and most appealing places in Istanbul, which offers the possibility of taking the best pictures of the panoramic view with a coffee break. And then crossing over the Bosphorus Bridge again, arrive at hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul. (BD)

DAY 15 WED 11 JUNE |DEPART ISTANBUL

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer to Istanbul Airport for your International flight to home. Depart on our Emirates flight this afternoon and upon arrival in Dubai, transfer to our connecting flight to Sydney.

DAY 16 THU 12 JUNE |ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back to Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories of our Pilgrimage!

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OPTIONAL CAPPADOCIA ADD-ON

DAY 15 WED 11 JUNE

FLY TO CAPPADOCIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Farewell those not proceeding. Check-out and drive to Istanbul Airport to catch a flight for Kayseri. Arriving to Kayseri Airport you will meet with your driver and drive to Cappadocia. Check-in to your hotel and the rest of the day will be leisure day. Overnight in Cappadocia.

DAY 16 THU 12 JUNE

CAPPADOCIAA

After breakfast, depart from the hotel for a full day area tour. Our first real encounter with Cappadocia's almost Martian landscape is in the Derwent valley, where the rock formations are amazing. A walk through the Zelve Valley is a journey into the past, with its troglodyte houses. This is one of the earliest inhabited and latest abandoned monastic settlements in Cappadocia. After Zelve, we visit Pasabag's "fairy chimneys", where the voice of the wind harmonises with the songs of the fairies. From here we pause at Avanos, a centre of terracotta art since 3,000 BC, for a demonstration in a traditional pottery workshop. After in Avanos, we shall visit the famous Goreme Open Air Museum to see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia. These are found in rock-cut churches with frescoes and paintings dating from as early as the 10th century. After the Museum visit we will visit one of the oldest Ozkonak Underground Museum. We complete the tour with a view point at the Uchisar Rock-Castle, giving you a panoramic view of the valleys of Cappadocia.

DAY 17 FRI 13 JUNE

DEPART CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast at the hotel. We will check-out and drive to Kayseri Airport to catch our domestic flight back to Istanbul in time for our connecting Emirates flight back to Australia.

DAY 18 SAT 14 JUNE

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive Melbourne this evening with wonderful memories from our meaningful pilgrimage!

**** Itinerary subject to change ****

PROPOSED HOTELS (or similar):

2 nights	Hotel Titania	Athens
1 night	Hotel Amalia	Kalambaka
1 night	Hotel Imperial Plus	Thessalonika
1 night	Hotel Lucy	Kavala
3 nights	Cruise	Celestyal Cruise
2 nights	Double Tree Hilton	Canakkale
3 nights	Port Bosphorous	Istanbul
<i>Optional Extension:</i>		
2 nights	MDC Cave Hotel	Cappadocia

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