



# JOURNEY IN THE STEPS OF ST PAUL TO GREECE & TURKEY

## INCLUDING 4 NIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE

**11<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL 2026**

LED BY  
**REV. HOWARD  
LANGMEAD**

**14**  
DAYS

**PACKAGE PRICE:**  
per person (twin share)

**AUD\$9,990\***

**OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM/CABIN  
SUPPLEMENT:**

**\$1,995\***

**FULLY  
ESCORTED**

\*Conditions apply. Subject to change.  
Price based on minimum group size  
of 20 participants. Price estimates  
can be confirmed in May 2025 when  
actual airfares will be known.

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*Rev Howard Langmead is an Anglican minister in Melbourne. As well as many years as a pastor he has also performed as a stand up comedian, facilitated laughter workshops and been an occasional commentator on radio and TV. He is excited to be leading this tour to Greece and Turkey. A trip that will bring to life the journeys of St Paul and explore places significant in early church history. We look forward to you joining us on this biblical adventure.*

### PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Emirates Flight from Melbourne to Athens / Istanbul to Melbourne via Dubai
- Flight from Athens to Izmir
- 11 nights in total: 1 night in Athens, 4 nights full board on the Greece Cruise in XB outside cabins and 6 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in twin share rooms.
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and portage (where available)
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned coach
- 4 nights on the cruise will be on a full board basis with (XC- outside) cabins
- 4 shore excursions on the cruise -
  - Ancient Ephesus Through The Ages - Hellenistic And Roman (KUS-02)
  - Religious Visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto Of Apocalypse (PAT-01)
  - Philerimos Church and the Palace of the Knights (RHO-02)
  - Minoan Palace of Knossos – 1st European Civilisation (HER-02)



### NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Rev Howard, Olive Tree Travel or by [CLICKING HERE](#)
2. To secure your place, a \$500 per person deposit is payable by 10th June 2025 (unless sold out prior).
3. Final balances will be due by mid-February 2026.

**OLIVE TREE  
Travel**

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103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



### **DAY 1 SAT 11 APRIL | 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 SUN 12 APRIL | ARRIVE ATHENS**

Upon arrival in Athens, meet your local guide. When ready, load the bus and depart for the Acropolis, before hotel check in. 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. On our way to the hotel, drive past the House of Parliament, the square of the Constitution and the Panathenaic stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games took place. Enjoy dinner and an early night at the hotel. (D)

### **DAY 3 MON 13 APRIL | BOARD CRUISE, MYKONOS**

After breakfast we will be transferred to the port of Lavrio, where we will board our cruise. The ship sails at 13:00 pm to Mykonos. Take a stroll along the narrow-cobbled streets, past chic boutiques, white-washed churches and elegant cafes. Shuttle buses operate continuously between the port and Mykonos town. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 4 TUE 14 APRIL | KUSADASI (EPHESUS), PATMOS**

This morning, we arrive in Kusadasi where we join an excursion to Ancient Ephesus (KUS-02).

Morning visit to Ephesus in Kusadasi. At Ancient Ephesus we find Immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site we will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, the Temple of Hadrian...The Great Theatre, built in the 4th century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have yet brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk. During the excursion we will have a chance to do some shopping and see the carpet waving demonstration.

In the afternoon, visit St. John monastery and Cave of Apocalypse in Patmos (PAT-01).

The picturesque alleyways wind upwards, towards the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, founded in 1088 by St. Christodoulos. The visit will open the doors for us to the Monastery's yard, the place where the monks take their meals and the old bakery. Of exquisite beauty is the tour of the Byzantine Church of St. John, which is adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods, with both mosaic and other icons. Our next stop is the small museum which hosts religious treasures of inestimable value, like manuscripts, medieval textiles and sacerdotal vestments. Walking down the stairs, the religious energy that we will experience is soul touching. Behind the chapel of St. Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. We will see the cross engraved by St. John the Evangelist, according to tradition, the triple fissure in the wall of the cave, from where St. John heard God dictating to him the Apocalypse and also the spot where he lay down to sleep.

Overnight on board. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 5 WED 15 APRIL | RHODES**

Upon arrival in Rhodos, we join the excursion to Philerimos Church and the place of the Knights (RHO -2) We join our tour which begins at the Acropolis of Rhodes, just outside the city, which dates from the Classical Greek period. We then head to the beautiful Monastery of Panagia Philerimos. We also take some time to visit the Byzantine Church of St George Hostos with its rare frescoes depicting the Knights. We return to the capital Rhodes. In the Knights' Quarter we visit the magnificent Palace of the Grand Master also known at the Castello.

Overnight on board. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 6 THU 16 APRIL | CRETE, SANTORINI**

This morning we arrive in Heraklion (Crete) where we join the excursion to the Minoan Palace of Knossos (HER-02). The ancient city of Knossos, near Crete's capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. Our excursion will open up the world of the Minoans as we visit one of the continent's most important archaeological treasures. 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.'

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As you stroll through the palace apartments and view the archaeological finds, we think you will be just a little in awe of the rich cultural heritage of the Minoan civilisation. You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story. Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing about the extraordinary rule of King Minos. In the afternoon we sail to Santorini, where you will have free time to explore the island or join an optional excursion. Depart Santorini, sailing overnight to Athens. (B,L,D)

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### **DAY 7 FRI 17 APRIL | ATHENS, CORINTH, IZMIR**

Following our disembarkation in the morning, we drive to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two Seas, the Ionian and the Aegean. Continue to Ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century B.C. Here under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, St. Paul preached and lived for two years. The vigorous and mostly Gentile Church he founded here in 50 AD caused him much grief and prompted him to write at least four letters. Visit the ruins of the ancient city where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. See the remains of first century shops, the agora where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, the Fountain of Peirene, Temple of Apollo and the Bema. We will then transfer to the airport to board our flight to Izmir.

Upon arrival in Izmir, meet your local guide. When ready, load the bus and depart for the hotel. Check-in and have time some free time. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (BD)

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### **DAY 8 SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026 | IZMIR, LAODICEA, HIERAPOLIS, PAMUKKALE**

We begin the day by exploring Izmir, a bustling modern city with a rich ancient history. From here, we travel to Laodicea, one of the seven churches of Revelation. Laodicea was an important ancient city known for its wealth and advanced textile industry, as well as its famous water system. After visiting the ruins of the city, we continue to Hierapolis, an ancient spa town built on thermal hot springs. The site is home to the impressive Temple of Apollo and well-preserved ancient structures. We will also explore Pamukkale, the stunning natural wonder known for its white travertine terraces, formed by the thermal waters that have been flowing for millennia.

After our tour, we will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 9 SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 | PAMUKKALE, PHILADELPHIA, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PERGAMON, SOMA**

After breakfast, we head towards Sardis, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Highlights include the 3rd century AD Synagogue, gymnasium, House of Bronzes, Temple of Artemis and, of course, the church. Then we drive to Pergamon, an ancient city known for its cultural and scientific advancements, particularly in the fields of medicine and literature. We will visit the Temple of Trajan, the Altar of Zeus, and the Ancient Theatre, as well as the famous Library of Pergamon, which was one of the largest in the ancient world. Next, we travel to Thyatira, one of the seven churches of Revelation. This ancient city is significant for its early Christian heritage, and we will explore the remains of the ancient city walls and other ruins.

Our journey continues to Philadelphia, another of the seven churches of Revelation, where we will visit the ancient ruins of the city, including the theatre and church sites.

Finally, we head to Soma for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 10 MONDAY 20 APRIL 2026 | ASSOS, ALEXANDRA TROAS, TROY, CANAKKALE**

Our first stop today is Assos, a stunning ancient city perched on a cliff overlooking the Aegean Sea and the island of Lesbos. We will visit the Temple of Athena, one of the best-preserved ruins in the region.

Next, we visit Alexandra Troas, a port city south of Troy that was important during the time of the apostle Paul. Paul is believed to have had a vision here that led him to travel to Macedonia. We will explore the harbor and the remains of the ancient city. We then head to Troy, immortalized in Homer's Iliad. Here, we will see the ruins of the famous city, including the remains of Troy VI, the city that existed during the Trojan War. We will visit the city walls, theatre, and Homeric remains. After our time in Troy, we travel to Canakkale for dinner and overnight. (BD)

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### **DAY 11 TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026 | GALLIPOLI, ISTANBUL**

After breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we commence our day with a pilgrimage to Gallipoli, historically famous for being the site of many battles during World War One. We will visit Anzac Cove, the memorial site for the Dawn Service, Lone Pine, the Nek, the New Zealand and Turkish Memorials, and Kirkpatrick's grave. Following our visit, we will drive towards Istanbul, with a journey time of approximately 4-5 hours. Upon arrival in Istanbul, we'll begin with a scenic city tour by bus, which will take us through the highlights of this magnificent city, offering views of its iconic landmarks. We'll

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pass by imperial palaces, grand mosques, bustling squares, and beautiful waterfronts, all while enjoying the rich history and culture of Istanbul. If time permits, we'll visit the Spice Bazaar, a place where the air is filled with the aromatic scents of cinnamon, cloves, and thyme – smells that have been a part of the market for over 400 years. In the evening, we will check into our Istanbul hotel, where you can enjoy dinner and relax overnight. (BD)

### DAY 12 WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026 | 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 (381 AD) finalized the famous Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed. While there, we make a brief visit to 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 535 AD. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Istanbul. (BD)

### DAY 13 THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026 | DEPART ISTANBUL

After breakfast, check out from the hotel before heading to Istanbul airport, we will drive to Grand Bazaar to enjoy the sights and sounds of this world-famous market. After last minute shopping we will be transferred to Istanbul Airport in time to check in. (B)

### DAY 14 FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026 | ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back in Australia this evening after a wonderful journey!  
 \*\*Itinerary subject to change\*\*

#### ALL PRICES EXCLUDE:

- Drinks with meals (except on the cruise)
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals, laundry
- Lunches (except on the cruise)
- Turkey Visa (currently US\$66 and obtained privately before departure)
- Optional excursion in Santorini

#### PROPOSED HOTELS (OR SIMILAR):

- |            |                        |                     |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| • 1 night  | Hotel Wyndham          | Athens              |
| • 4 nights | Cruise                 | Celestyal Discovery |
| • 1 night  | En Hotel               | Izmir               |
| • 1 night  | Pamukkale Doga Thermal | Pamukkale           |
| • 1 night  | Ramada by Wyndham Soma | Soma                |
| • 1 night  | Yurdakul Hotel         | Canakkale           |
| • 2 nights | Millenium Golden Horn  | Istanbul            |

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#### WHO TO CONTACT:

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