

PAX VIA TOURS PRESENTS

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY

A 12-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & TURKEY

WITH FATHER MARTIN SILVA



DEPARTING FROM SAN FRANCISCO (SFO)



OCTOBER 20 - 31, 2026



\$4,499 PER PERSON

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS



Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul in Corinth



Visit the Acropolis & Mars Hill in Athens



Experience the breathtaking monasteries of Meteora



Explore early Christian sites in Philippi & Thessaloniki



Walk through the ancient city of Ephesus



Discover Istanbul - Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque & Grand Bazaar



Daily Mass, prayer and spiritual guidance throughout the journey

DAILY ITINERARY

- DAY 1 Depart USA
- DAY 2 Arrival in Athens
- DAY 3 Corinth & Athens (St. Paul sites)
- DAY 4 Delphi → Kalambaka
- DAY 5 Meteora → Thessaloniki
- DAY 6 Philippi & Kavala
- DAY 7 Travel to Istanbul
- DAY 8 Istanbul (Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque)
- DAY 9 Fly to Izmir → Ephesus
- DAY 10 Miletus & Didyma
- DAY 11 Grand Bazaar & Istanbul
- DAY 12 Return Home

YOUR PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES

- Roundtrip airfare from San Francisco
- First-class hotel accommodations
- Daily breakfast & dinner
- Luxury motor coach transportation
- Professional Catholic tour guide
- All entrance fees
- Daily Mass & spiritual activities



“Walk where the Apostles walked, pray where the early Church was born, and deepen your faith through a once-in-a-lifetime journey.”



LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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SCAN TO LEARN MORE & RESERVE YOUR SPOT!



\$500 DEPOSIT TO RESERVE



PASSPORT REQUIRED



TRAVEL PROTECTION RECOMMENDED



CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1: Depart USA: Your pilgrimage begins as you depart from San Francisco on an overnight international flight to Greece. Enjoy in-flight meals and services as you prepare your heart and mind for this spiritual journey in the footsteps of St. Paul and the early Christians.

Day 2: Arrival In Athens: Upon arrival in the historic city of Athens, you will be warmly welcomed by your tour escort. We will transfer to your hotel for check-in and time to rest after your journey. In the evening, gather with your fellow pilgrims for a welcome dinner, offering a first opportunity to connect and reflect on the days ahead.

Overnight: Athens (Dinner*)

Day 3: Corinth | Athens: After breakfast, we will board our motor coach and make our way to Ancient Corinth site passing the Corinth Canal. Here the Apostle Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. The mostly Gentile Church he founded here caused him much grief and prompted from him at least four letters. It is from Corinth, also, that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. On our return, we visit the ruins of Cenchaee, the harbor from which St. Paul sailed to Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Continue to Athens. We will visit the Acropolis, the crowning beauty and glory of Ancient Athens, with its many monuments atop its rocky base, including the awesome Parthenon, the Propylea, the temple of Athena Nike, and the Erechtheion, with its Porch of Maidens. Afterwards, we will ascend Mars Hill where St. Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one and only God. From here we have an excellent view of the ancient agora, former center of Athenian public life. Drive to the Roman Temple of Olympic Zeus, the Panathinaikon Stadium (site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896), and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament House on Constitution Square. See views of government buildings and elegant structures of the 19th century. Drive along Panepistimiou Avenue and view the Catholic Cathedral, the Academy, University, and National Library.

Overnight: Athens (B, D)

Day 4: Delphi | Drive to Kalambaka: This morning we drive northbound through the picturesque village of Arachova where we will later reach Delphi. Delphi is considered the navel (omphalos) of the ancient world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pithios. Visit the site and the museum where we can see, among other archaeological treasures, the unique bronze statue of the Charioteer. Free time for lunch and continue to Kalambaka.

Overnight: Kalambaka (B, D)

Day 5: Meteora | Beroea | Tour of Thessaloniki: Today we will marvel at Meteora, the supernatural mix of natural landscape and human-made constructions. Meteora is not only a unique witness of monastic life and art in Greece, but also an incredible place to mesmerize at amazing views, green valleys and steep rock formations that will leave you breathless. Continue to Beroea to visit St. Paul's Bema surrounded by mosaics of Paul and the plaque of scripture regarding the "more noble" church. Free time for lunch and drive to Thessaloniki. St. Paul preached in the city and wrote two epistles to the Ancient Thessalonians. Visit the old city ramparts, the Forum, St. George's church, the ancient Roman monument which transformed into a church and Galerius Arch which rises over the famous via Egnatia. We will also see the beautiful Basilicas of martyred Christian and former distinguished member of the Roman army, St. Demetrius as well as St. Sophia.

Overnight: Thessaloniki (B, D)

Day 6: Philippi | Kavala: After breakfast, we leave Thessaloniki to visit Philippi where St. Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. Here Paul baptized a "certain woman named Lydia" the first Christian convert in Europe. Lastly, we will visit The Roman forum, completely excavated, which is from after Paul's time. Among the ruins, located on the rocky ledge above the town's main road, is the prison where Paul and Silas were thrown. Continue into the modern port city of Kavala, ancient Neapolis, where St. Paul accompanied by Silas, Luke, and Timothy first set foot in Europe. Free time for lunch and a walk on the beautiful seaside promenade of the city before returning to Thessaloniki for dinner & overnight.

Overnight: Thessaloniki (B, D)

Day 7: Kavala Istanbul: Today we cross the Greek – Turkish border and continue to Istanbul. Formerly Constantinople, Istanbul is a profound destination for a Catholic pilgrimage, bridging Eastern and Western Christianity with a rich history of early ecumenical councils, Byzantine art, and martyrdom.

Overnight: Istanbul (B, D)

Day 8: Istanbul: After breakfast, we begin our full day exploring the historic treasures of Istanbul. Our first stop is the magnificent Hagia Sophia, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture and once the greatest Christian cathedral in the world. We continue to the ancient Hippodrome of Constantinople, where chariot races were once held, followed by a visit to the stunning Blue Mosque, renowned for its beautiful blue Iznik tiles and grand domes. Next, we visit the Chora Church, famous for its breathtaking mosaics and frescoes depicting scenes from the life of Christ. We then descend into the mysterious Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground reservoir supported by hundreds of marble columns. After a full day of sightseeing and discovery, we return for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Istanbul (B, D)

Day 9: Ephesus: This morning we fly to Izmir and drive to Ephesus. Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7), major port city on the Aegean, was the commercial, political, and religious center of all of Asia Minor. After a lunatic completely burned the Temple of Diana (Artemis) on the night that Alexander the Great was born in 356 B.C., the Ephesians worked for 120 years to complete a magnificent re-constructed temple, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The city became part of the Roman Empire in the second century B.C. As a Roman capital of Asia Minor, Ephesus boasted a population approaching 250,000 people. The Apostle Paul's first visit to Ephesus was brief—during his second missionary tour (Acts 18:19-21). His second visit lasted about three years— during his third missionary tour (Acts 19:1 to 20:31). Walk the marble-paved street with grooves made by chariot wheels. See the Fountain of Trojan, the Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre. Visit the Chapel of the Virgin Mary (Double Church), where the Third Ancient Council convened. Enjoy St. John's Basilica (built on the site of the Apostle John's tomb) and ponder the remains of the Temple of Diana.

Overnight: Kusadasi (B, D)

Day 10: Miletus Didyma: Drive to Miletus, home of ancient philosopher Thales (640-546 B.C.), one of the fathers of Greek geometry, astronomy, and philosophy. It was here, in the first Christian century, that the Apostle Paul, on his third missionary journey, called for the Ephesians elders and preached a powerful message to them (Acts 20:15-38). It was also here that Paul left his friend Trophimus, who was too ill to continue (II Timothy 4:20). As a port at the mouth of the Meander River, Miletus was a natural outlet for Phrygian trade. Like the one at Ephesus, however, Miletus's sea Harbour eventually filled with silt, and commerce dwindled. The city's remote quietness makes it special to devout students of Scripture. Its ancient ruins include the marvelous 15,000-seat theatre. Nearby, at Didyma, visit the massive Temple to Apollo, one of the most impressive sites in Anatolia. Ordinary people did not reside in ancient Didyma. This was home only to a priestly family whose oracle came from Delphi and who lived in luxury, as they guarded their temple treasures supplied by the people they deceived.

Overnight: Kusadasi (B, D)

Day 11: Istanbul, Grand Bazaar: After breakfast, we transfer to Izmir Airport for our short flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival, we meet our tour escort and begin our visit to the historic Grand Bazaar. One of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, the Grand Bazaar features 61 streets and over 4,000 shops. Enjoy free time to browse a vibrant selection of handmade goods, including carpets, lanterns, jewelry, spices, and souvenirs, while experiencing the rich local culture. We then transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Istanbul (B, D)

Day 12: Return Home: After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return journey home. As we depart, we carry with us not only memories of the sacred places we have visited, but also a renewed faith and deeper connection to Christ. May the graces receive throughout this pilgrimage continue to guide us in our daily lives, strengthening our hearts, our families, and our communities.

*Time Permitting

Tour Number: SFO-1020/12D

Pax Via Tours and Travel - info@paxvia.com

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PRICING

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

\$4499.00*

Double occupancy with base airfare

*Discount cash/check price

OPTIONS

- For a single room*: add \$1050

*Subject to availability

- **Travel Insurance:** Visit www.paxvia.com/travel-protection for details

*Available only for travelers with primary residence in USA or Canada

FIRST PAYMENT

\$500.00 DUE: NOW

SECOND PAYMENT

\$1249.00 DUE: JULY 3, 2026

THIRD PAYMENT

\$1000.00 DUE: AUG 15, 2026

FINAL PAYMENT

REMAINING DUE: SEP 15, 2026

BASE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from San Francisco (SFO)
- Excursions per itinerary
- 4-5 Star Hotels
- Meals per Itinerary
- Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Professional English-speaking tour guides
- Spiritual Guide
- Entrance Fees
- Pilgrims' Backpack

NOT INCLUDED:

- Passport/Visa Costs
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance

Why Travel with Us?

PAX VIA Tours & Travel is a family-run business that prides itself on providing pilgrims with an unmatched religious travel experience. Operated by the Qumsieh family, one of the oldest Christian families of the Bethlehem suburb of Beit Sahour; the Center has helped thousands of people deepen their faith and enrich their lives through pilgrimage.

The tours are professionally organized to ensure that pilgrims receive the highest quality in travel and lodging. But we pride ourselves most on offering a personalized experience. From the first day you are treated like family, welcomed into the local Christian homes, offered stories of faith by residents, and unfettered access to holy sites. Our hope is to help give our patrons an unmatched religious experience that is deeply enriching in body and soul. Our promise is to do so without sacrificing the highest quality in tour services.

Terms & Conditions

Below are the general terms & conditions. Dates and fees may change from tour to tour. For tour-specific information please refer to the terms and conditions on the travel brochure specific to your tour.

By making any payments (cash, credit card or otherwise) towards any tour constitutes your unconditional acceptance of all the terms and conditions stated in this brochure. Pax Via Tours & Travel Inc. shall be referred to as PVTT within this document.

DOCUMENTS: US citizens require a valid passport. Other nationalities please inquire with the appropriate embassies.

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT: Deposit of \$500 per person is required upon registration along with a signed copy of the registration form. Registrations are processed in the order received by PVTT. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. Late payments are subject to a \$50 late fee per week past the due date. PVTT reserves the right to cancel reservations whose payments are 30 days late and to apply applicable cancellation/penalties indicated below. No registrations can be made over the telephone.

INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATION FEES & REFUNDS: Upon cancellation of participation of tour by you, the registrant, for any reason, and only after PVTT receives your written cancellation via email used to register or by US mail, PVTT will then refund your payment for services not received by you, minus applicable cancellation fees per person, according to the following schedule: All refunds will be processed via check. Credit card fees are collected by the payment processor and will not be refunded.

Minimum cancellation fee is \$500 from time of registration up to 120 days prior to the tour's departure date.

From 119 to 60 days prior to departure day, the cancellation fee is \$500 + 20% of total price.

From 59 days to 31 days prior to departure day, cancellation fee is \$500 + 50% of total price.

From 30 days prior to departure day onward, no refund is possible.

PAYMENT: Advertised price is the cash/check discounted price. If paying with a card, a processing fee will apply. Card processing fee is nonrefundable.

BOUNCED CHECKS: Bounced checks will incur a \$25 administrative fee.

DISPUTED PAYMENTS: In the event of a disputed payment for reasons other than a fraudulent charge, the administrative fees associated with a dispute will be invoiced to your account and either deducted from your refund or invoiced to you. These fees are subject to change due to payment processors' rules and regulations.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: Travel insurance is recommended to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection. If you do not wish to purchase now, the plan can be purchased any time before submitting your final payment. Coverage takes effect once payment is received. If you choose to purchase outside of the time-sensitive period outlined in the plan, you will not be eligible for time-sensitive benefits. All plan premiums are non-refundable. To view/download and purchase the plan, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, please visit our website: www.paxvia.com/travel-protection

MEDICAL CONDITION: We endeavor to provide the highest level of service to all our passengers. Participants who require special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the participants' well-being. This pilgrimage demands a lot of walking and can be strenuous. PVTT is not responsible for any medical conditions that occur prior to, during, or after the tour.

LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS: By private deluxe motor coach.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Tour prices are per person, based on two persons sharing double or twin-bedded rooms with a private bathroom with tub or shower. In the event that one does not sign up with a roommate and is not able to be paired with another traveler, there will be a single supplement charge to the account. Single rooms subject to availability and an additional cost indicated on the brochure. Accommodations are subject to change due to upgrade, size of group, etc.

MOBILE APP: Final pilgrimage details will be available through an app before departure. Please be aware that the information on the app is regularly updated and subject to change. PVTT holds no liability for errors or discrepancies in the app's content.

MEALS: Meals in accordance with the itinerary. All beverages are extra.

TIPPING: Unless it is specified in the tour brochure, the price of the tour does not include tips and gratuities. Tipping is recommended to the tour guide and motor coach driver approximately \$6 and \$4 per person, respectively, per day to each. Hotel tips are approximately \$2 per day per person. Tips may be pre-collected before the pilgrimage for your convenience.

AIRLINE TICKETS AND ITINERARY LENGTH: Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class aboard carriers utilizing non-refundable, non-amenable tickets. Preliminary international flight schedules are available 60 days prior to departure and may change before they are finalized. Therefore, if you book the domestic flight on your own, you will be responsible for changing your domestic flights and incurring any change fees that would be generated by this adjustment. We are not responsible for changes and delays in airline schedules and do not reimburse passengers for expenses resulting from such occurrences. Travelers making their own flight arrangements should not purchase non-refundable, non-changeable tickets. We cannot

guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. If flight schedules change, we reserve the right to lengthen or shorten the itinerary accordingly, and if changes or flight schedules necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged at normal hotel rates. Land Only packages do not include airport-hotel transfers.

SEAT ASSIGNMENT: THERE IS NO ADVANCE SEAT SELECTION FOR TOUR DEPARTURES. PVTT cannot guarantee specific seats, which are at the discretion of the airline and are pending availability. When PVTT disperses travel packages, you will receive your record locator. You can use this locator to do online seating arrangements, if permitted by the airline. Any additional costs for seat selection are your responsibility. If your airline ticket is canceled for any reason, you must directly contact the airline to request a refund for your seat selection. The refund will be processed to your original form of payment, subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

BAGGAGE: Transatlantic and transpacific flights to and from the USA allow the passenger to bring one (1) checked bag, which may have a maximum weight of 50 lbs., and maximum combined dimensions of 62 inches. Also, one (1) "carry-on" with maximum dimensions of 8"x12"x20" is permitted. Luggage on domestic flights including Mexico & Canada will cost extra. Luggage is the passenger's responsibility and that of the airlines. For lost luggage, the passenger is responsible for notifying the airline directly. Check with your carrier regarding carry-on luggage rules and regulations. **PRICES:** All prices are based on exchange rates and fares applicable at the time of quotation and based on the minimum number of paying passengers stated in the brochure and are therefore subject to change if fares change (including fuel surcharges increase), if the group does not reach the minimum or if exchange rates fluctuate. Minimum number of paying passengers is 30.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport and Visas, exit taxes, meals not mentioned, beverages with meals, extras beyond the standard menu, excess baggage, luggage on domestic flights, telephone calls, fuel surcharges increase.

VISAS: When and if a visa or visa waiver is required, it is the passenger's responsibility to obtain one. PVTT, owner, agent, or employees cannot be held liable for clients not having proper passports, visa, visa waiver, or other travel documents. Cancellations or changes to schedule due to a lack of appropriate documents will incur usual penalties.

PASSPORTS: Passports are required to travel with Pax Via Tours & Travel Inc. A Passport Card is not useful for International Air Travel. Attempting to use this instead of a Passport Book will result in a denial of boarding by the airlines and entry by the legal authorities.

PHOTO RELEASE: Photos taken on the pilgrimage may be used to advertise for future pilgrimages. By registering for the tour, you consent to photographs taken of you during your participation in the tour and to the publication of the photographs by the Operator for advertising, promotional, and marketing purposes. I assign a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, for any purpose, photographs submitted by me to Operator and any photographs taken of me during my tour. I waive my right to inspect or approve the eventual use of such photographs.

VISA FOR EUROPE – ETIAS -Starting in 2025, Americans, Canadians, Australians will need to apply online for travel authorization for Europe. – This applies to all travelers, and all ages. – Fee approx. \$9 per person – The program is called ETIAS. Some refer to it as a "visa for Europe". It is not a traditional visa but needs basic details about the traveler and their trip.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER: PVTT hereby expressly disclaims any liability for any personal injury, property damage, loss of baggage, accident, delay or irregularity, any claim for special or consequential damages, or any other loss which may be occasioned by the acts and/or omissions, whether negligent, intentional, wrongful, or otherwise, of any air carrier, hotel/motel or other lodging operator, railroad operator, bus operator, public transportation, sea carrier, local sightseeing company, tour operator, tour leader, or spiritual director, any employees thereof, or any other entity or individual not under the direct supervision and control of PVTT when engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith. PVTT likewise expressly disclaims any responsibility for losses or expenses incurred, or inconvenience caused, due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, overbooking of hotels or airlines, sickness, weather, strikes, quarantines, pandemics, epidemics, acts of terrorism, constructions, war, force majeure, or other such events which are beyond PVTT's control. PVTT likewise hereby expressly disclaims any liability for statements, actions, or inactions of any intermediary agents such as group administrators, spiritual directors or tour leaders, travel agents, or any other intermediary involved with the selling, promotion, or operation of its tours. Group administrators, spiritual leaders, and tour leaders likewise hereby expressly disclaim any liability for the acts and/or omissions of any of the above entities and/or individuals not directly under their supervision or control. Please be advised that the liability of carriers as well as providers of hotel and lodging accommodations is limited by law and you may wish to consider purchasing additional insurance to protect yourself against any losses or injuries suffered as a result of their acts and/or omissions. In all instances, PVTT's liability shall be limited to the amounts paid by you for participation in the tour and subject to the provisions and cancellation fees as set forth in the 'Brochure Terms and Conditions'. In the event that the tour leader and/or spiritual director named in a brochure or itinerary does not travel with the group, and a substitute is not named to replace such person(s), then PVTT reserves the right to make substitutions of its choosing for such person(s) in the operation of the tour.

CANCELLATION DUE TO LOW PARTICIPATION: On rare occasions, a tour departure may be canceled due to lack of participation. In the event that PVTT would decide to cancel a departure, a full refund will be issued (not including travel insurance). PVTT is not responsible and does not assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the cancellation of air tickets or other arrangements not made through PVTT.

FORCE MAJEURE: Cancellations due to state advisories and/or state warnings, pandemics, epidemics, acts of war, terrorism, acts of God, natural disasters, force majeure, or any other circumstance outside the control of PVTT, are not the fault of PVTT. Great effort will be made to accommodate passengers on another trip, a postponed date, or to revise the itinerary. However, cancellations for any of these reasons will not be eligible for a refund and are subject to cancellation fees as stated above.

Note: While no changes are anticipated, there may be unforeseen occasions when certain alterations become necessary, either due to changes to the airline schedule, government regulations, travel restrictions, or any other reason. Pax Via Tours & Travels Inc. reserves the right to change the itinerary or name alternate dates due to such unforeseen circumstances or emergencies

Pax Via Tours & Travel

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