

From
\$5,788
USD per person



FSSP PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & TURKEY



❖ *Footsteps of Saint Paul* ❖

SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 1, 2024



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Custom Pilgrimage with Daily Traditional Latin Mass & Gregorian Chant

<https://bestourhl.travel/traditional-catholic-pilgrimage-to-greece-turkey/> | password: bestour2024

New Testament Part II: FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PAUL

*The 'standalone sequel' to New Testament Part I,
Holy Land: Footsteps of Our Lord & Our Lady!*

Ancient Corinth

ITINERARY

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

Departure Day · Fri. 20 Sep.

Depart North America on overnight flight to Athens, Greece. Meals aboard flights.

Day 1: Arrival Day · Sat. 21 Sep.

Arrival in Athens and transfer to our hotel; balance of the day at leisure. Celebrate Mass and enjoy a welcome dinner with the group. Overnight in Athens. D

Day 2: Athens · Sun. 22 Sep.

Go to the Acropolis and learn about the full splendour of ancient Athens: Temple of Zeus, Propylaea, Temple of Athena Nikē, Erechtheion, Parthenon. Learning about pagan Athens will help us understand better the cultural climate encountered by Saint Paul when he brought Christianity to the Greeks. See Acts 17:16–34 for his famous sermon on the Areopagus (the Hill of Ares/Mars).

After lunch, visit the Acropolis museum to see the artifacts from Ancient, Roman and Christian Athens. Travel to the heart of Athens to see the Syntagma (Constitution Square), the Parliament, the National Gardens, other famous sites of the city. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Athens. B, L, D

Day 3: Delphi, Kalambaka · Mon. 23 Sep.

Morning drive on the national highway through ancient Thebes, mountainous Livadeia, and picturesque Arachova to come to Delphi, thought of as the 'navel of the world' by the ancient Greeks. Tour the museum, see the famous Bronze Charioteer, and visit the Temple of Apollo, the Theatre, the Athenian Treasury, and the Castalian Spring. Drive through Lamia and Trikala for dinner and overnight at our hotel in Kalambaka. B, L, D

* N.B. Planned itinerary subject to change.

Day 4: Meteora, Berœa (Veria), Thessaloniki · Tue. 24 Sep.

Visit the famed Hanging Monasteries of Meteora, precipitously built atop immense natural rock formations with sheer drops, and second in importance among the Eastern Churches only to Mount Athos. Celebrate Holy Mass in the Biblical city of Berœa (Veria), where Paul, Silas and Timothy preached the Gospel to the noble-hearted locals who received the word eagerly, "daily searching the Scriptures" to see if what they said was true (Acts 17:10–12). The traditional Tribune displays a recently finished mosaic that commemorates the Saint's sermon there. Visit the beautifully frescoed churches in the "Little Jerusalem" of Greece. Continue on for dinner and overnight at our hotel in Thessaloniki. B, L, D

Day 5: Philippi · Wed. 25 Sep., Michaelmas Day

Drive to Philippi in the footsteps of Sts Paul & Silas (Acts 17:1), and where the Holy Gospel was preached for the very first time in Europe (Acts 16:12–40), circa A.D. 51. Visit the archaeological site of the Roman Forum, the ruins of two ancient basilicas, the Theatre, the Prison of Saint Paul, and the Baptistery of Saint Lydia. Saint Paul wrote *II Epistle to the Corinthians* while staying in the area of Philippi.

Visit Kavala (Biblical Neapolis), where Saint Paul arrived on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11), and his point of departure for his final journey to Jerusalem (Acts 20:6). Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. B, L, D

Day 6: Thessaloniki, Athens · Thu. 26 Sep.

Enjoy a panoramic visit of the city of Thessaloniki, the first-century inhabitants of which were the recipients of Saint Paul's *I & II Epistles to the Thessalonians*, some of his earliest Apostolic writings to the Holy Church, which treat

of the Second Coming of Our Lord. Visit the old city ramparts, the Rotunda of Galerius which was transformed into the Church of Saint George, and the nearby Galerius Arch over the famous Via Egnatia. Spend time visiting the two most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Demetrios and Agia Sophia. After lunch, drive back to Athens via the Vale of Tempē, between Mount Olympus and Mount Ossa, and Thermopylæ, the ancient fortified pass of the eponymous battle. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Athens. B, L, D

Day 7: Cruise to Mykonos · Fri. 27 Sep.

Transfer to the port to embark on our *Iconic Aegean Cruise* aboard Celestyal Cruises. We make landfall at Mykonos to spend a free afternoon in this charming town filled with historic churches, restaurants, shops, and old-world appeal. Return to the ship to sail on to Ephesus on the coast of Turkey, where Saint Paul ministered for over two years (Acts 19). Dinner and overnight on board. B, L, D

Day 8: Cruise to Ephesus: House of Our Lady, Basilica of Saint John, Kuşadası · Cruise to Patmos: Cave of the Apocalypse · Sat. 28 Sep.

We awaken at Mt Koressos (Bülbüldağı, ‘Mt Nightingale’), where it is believed Our Lady lived in a small house towards the end of her earthly life, being taken care of by Saint John the Apostle. Celebrate Holy Mass in the Chapel of the House of Our Lady; then visit the ruins of the Basilica of St. John which stands over his burial place.

Saint Paul also wrote his *First Epistle to the Corinthians* while staying in Ephesus. See the Great Theatre of Ephesus with its capacity of 24,000 people, and where the silversmith Demetrius failed to incite the pagan community to riot against the Christian community (Acts 19:24-40).

Before leaving the area, we will pass along the Arcadian Way and explore the beautiful town of Kuşadası, known as *Ephesus Neopolis* in Byzantine times, before returning to the ship for lunch and sailing on to Patmos.

On Patmos, we will visit the Cave of the Apocalypse, where Saint John lived in exiled in his latter years and wrote the final book of Sacred Scripture. Tour the 11th century Monastery of Saint John the Theologian dedicated to that Holy Apostle, and see its many precious icons and treasured manuscripts. Return to the ship; dinner and overnight on board. B, L, D

PLANNED LOCATIONS* FOR HOLY MASS INCLUDE:

- ❖ Cathedral of Saint Dionysios the Areopagite, Athens
- ❖ Church of Saint Theresa, Athens
- ❖ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Thessaloniki
- ❖ House of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ephesus
- ❖ Cathedral of Saint Photini, Corinth

* Subject to change before final confirmation.

Route Map



Day 9: Cruise to Crete, Santorini · Sun. 29 Sep. · Michaelmas Day

Start the day with a guided tour of the ruins of Knossos on the island of Crete to learn about the Minoans, the first European civilization. See the Knossos Palace, the Venetian fortresses, museums, and experience the vibrant outdoor market. Saint Paul’s stay in Crete is not described extensively in Scripture, and was apparently too short for him to engage in much missionary activity (see Acts 27).

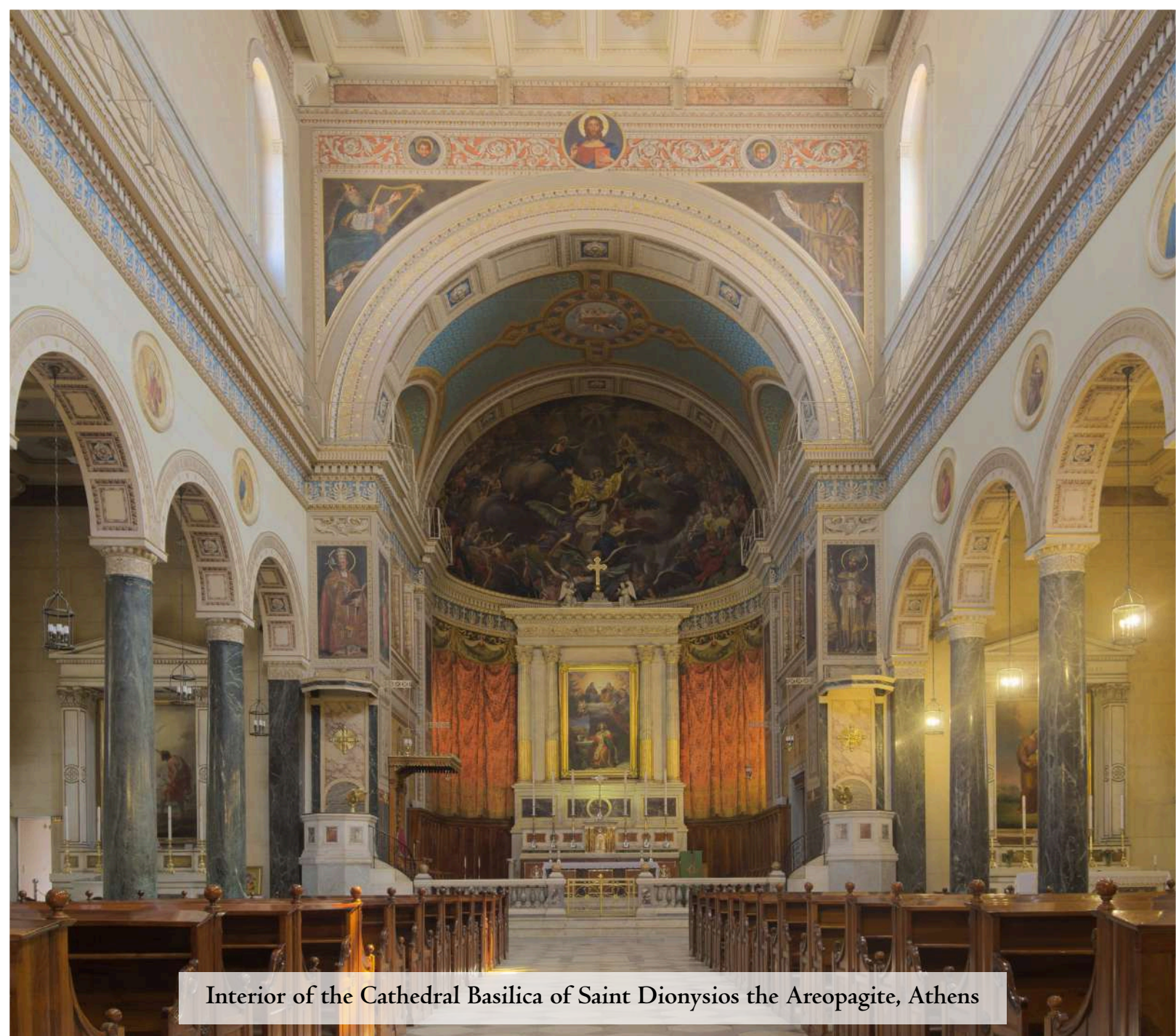
Sail on to Santorini, where the stunning landscape features a famous volcanic crater barely submerged in the sea. Optional guided tour of Santorini. Return to the ship for dinner and overnight on board. B, L, D.

Day 10: Corinth, Athens · Mon. 30 Sep.

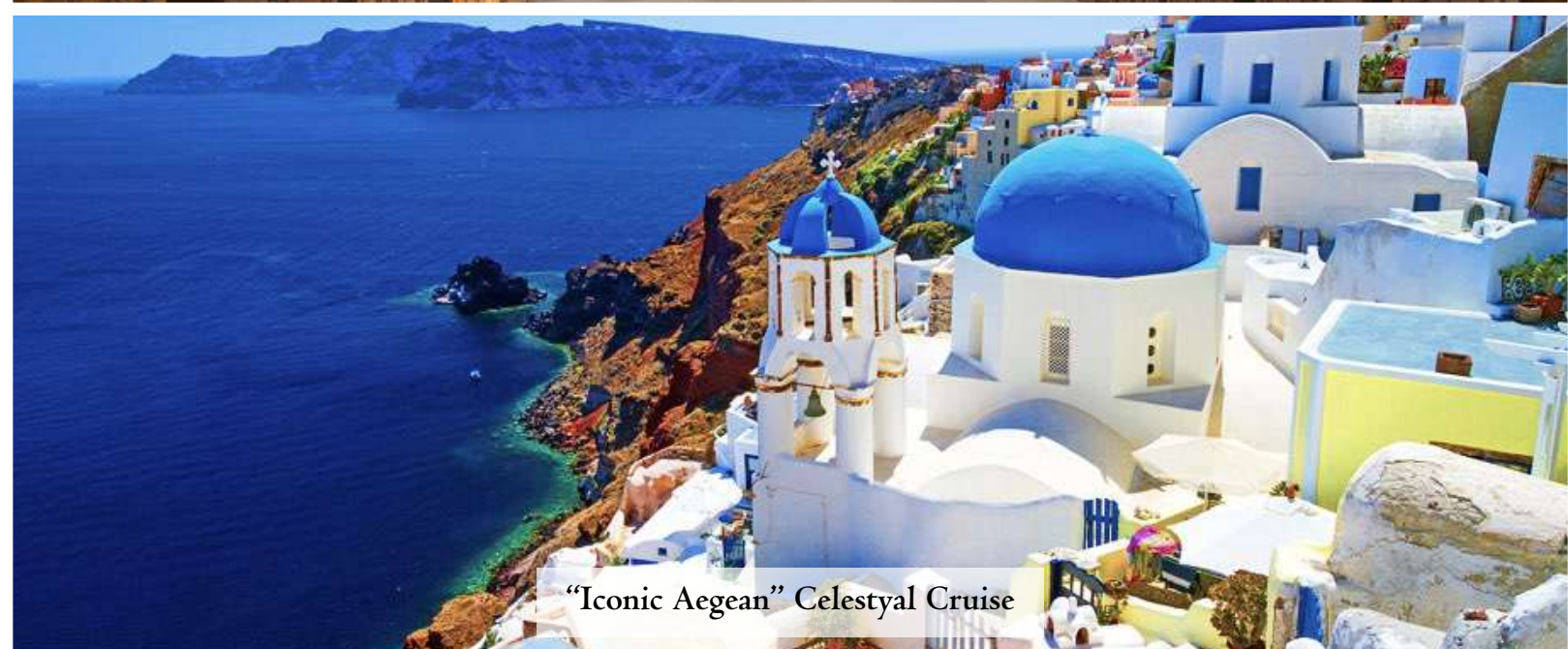
Morning disembarkation in Athens to drive to the ruins of ancient Corinth, where Saint Paul ministered for a year and a half, and from where he wrote his *Epistles to the Thessalonians* and to the *Romans*. See the tribunal, the place to which Saint Paul was dragged and Gallio refused to pass judgment on him (Acts 18:1-17). Return to Athens along a new scenic road to pass by the port of Kenchreai, from where Saint Paul sailed to Ephesus (Acts 18:18). Overnight at our hotel in Athens. B, L, D

Day 11: Return Day · Tue. 1 Oct.

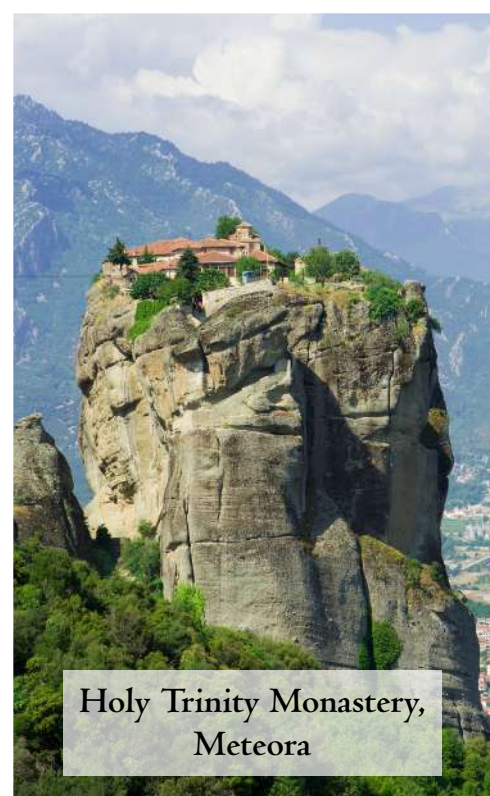
Early morning Mass before checking out of our hotel and transferring to Athens International Airport for our return flights home. Meals aboard flights. B ☺



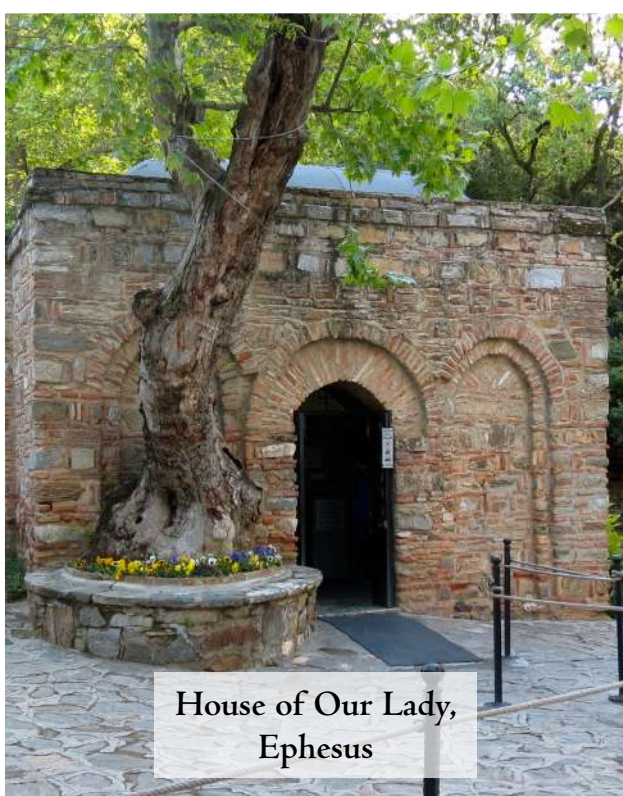
Interior of the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Dionysios the Areopagite, Athens



"Iconic Aegean" Celestial Cruise



Holy Trinity Monastery,
Meteora



House of Our Lady,
Ephesus



Stone of Saint Paul,
Thessaloniki

INCLUSIONS

Your Pilgrimage includes:

- Arrangements for Holy Mass in unique and historical churches; all locations tentative and subject to confirmation
- Private ground transportation for the land portions
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day
- Four (4) nights at Athens hotel Titania or similar
- One (1) night at Kalambaka hotel Meteora or similar
- Two (2) nights at Thessaloniki hotel Capsis or similar
- Three (3) nights "Iconic Aegean" Celestyal Cruise with full board
 - Standard outside cabins XB or XA
 - Other cabins may be available for an additional fee; please inquire at the time of registration
 - Tendering weather permitting
 - The shore excursions during the cruise specified above, according to our itinerary
 - Selected drinks during luncheons/dinners while on board (food service hours only):
 - House wines (red/white/rosé) and house beers by the glass
 - Variety of sodas and juices by the glass; coffee/tea/iced tea
- Professional English-speaking guide for the duration of the itinerary, and Whisper set system during the guided visits
- English-speaking assistant in Athens for transfers; English-speaking assistant of our office during cruise (not in private)
- Porterage at the hotels for one (1) piece of luggage per person
- All sightseeing and entrance fees according to the itinerary
- All accommodation taxes at the hotels; all cruise taxes, service charges, fuel supplements and surcharges
- All gratuities for hotels, restaurants, local guides and local services according to the itinerary
- No hidden fees or extra costs

All-inclusive
land & cruise!
No hidden fees!

Your Pilgrimage does not include:

- Airport transfers for any passengers not arriving/departing at the same time as the main group flights
- Other shore excursions during the cruise aside from those excursions specified above in the itinerary
- Other beverages during the cruise aside from the standard drinks package as specified above
- Additional beverages during the land portion of the pilgrimage
- Personal expenses
- Mass Offerings and additional gratuities at the discretion of the individual pilgrim

PRICING

Pricing:

- Land & Cruise Only: **\$5,788.00 USD** per person (you will need to arrange your own airfare)
- Full Package with airfare: **\$7,888.00 USD** per person, with non-stop roundtrip flight on Delta, Atlanta-Athens (see below)
- Single room/cabin supplement: **\$1,960.00 USD** (max. 2–3 available at this rate; more available at a higher rate).

The regular price per person is for couples or family members in a double or triple room. Singles may wish to share with a suitable roommate, or request to be placed with one if possible. The number of single rooms is limited and subject to availability, though more may be available upon request at a higher rate. Triple rooms are reserved for families who require them, and are also subject to availability.

These prices are stated as of February 22, 2024, and could be subject to change prior to final invoicing. In such cases, you will be notified by e-mail. With the exception of subsequently imposed government taxes, the final price cannot increase after the final payment due date of July 20, 2024.

Payment Schedule:

- For details on how to submit payment, please refer to the Payment Schedule on the following page.

Separate purchase of travel insurance is required.

All pilgrims should purchase their own personal travel insurance from a third-party broker to help protect their investment in the trip, and to help provide for unforeseen circumstances while travelling abroad. We recommend all-inclusive, “cancel-for-any-reason” insurance. Terms will vary depending on the broker and the type of plan purchased.

We suggest visiting www.squaremouth.com for more details and estimates.

GROUP FLIGHTS

Full Package includes:

- **Non-stop roundtrip airfare**, Atlanta–Athens, Delta Airlines, priced at \$2,100 USD (as of Feb. 22, 2024)
 - Outbound Sep. 20 | DL 222 | ATL-ATH 1705–1040 +1 (arrive Sep. 21)
 - Return Oct. 1 | DL 223 | ATH-ATL 1255–1800

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations until May 19, 2024, will be charged an administrative fee of \$1,000 USD. Cancellations between May 20–July 19, 2024 will be charged \$2,000 USD. We will be unable to issue any refunds after July 20, 2024.

UNUSED SERVICES: There is no right to a refund for any unused services.

ITINERARY: The itinerary as presented in this brochure is tentative and represents what we are planning for you. It is, however, it is subject to confirmation from many organizations. Because of changes in local schedules, we may need to alter specified events, dates and/or venues to better accommodate the group. Bestour reserves the right to alter or cancel the itinerary, should unforeseen circumstance arise.

PASSPORT: All passengers require a valid US passport, with an expiration date at least six months after the return date of this pilgrimage—otherwise, boarding the plane at the point of departure, or arrival in the destination country, may be denied. If you do not have a valid passport, please apply for one immediately, since processing times may be long. Be sure to have it in your possession at all times while on tour. **If you are not a US citizen, it is your responsibility to obtain the requisite visa or documentation for this pilgrimage. Please contact your local embassy.**

HEALTH GUIDELINES: All pilgrims must be medically and physically fit for this trip. There are some portions that require significant walking, as motor coaches are not permitted to pick up or drop off pilgrims in front of certain major attractions in historical areas. The tour is not wheelchair-accessible and will not be suitable for those who require the use of motorized scooters, walkers, or canes. Any special medical conditions or equipment must be communicated to us in writing at the time of registration, so that we may evaluate the feasibility of the situation for the prospective pilgrim.

DIETARY CONCERNS: Food allergies and dietary restrictions are the sole responsibility of the traveller. Please do, however, advise us of any dietary concerns at the time of registration.

UNUSED SERVICES: There is no right to a refund for any unused services including airline tickets.

RELEASE: Bestour, including its employees, shareholders, officers and directors, does not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the Bestour name, guides, sightseeing companies, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. Consequently, Bestour is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity. In addition, Bestour is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any other person or entity it does not own or control. Without limitations, Bestour is not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond its control, including, without limitations, any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation by any third party such as a cruise line, airline, train, hotel, bus, taxi, van, local ground handler or guide, whether or not it uses the Bestour name, and also including, without limitations, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip.

REGISTRATION FORM

Footsteps of St. Paul with Fr. Akers, Sep. 20–Oct. 1, 2024

- ➔ Please print and complete this form (one for each pilgrim), then scan and e-mail to amerguide@gmail.com
- ➔ Please include your deposit payment of \$1,000 to secure your spot
- ➔ Please provide a photo/scan of your valid passport showing your name, photo, and expiration date

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: _____ Gender: M / F (circle one) Name you prefer on your nametag: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Surname: _____

Current Cell Phone (important for our communication with you before and during the Pilgrimage): _____

Current E-mail: _____

Guest of (Head of your household, if applicable): _____ Relation to Host: _____

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Any physical limitations? Please explain: _____

- I would like to share a room with: _____, my (relationship to you) _____
- I would like a single room and agree to pay the single room supplement of **\$1,960.00 USD**.
- I agree to pay the land-and-cruise price of **\$5,788.00 USD** and will arrange my airfare separately. (We will contact you to ensure your travel times line up with the group flights for airport transfers. Please ensure that all your contact information is accurate.)
- I agree to pay the full price of **\$7,888.00 USD** that includes roundtrip airfare for the group flights on Delta, ATL–ATH.

HOW TO PAY

- Payments can be made by personal check, payable to **Amer Shehadeh**
- Please scan or take a photo of the front and the back of the check and e-mail to amerguide@gmail.com
- Your check will be deposited via securely encrypted online banking deposit.
- **\$1,000** to register, due **March 20, 2024**.
- **\$1,500** additional, due **May 20, 2024**.
- **Remaining balance + Single Supplement** (if applicable), due **July 20, 2024**.
- Any bookings made after July 20, 2024 will be subject to availability and require full payment upon registration.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Passport #	Country	Issue Date	Expiry Date
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- BINDING ARBITRATION:** By signing below, I certify that I have read and do agree to the Terms and Conditions laid out on the previous page. I agree that any dispute concerning, relating to or referring to this agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9, u.s.c. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury.

Signature _____

Date _____

The Journeys of Saint Paul



For so the Lord hath commanded us: "I have set thee to be the light of the Gentiles; that thou mayest be for salvation unto the utmost part of the earth." Acts 13:47

Timeline of the Life of Saint Paul

circa A.D. 5	Born in Tarsus of Cilicia (now in Mersin Province, Turkey).
c. 34	Martyrdom of Saint Stephen by stoning at Jerusalem (Acts 6–7).
c. 34	Conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Celebrated January 25.
c. 34–37	Sojourn in Arabia (i.e. the deserts of Syria & Jordan) and return to Damascus, over a period of three years (see Gal. 1:11–20).
46–47	Saint Barnabas seeks Saint Paul in Tarsus to bring him to Antioch and establish a home base for the Christians. Famine relief (Acts 11).
c. 47–48	Ministry in Jerusalem (Acts 12:25). Incident at Antioch: disagreement with Saint Peter over the Jewish law of circumcision (Gal. 2).
48–49	First Journey (Acts 13–14). <i>Epistle to the Galatians</i> written, possibly from Ephesus or from Antioch, c. 48.
50	Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15). Return to Antioch.
51–53	Second Journey (Acts 16–18). <i>I & II Thessalonians</i> written from Corinth c. 51; <i>I Corinthians</i> written from Ephesus c. 53.
53–54	Antioch.
54–57	Third Journey (Acts 19–21). <i>II Corinthians</i> written from Macedonia (Philippi?) c. 55; <i>Romans</i> written from Corinth c. 57.
57	Arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 22–23).
57–59	Imprisoned in Cæsarea Maritima (Acts 24–26).
59–60	Fourth Journey (Acts 27–28).
60–62	Under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:30). <i>Ephesians</i> , <i>Colossians</i> , <i>Philippians</i> , <i>Philemon</i> written.
c. 62–64	Travels, largely unaccounted. Macedonia, Achaia? Intention to winter in Nicopolis, Greece (Titus 3:12). <i>I Timothy</i> & <i>Titus</i> written.
c. 64–67	Final imprisonment in the Mamertine Prison, Rome. <i>II Timothy</i> written.
c. 67	Martyrdom by beheading outside the walls of Rome. ☩