



# Tekton Ministries

*"Serving God's people on their journey of faith"*

## *Pilgrimage to* **GREECE and TURKEY** *In the Footsteps of St. Paul*



April 13<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## ✧ PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY ✧



### ✧ Day 1 – April 13: Depart U.S.A.

Our spiritual pilgrimage begins as we depart on our transatlantic flight to Athens. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

### ✧ Day 2 – April 14: Arrive Athens

Upon arrival in Athens, we will be greeted by our guide and transferred to our hotel for rest and relaxation.

### ✧ Day 3 – April 15: Athens

This morning drive to visit the world-renowned Acropolis, and the ruins of the Parthenon and Erechtheum. We will view Mars Hill where Paul was brought before the council so that they could hear more of the doctrine he preached. Drive around the city of Athens to see the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Presidential Palace. In the afternoon drive along the scenic coastal road and follow fairly the same route that the Apostle took to the ancient city of Corinth where he preached and lived for nearly two years. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place, the Bema and the Temples. We'll celebrate Mass in Corinth before returning to our hotel.



### ✧ Day 4 – April 16: Athens / Kalambaka

Depart Athens and drive north to Delphi, the center of the ancient world. We will take a walking tour of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Temple of Apollo which served as the home of the Oracle of Delphi. The tour will also include the theater, the stadium where festivals and games were held in honor of the Sun God, and the museum that contains exquisite pieces of sculpture among which is the Bronze Charioteer. Then proceed to Meteora where we will experience one of the most unusual and spectacular highlights of the pilgrimage as we visit a number of world-famous Byzantine monasteries perched precariously atop the summits of gray rock pinnacles of varied sizes and shapes. The panoramic view is breathtaking. After visiting Meteora we will continue on to Kalambaka for overnight.



### ✧ Day 5 – April 17: Kalambaka / Thessaloniki

- Today we will depart Kalambaka and proceed through the ancient city of Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, to Beroea, also known as Veria or Veroia. St. Paul fled here after he was threatened in Thessalonica. We will celebrate Mass at the "Dais of the Apostle Paul," and then visit the Bema, the monument to the apostle Paul; the small Byzantine basilica of the Resurrection of Christ; and one of the town's most notable monuments, Hagios Vlasios, which is dedicated to St. Blaise. We will then proceed to Thessaloniki which St. Paul visited on his second missionary journey in 49 A.D. and where he founded a church, was heavily persecuted, and wrote two letters to the residents. Visit the old city ramparts, the Archaeological museum, and St. George's Church – an ancient Roman monument that was transferred into a church. Then see the two most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Demetrius, dedicated to a distinguished member of the Roman army and a martyred Christian convert, and St. Sophia. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

### ✧ Day 6 – April 18: Thessaloniki / Kavala



- Today's sightseeing begins with a visit to Philippi, which was the first European city in which St. Paul preached his evangelical sermon and baptized the first Christians. A crypt here dating from the Roman period is thought to have served as a prison for St. Paul. See the Acropolis, the Basilica, the Theater and the Market Place. The highlight of the day will be an outdoor celebration of the Mass alongside the river where Paul preached and baptized Lydia, his first European convert. Continue to Kavala, the ancient port of Neapolis where St. Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. Luke, the Evangelist, also came here from Troas. Kavala was later named Christopoulos because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. Here we will visit the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Nicholas Church. Overnight in Kavala.



### ≈ Day 7 – April 19: Kavala / Canakkale / Bergama

Early this morning we will depart from Kavala and drive to the Greek-Turkish border and cross into Turkey. Then take a ferry across the Straits of the Dardanelles to Canakkale. Proceed to Pergamum, the most favored of the Seven Churches where Christianity was introduced very early. Here we will see the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, the fabled Acropolis and the Royal Gate. Overnight in Bergama.

### ≈ Day 8 – April 20: Bergama / Sardis / Kusadasi

This morning we will visit Asclepion, one of the foremost healing centers of the ancient world. Then proceed to Thyatira, another of the Seven Churches. Then drive to Sardis, the Lydian capital city where money was first minted, to visit the marble road of the Roman Gymnasium and the remains of the Artemis Temple which symbolized one of the Seven Churches. Continue on to Izmir. We will visit the Church of St. Polycarp, the oldest church in



ancient Smyrna, where we will celebrate Mass. Polycarp, the fourth Bishop of Smyrna, is known as one of the first Christian martyrs. Proceed to Kusadasi for overnight.

### ≈ Day 9 – April 21: Kusadasi / Patmos

This morning we will board a ferry for the Greek island of Patmos where St. John received the mystical Revelation which forms the last book of the New Testament. Upon arrival we will visit the Grotto of Revelation and the 11th century Monastery of St. John which houses the original script of the Gospel. We will then return by ferry to Kusadasi for overnight.

### ≈ Day 10 – April 22: Ephesus / Izmir / Istanbul

This morning we will depart Kusadasi and proceed to the House of the Virgin Mary which is believed to be the last residence of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. According to tradition, Mary was brought to Ephesus by the Apostle John after the Resurrection of Christ and lived out her days there. After Mass we will proceed to Ephesus where St. Paul spent two years during his ministry. It was to this community that St. Paul wrote his Epistle to the Ephesians. St. Paul implored the Ephesians to cease their worship of Artemis and to turn to Christianity. We will see the great theater where Paul addressed the crowds and visit the site of the scene of the riot from which Paul escaped. Visit the Temple of Diana which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Church of the Virgin Mary, and the Tomb of St. Luke. Then visit the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by the Emperor Justinian. In the late afternoon we will proceed to Izmir to catch a flight to Istanbul, ancient Constantinople. Upon arrival in Istanbul we will have dinner at a local restaurant and then proceed to our hotel for check-in.

### ≈ Day 11 – April 23: Istanbul

Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing encompassing Istanbul's Byzantine and Ottoman Heritage. The tour will start with a visit of Hagia Sophia Museum (the Byzantine Imperial Basilica of Holy Wisdom built by Emperor

Justinian in the 6th century 532-537AD) which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet which is also known as the Blue Mosque, and the Roman Hippodrome built by the Roman Emperor Septimus Severus in 203 AD which houses the Egyptian Obelisk and Serpentine Column. Continue our tour with a visit of Topkapi Palace, the residence of Ottoman Sultans Between the 15th and 19th centuries. Then visit the Basilica Cistern which were built by Emperor Justinian in 542 AD. The last stop will be the Grand Covered Bazaar, built by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror between 1455-1461 in an attempt to enrich the economic life in the city. Today, its Alleys and buildings house more than 4,000 shops selling carpets, furniture, leather goods, copper goods, jewelry and touristic items. Overnight in Istanbul.

### ≈ Day 12 – April 24: Istanbul / U.S.A.

Transfer to the airport to catch our return flight home.

## PILGRIMAGE PRICE: \$3,280.00

*per person/double occupancy*

*For a single occupancy please add \$512.00*

*For land only, please subtract: \$675.00*

### These rates include:

- \* Arrangements for daily Mass
- \* Roundtrip economy airfare from Chicago
- \* 10 nights accommodation
- \* Transfer to and from Chicago O'Hare from St. Michael's
- \* All hotel taxes and service charges
- \* Breakfast and dinner daily
- \* Comprehensive sightseeing with licensed English-speaking guides in Greece and Turkey
- \* All entrance fees as per itinerary
- \* Chartered boat for Patmos excursion
- \* Port tax in Kusadasi
- \* Greece/Turkey border taxes
- \* Land transportation by deluxe motorcoach
- \* Arrival and departure transfers
- \* Portage of one piece of luggage
- \* All Gratuities

### These rates do not include:

- \* Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$437.90 per person, subject to change until the time of ticketing)
- \* Turkish entry visa (\$20.00 per person for U.S. citizens; it needs to be purchased prior to departure from the United States. Turkey has adopted a new "e-visa" which can easily be obtained online by visiting [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr))
- \* Lunches, drinks with meals, extras at hotels and any expenses of a personal nature

Departures from other airports available upon request.



*For more information, please contact:*

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**Reservations and Payment:** Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 75 days prior to departure. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. Reservations made within 74 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 21 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$50.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$150.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 14 - 7 days prior to departure \$700.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

**Travel Documents:** A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Greece. U.S. Citizens are required a Turkish entry visa, which costs \$20.00 per person for U.S. citizens; it needs to be purchased prior to departure from the United States. Turkey has adopted a new "e-visa" which can easily be obtained online by visiting [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr). If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

**Hotels:** Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

**Air Transportation:** Air travel is in economy class on Turkish Airlines. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice.

**Baggage:** Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. More information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

**Not Included:** Airline taxes/fuel surcharges of \$437.90 per person, subject to change until the time of ticketing, Turkey entry visa, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

**Refunds:** Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted

the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

**Trust Account Disclosure:** California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

**Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"):** George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

**Responsibility Clause:** Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

*Services for this tour are provided by  
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