

50th Anniversary Celebration Pilgrimage
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, KELLYVILLE

17
DAYS

The footsteps of the Great Apostle

Accompanied by
**FR ALEJANDRO LOPEZ,
OFM CONV. &
FR LEONIDES MATEO,
OFM CONV.**

14 NIGHTS / 17 DAYS. DEPARTS FRIDAY 14TH MAY 2021

Athens (2) • Cruise: Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini (4)
• Corinth (1) • Hosios Loukas • Meteora • Kalambaka (2) • Berea • Kavala •
Philippi • Thessaloniki (2) • Istanbul • Canakkale (1) • Istanbul (2).
Optional Franciscan Extension to Italy - 9 nights



the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



SANTORINI



HAGIA SOPHIA, ISTANBUL

SYMBOLS: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

DAY 1: FRIDAY 14 MAY - DEPART AUSTRALIA

DAY 2: SATURDAY 15 MAY - ARRIVE ATHENS

Athens today is the thriving capital of Greece, but, more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys.

Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3: SUNDAY 16 MAY - ATHENS

The Athenians - Paul came to teach the philosophers that there is in fact a God who is real and can be known!

We begin our pilgrimage with a tour of Christian Athens including the Acropolis, the Areopagus and the Ancient Agora, where Paul preached about Jesus and the resurrection.

Later we will come to the New Acropolis Museum with its celebrated exhibition of Greek antiquities and statues which vividly illustrate the myriad of pagan Gods Paul was battling against.

After a rest back at our hotel we will enter the lively Plaka district to dine this evening at a typical Greek Taverna with live Athenian music and atmosphere.

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 4: MONDAY 17 MAY - EMBARK GREEK ISLAND PILGRIMAGE CRUISE - MYKONOS

Today we are transferred to Piraeus port to board our 4-night Aegean cruise! We then sail to the quaint isle of Mykonos, as we explore the charming walkways and shops through a maze of white-washed buildings.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 5: TUESDAY 18 MAY - CRUISE SHIP - EPHEBUS & PATMOS

The Ephesians - This first Christian community was established by St John and developed by St Paul through his fervent preaching over a 3 ½ year stay, during which he wrote his letter to the Ephesians.

This morning we arrive into the Turkish port city of Kusadasi, doorway to Ephesus.

Shore Excursion: Ancient Ephesus & House of

the Virgin Mary

Our excursion today will include Ephesus, the most famous of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third missionary journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his greatest and most challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and succeeded in converting many away from worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived and preached. See the prison of St Paul; walk through the ancient marble streets founded in the 10th century BC and see this most 'complete' Roman city providing us with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. Pass the Temple of Hadrian, the Library of Celsus, and the enormous amphitheatre (Acts 19:29-31), culminating at the House of the Virgin Mary where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life.

Our excursion will culminate at the Covered Bazaar of Kusadasi with some free time for shopping and...bargaining!

We re-board our ship in the afternoon and continue to the Dodecanese island of Patmos, where St John wrote the Book of Revelation.

The Patmosians - During his time on what is now called the 'Holy Island of Patmos', St John wrote the book of Revelations and composed the Fourth Gospel as a very old man.

Shore Excursion: Patmos

We come to the village of Chora, the traditional settlement and capital of Patmos, where the narrow streets were designed to ward off pirates over the centuries. Ascend to the Monastery of St John the Beloved, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, for a visit. Our exploration of this living monastery will culminate with time in the actual Cave of Revelation where God chose to reveal to St John the mysteries of the last book of the Bible - the Apocalypse. The cave is now at the foot of the monastery, which houses priceless icons and manuscripts, sacred relics, vestments embroidered with silver or gold threads and bejeweled with precious stones.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY 19 MAY - CRUISE SHIP -

RHODES

Today we come to the Island of Rhodes, where St Paul came during his third missionary journey (Acts 21:1). We enter the port, which was once dominated by the Colossus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Shore Excursion: Rhodes & Lindos

Lindos is situated 55 km from the city of Rhodes and "bears" above it the Acropolis of Lindos, with the ancient Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC.

Here and there you will come across the captains' mansions, built between the 16th and 18th century. In the centre of the village lives and breathes the Church of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15th century.

From here we can see St Paul's Bay where the Apostle landed during a storm.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 7: THURSDAY 20 MAY - CRUISE SHIP - CRETE & SANTORINI

The Cretans - St Paul visited Crete following his first imprisonment in early 63AD. He left Titus on the island to assist maturing the Church, some of whose members were the first to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:11).

This morning we arrive in Heraklion, Crete, with time to wander or choose from a guided shore excursion on offer.

In the afternoon, we cruise to the isle of Santorini, often referred to as the most breathtaking of all the Greek islands. We may disembark here and admire the exquisite whitewashed villages. Optional shore excursion.

Overnight onboard cruise ship (BLD)

DAY 8: FRIDAY 21 MAY - CRUISE DISEMBARKATION TO CORINTH

The Corinthians - It was here the Lord spoke to Paul and told him to 'speak ... no one will attack you' (Acts 18:9-10); many were baptized and came to believe.

Following disembarkation we set out towards Corinth as we firstly come to the world-renowned Olive Grove of the Nikolaou Family dating back to 1833. Learn more about the ancient tradition of olive oil production



METEORA



techniques going back centuries.

Onwards to the great ancient outdoor theatre of Epidaurus where we will marvel at the architectural symmetry of this 4th Century BC structure built by the architect Polykleitos.

Enjoy our afternoon exploring Ancient Corinth, where Paul lived for two years as a tentmaker. Visit here the ancient ruins and see the site where he preached the Gospel from the Rostrum. See the Peirene fountain, and the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting.

We retire this afternoon to our hotel adjacent to the ancient Port of Cencreae where St Paul set sail for Syria after making a personal vow and shaving his head. (Acts 18:18)

Corinth overnight (BD)

DAY 9: SATURDAY 22 MAY - VIA HOSIOS LOUKAS TO METEORA

We travel north today to spend time at the remarkable Byzantine Monastery of Hosios Loukas, built in the 10th century on the slopes of Mt Helikon and overlooking a picturesque valley teeming with olive trees. In 1990 UNESCO included this site on their World Heritage List. On arrival we will celebrate an outdoor Mass here in the grounds of the walled Monastery before being taken on a guided tour of the Churches, crypt and surrounds where we admire the amazing frescoes and mosaics with their characteristic gold background dating back to the 11th Century.

We continue north this afternoon to the small town of Kalambaka built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of Meteora.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 10: SUNDAY 23 MAY - METEORA EXPLORATION

The Monastics - The Meteora monasteries were inspired by the monks' love of God and a life striving to become open to the Fathers heart through monastic life and asceticism.

We spend some time today marveling at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their cave-like Monastic community

of Meteora. We will visit some of these living monasteries by foot and view the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes and other treasures that will certainly make this a remarkable day.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 11: MONDAY 24 MAY - VIA BERA TO THESSALONIKI

The Bereans - The Jews 'received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to study the merits of all Paul had preached to them.' (Acts 17:11)

Today we journey north by coach to Berea (modern Veria). The "Bema" - an impressive monument to Paul - is believed to incorporate the steps from the original synagogue from which he preached the gospel to the Jews, who welcomed the word of God and began to study the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-12).

A small church was established here and we will also view the 'hidden churches', a collection of about 20 Byzantine structures, camouflaged in the form of barns from the invading Ottoman Turks.

The Thessalonians - St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians.

Our time this afternoon in Thessaloniki will include the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius, as well as the Rotunda where we can see pieces of the pulpit from which Paul preached. View the Roman Agora where he also preached. Nearby we shall visit St Demetrios' Church dedicated to a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity and was later martyred. View its valuable mosaics and frescoes before descending into the crypt where we find the remains of some ancient Roman baths and streets.

Thessaloniki overnight (BD)

DAY 12: TUESDAY 25 MAY - KAVALA & PHILIPPI

The Philippians - Here Paul founded the first European church in Philippi and Lydia was baptised as the first European convert to Christianity.

Travel along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul to the port city of Kavala (ancient

Neapolis), once named "Christoupolis" after being the first European city to accept Christianity. It was here that St Paul, St Timothy and St Silas first landed from Troas (Acts 16:11), one of the foundational moments in the history of Christianity.

Journey on to Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). Visit the Baptistry of Lydia for a beautiful outdoor Mass in this breathtaking oasis on the River Zygaktis, and to renew our Baptismal vows. Visit the marketplace (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the rulers) and the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. In the ancient theatre we will hear the story of Paul's arrest, imprisonment and miraculous release.

We depart Philippi and journey east along the ancient route of the Apostle Paul via Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) where we view the ruins of many Christian basilicas on our way back to Thessaloniki.

Thessaloniki overnight (BD)

DAY 13: WEDNESDAY 26 MAY - VIA ISTANBUL TO CANAKKALE

This morning we depart Thessaloniki and fly to Istanbul, where upon arrival we travel directly to Canakkale, the ancient seaport of Canakkale overlooking the Dardanelles waterway at their narrowest point of entry

Canakkale overnight (D)

DAY 14: THURSDAY 27 MAY - GALLIPOLI

Following breakfast, the Gallipoli Peninsula where 7594 Australian and 2431 New Zealand soldiers lost their lives in battle during World War I.

We tour the relevant landmarks here this afternoon at Anzac Cove including the Lone Pine Cemetery where we will celebrate Mass. We come in faith to pay tribute and pray for the souls of the heroes of those tragic months of 1915.

After lunch we rejoin our coach and travel north to Istanbul – a glorious city uniquely positioned on two continents.

Istanbul overnight (BLD)

DAY 15: FRIDAY 28 MAY - ISTANBUL EXPLORATION

This morning we begin with a visit to the Church of St Anthony of Padua, where we will celebrate Mass. Continue to the Byzantine Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and nearby Hagia Sophia (meaning 'Holy Wisdom'). Built in 548 AD, Hagia Sophia was the greatest Church in Christendom until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. We then visit the 6th century Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city.

Continue to the Topkapi Palace. Onwards then to the Grand Bazaar, with over 4000 exotic tiny shops. Tonight, we enjoy a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Istanbul overnight (BD)

DAY 16: SATURDAY 29 MAY - DEPART TURKEY

Today we are transferred back to Istanbul airport for our homebound flight connection. (B)

DAY 17: SUNDAY 30 MAY - ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

INDICATIVE DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| TOUR CODE | PV1321 |
| STARTS | Fri 14 May 2021 |
| FINISHES | Sun 30 May 2021 |
| AIR + TOUR COST | \$8,390 (twin share) * |
| SINGLE ROOM | \$1,640 Supplement |
| PREPAID TIPS | \$225 per person |

INCLUSIONS

Airfares: Return Economy Class airfare from Sydney to Athens and Istanbul return • (N.B. Airlines taxes are included on standard itinerary and subject to fluctuations)
Accommodation & Meals: Based on standard hotel accommodation throughout with breakfast and dinner daily
Touring & Transportation: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach with driver • Professional English Speaking Escorts & Guides • Entrance Fees throughout itinerary • Porterage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrims Journal and Tour Wallet
Other: Passport and visa costs (Turkish Visa Required) • Tipping (invoiced separately) • Other meals not stated • Items of a personal nature • Travel Insurance

* Prices are based on a minimum group size of 25 paying pilgrims, calculated as at February 2020. Prices remain indicative, subject to possible changes in the unlikely event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare increases or minimum group size contingencies. Please note that single rooms are limited and price is subject to availability.

FRANCISCAN EXTENSION

9 NIGHTS - POST TOUR OPTION

DAY 16: SATURDAY 29 MAY – DEPART FOR ROME

Today we are transferred to Istanbul airport for our flight to Rome. We are transferred to our accommodation.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 17: SUNDAY 30 MAY – ROME

This morning we visit the ancient Catacombs for a memorable guided tour. We then proceed to St Peter's Square to see the Holy Father (subject to the Pope's presence in Rome). This afternoon we visit St. Mary Major Basilica for group Mass. Onwards to the Basilica of Santa Croce in Jerusalem with its collection of relics from the Holy Land including a full size replica of the Shroud of Turin. Continue to the Basilica of St. John in Lateran.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 18: MONDAY 31 MAY – ROME

Celebrate Mass at St Peter's Basilica before coming to the Vatican Museums. Wander the chambers leading to the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's masterpieces. Continue through to St. Peter's Basilica, for an exploration. We travel out to the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Finally, we enter the Colosseum, declared a sacred site in 1749. View also the Circus Maximus and the Roman Forum. Then, dine out at L'Eau Vive Restaurant, a French Restaurant run by Carmelite Missionary Nuns who will sing the Ave Maria to us between courses!

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 19: TUESDAY 1 JUNE – VIA GRECCIO TO ASSISI

We travel north to Greccio, a medieval town with its cliffside Franciscan Monastery where St Francis lived from 1209. Here we visit the Grotto Chapel. We continue through the scenic Umbrian countryside to the pilgrimage centre of Assisi, where St Francis founded the Franciscan Order. On arrival we will visit the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels down on the plains where St Francis spent most of his life. Here we will see the Portiuncula where St. Francis returned for prayer, the thornless rose bush, and the chapel where he died in 1226.

Assisi overnight (BD)

DAY 20: WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE – ASSISI

We enter the Basilica of St Francis housing the tomb of St Francis for Mass. We then take a guided tour through the town visiting the quaint Church of St Damiano built on the site where St Francis heard the voice of Christ speaking through the crucifix 'go rebuild my Church, which you see is falling down'. We will visit the Basilica of St Clare which houses this famous crucifix. The tour will culminate at the Hermitage (Eremo delle Carceri), built on the site of a simple cave where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer. We end with a visit to the Sacro Convento. Before dinner we attend Vespers in the Basilica of St Clare and listen to the angelic voices of the Poor Clare nuns.

Assisi overnight (BD)

DAY 21: THURSDAY 3 JUNE – VIA SIENA TO FLORENCE

Departing Assisi, we travel west to Siena, birthplace of Saints Catherine and Bernadine. We will visit St Dominic's Basilica and view the incorrupt head of St Catherine. From here we walk through the lanes to the Basilica of St Francis where we will view the Eucharistic miracle of the incorrupt hosts that occurred in 1730. Stroll the Piazza del Campo. After visiting the Cathedral of Siena (1263), we journey north to Florence, the art capital of the world. We will ascend the hill of Piazzale Michelangelo to admire the whole city.

Florence overnight (BD)

DAY 22: FRIDAY 4 JUNE – FLORENCE

Our tour begins with Mass at the Church of Santa Croce before continuing to the Academy of Fine Arts containing many treasures, including Michelangelo's statue of David. We will visit the Ponte Vecchio and the Duomo, whose dome was created by Brunelleschi. Across the way are Ghiberti's celebrated bronze doors to the Baptistry, commonly known as 'The Gates of Paradise'. Enjoy some free time to browse the bazaars, explore or rest.

Florence overnight (BD)

DAY 23: SATURDAY 5 JUNE – VIA VERONA TO PADUA

Journeying north by coach to Verona, the town associated with 'Romeo & Juliet' and known as 'little Rome'. Then we visit the Roman amphitheatre built in the 1st century. Continue to the Cathedral of Verona. Travel on to Padua, home to St Anthony, the renowned patron saint of lost articles. On arrival we enjoy a guided tour and Mass in the Basilica of St Anthony including the Chapel of the Reliquaries and St Anthony's tomb.

Padua overnight (BD)

DAY 24: SUNDAY 6 JUNE – VENICE DAY

Today we travel out to Venice, Europe's most romantic destination. We begin with Mass in St Mark's Basilica. Our guided walking tour includes St Mark's Square. Our sightseeing culminates with a guided visit of the Palace of the Doges. Leaving the palace, we end with a walk across the Bridge of Sighs. Enjoy some time to explore the surroundings at your own pace. For our final night, we will enjoy a special celebration dinner.

Padua overnight (BD)

DAY 25: MONDAY 7 JUNE – DEPART ITALY

Today we will be transferred to Venice airport for our homebound flights. (B)

DAY 26: TUESDAY 8 JUNE – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

OPTIONAL FRANCISCAN EXTENSION

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| STARTS | Sat 29 May 2021 | Rome |
| FINISHES | Tue 08 June 2021 | Venice |
| COST ADD-ON | \$4,590 (twin share) per person † | |
| SINGLE ROOM | \$790 Supplement per person | |
| PREPAID TIPS | \$150 per person | |

† Indicative cost based on a group size of 15 + 1 free place



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Polding Centre, 11th Floor
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

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