



# FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

May 22-31, 2025

GEORGE'S  
INTERNATIONAL TOURS

# ITINERARY

## Day 1 - Thursday, May 22: Depart USA

Our spiritual pilgrimage begins as we depart on our transatlantic flight en route to Thessaloniki, Greece. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

## Day 2 - Friday, May 23: Arrive Thessaloniki

Today we arrive in Thessaloniki, the city which St. Paul visited on his second missionary journey in 49 A.D. and founded a church, was heavily persecuted and wrote two letters to the residents. Upon arrival in Thessaloniki, our local guide will greet us at the airport and transfer us to our hotel for check-in with the remainder of the day free. (D)

## Day 3 - Saturday, May 24: Thessaloniki / Philippi / Kavala / Thessaloniki

Today we will travel to Philippi where St. Paul began his missionary work in Europe. The day's highlight will be an outdoor celebration of Mass alongside the river where Paul preached and baptized Lydia, his first European convert. We will visit the nearby Greek Orthodox church. We will also conduct a prayer service at the place where St. Paul was held in prison. While in Philippi, we will also visit the Basilica ruins, the Forum, the Agora or marketplace, the Aqueduct, the Acropolis, and the theatre. Next, we will travel along the Via Egnatia to biblical Neapolis, later renamed Christopoulos because it was the first European city to accept Christianity, known today as Kavala. It is a beautiful modern seaport town where St. Paul landed in Greece after his voyage from Troas. We will visit the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Nicholas Church. Return to Thessaloniki for overnight. (B/D)



## Day 4 - Sunday, May 25: Thessaloniki

Today we will visit the Old City Ramparts and St. George Church, as well as two beautiful basilicas, St. Demetrius, which is dedicated to a member of the Roman army who

converted to Christianity and later was martyred, and St. Sophia. We will also visit the famous Archaeological Museum and some other points of interest, including the White Tower, the Art of Galerius, the Palace of Galerius, a Roman Forum, the statue of Alexander the Great, and the Royal Tombs of Vergina. (B/D)

## Day 5 - Monday, May 26: Thessaloniki / Kalambaka

Depart Thessaloniki and travel through the enchanting Greek countryside, including Kamena Vourla, Amshissa, Thermopylae, and Kalambaka. We continue to our hotel in Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. (B/D)



## Day 6 - Tuesday, May 27: Kalambaka / Delphi / Athens

This morning, we will visit Meteora's breathtaking Byzantine monasteries, some of which are perched precariously on the summits of gray rock pinnacles of varied sizes and shapes. Then, we are off to the City of Delphi, home to the Sanctuary of Apollo. En route, we will stop at the Ossiou Lucas Monastery. In Delphi, we explore the fascinating archeological sites and museums. We continue to Athens for the evening. (B/D)

## Day 7 - Wednesday, May 28: Athens

This morning, we will visit the ancient Acropolis with its magnificent Parthenon. The Acropolis served as the worship center for the entire pantheon of Greek gods. Like Corinth, Paul visited Athens on both his second and third missionary journeys. We will stop at the Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill, the site of the Shrine of the Unknown God, where we will listen to St. Paul's daring speech (Acts 17:22-31). Other tour elements include the Agora, which has its most impressive buildings, the Stoa of Attalos and the Temple of Hephaestus, the Roman Forum, and the Temple of Zeus Olympios. We will also enjoy a guided tour of the National Archeological Museum followed by a



panoramic sightseeing tour where we will see the National Garden, the National Library, the University of Athens, the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Presidential Palace, and the Panathenaic Stadium. (B/D)



**Day 8 - Thursday, May 29: Athens**

Today, enjoy a scenic drive along the coastal road past the beautiful beaches of Glyfada, Vouliagmeni, and Varkiza while enjoying splendid views of the Saronic Gulf. Pass through some of Athens' most beautiful suburbs to Cape Sounion, where we will visit the 5th Century B.C. Temple of Poseidon which has one of the most breathtaking panoramic views in the world (on a clear day, you can see at least seven islands). Return to Athens and visit the renowned "Plaka" district, located around the base of the Acropolis. Enjoy dinner in the Plaka District in a typical Greek restaurant. (B/D)



**Day 9 - Friday, May 30: Athens**

This morning, we will drive along the scenic coast to ancient Corinth, which St. Paul visited on his second and third missionary journeys. We will stop at the Isthmus of Corinth. This central shipping canal connects the Aegean and Adriatic Seas. Celebrate an outdoor Mass at the Harbor of Cenchreae, Paul's port of departure for his voyage to Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Our tour will begin with the museum and continue inspecting the

archeological remains. Highlights will include the Temple of Apollo, the Temple of Octavia, the theatre, the North Market, the Forum, the shops, the Bema, and numerous other locations of interest. Then, drive to Mycenae, the legendary home of the Arteries, which gave its name to civilization throughout Greek history. We will visit the famous Tomb of King Agamemnon and see the Lion's Gate, part of the great Cyclopean Wall. Continue through Argos to Nafplio, a beautiful and well known town by the seaside, which was once the capital of Greece. Continue with a visit to the Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus. Return to Athens. (B/D)

**Day 10 - Saturday, May 31: Athens / USA**

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport to catch our return flight home. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

P I L G R I M A G E C O S T

\$4,888.00

*per person based upon double occupancy*

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*For single occupancy please add \$696.00.*

**This price includes:**

- ✘ Roundtrip airfare from New York JFK
- ✘ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied
- ✘ Accommodation in 4 star hotels
- ✘ All hotel taxes and service charges
- ✘ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✘ Arrival and departure transfers
- ✘ Baggage handling at hotels
- ✘ Land travel by deluxe motorcoach
- ✘ Comprehensive sightseeing with a professional local guide
- ✘ All entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✘ Daily Mass

*Airfares from other departure cities throughout the United States are available upon request.*

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*For those who prefer to arrange their own flights the Land-Only cost is \$3,449.00 per person.*

Please visit [www.holylandpilgrimages.org](http://www.holylandpilgrimages.org) for information on additional pilgrimages being organized by the Franciscan Monastery.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

**Reservations and Payment:** Please complete the attached Reservation Application and return it with your deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations received after 5PM Pacific Time or on weekends/holidays will be processed the next business day. The following per person cancellation charges will apply: If canceled 95 days or more prior to departure, a \$50.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 94 - 61 days prior to departure, \$250.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$450.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 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. Additional cancellation charges may apply depending upon the cancellation terms of our suppliers.

**Refunds:** Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger 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 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, 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 the Seller of Travel 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 the Seller of Travel 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 the Seller of Travel, 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.

**Travel Documents:** A passport which is valid for a minimum of 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U.S. citizens. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to determine your visa requirement status. George's International Tours is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

**Tour Cost:** All quoted prices are based upon airfares, tariffs and currency exchange rates at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the minimum number of 20 tour members not be reached, the right is reserved to increase the tour cost accordingly.

**Tour Documents and Tickets:** Final tour documents are mailed, provided we have received full payment, within 3 weeks of departure.

**Baggage:** Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. You will be responsible for paying to the airline any additional charges for additional checked baggage or overweight baggage (if excess weight is permitted). George's International Tours is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

**Air Transportation:** Airfare is in economy class on Lufthansa (or any other IATA carrier). Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares/flight schedules are subject to change without notice.

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

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Insurance may be purchased directly through George's International Tours and registration forms will be provided upon receipt of your deposit or you may purchase online at [www.georgesintl.com](http://www.georgesintl.com). George's International Tours acts only as an intermediary between you and the insurance provider and in no event shall George's International Tours be liable to any person or entity whatsoever for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, compensatory, consequential, or punitive damages related to insurance coverage purchased.

**Not Included:** Gratuities (\$250.00 recommended per person), COVID-19 testing (if required), passport and/or individual visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of the included meals, additional baggage in excess of airport allowance, optional sightseeing tours, and all expenses of a purely personal nature.

**Responsibility Clause:** 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. George's International Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries.

**Limitation of liability:** The airlines, hotels, and other suppliers (jointly: "travel suppliers") providing travel or other services sold by George's International Tours are independent contractors and not agents or employees of George's International Tours. George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their travel suppliers 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. To the extent permitted by law, George's International Tours does not assume liability for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay due to an act or omission of a travel supplier, including, without limitation, an act of negligence or the default of a travel supplier. To the extent permitted by law, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage and/or delay due to force majeure, sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, bankruptcy, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or any causes beyond George's International Tours' control. Further, no responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions, delays, failure to make connections, non-performance or poor performance, loss of revenue, loss of anticipated profits, any additional expenses or lost business, attributable to you yourself, acts or omissions of any third parties, or acts of any governmental authority, even if George's International Tours has been advised that such damages were possible or probable.

Please refer to [www.georgesintl.com](http://www.georgesintl.com) for further disclosures concerning travel risks, travels with special needs or disabilities, and arbitration.

Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

*George's International Tours - CST# 2035995-40*

For further information on this pilgrimage please contact:

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