

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY

WITH OPTIONAL GREECE EXTENSION

8TH – 21ST / 27TH OCTOBER 2027

LED BY
FR ROBERT RIEDLING

14 OR 20 DAYS

MAIN TURKEY PACKAGE per person (twin share)	AUD$7,890*
OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	$1,450
OPTIONAL GREECE EXTENSION per person (twin share)	AUD$2,995
OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	$925

FULLY ESCORTED

*Prices are estimated based on minimum group size of 20 participants for Turkey and 10 participants for Greece. Conditions apply. Subject to change. Actual pricing will be known in November 2026 when airfares and flight schedules are released.

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Join me in walking in the footsteps of the apostle Paul almost two thousand years after he travelled throughout this land, establishing some of the early communities of Christian dsiciples. We will visit a host of sites connected with Paul and also visit the region of central Turkey, connected with the Cappadocian Fathers. Our pilgrimage takes in some stunning scenery and a few sites of Greco-Roman and Islamic significance, including the famous Blue Mosque. After all this touring and enjoying wonderful Turkish food and hospitality, we will end our time in Turkey at a place of particular significance for Australians: Gallipoli. You can choose to end the pilgrimage here or take up the optional extension to Greece. I look forward to accompanying you on this great opportunity to make the scriptures we have heard and read truly come alive!






NEXT STEPS

1. Register your interest & obtain a Booking Form from Fr Robert or the team at Olive Tree Travel or by CLICKING HERE
2. To secure your place on the pilgrimage, complete the booking form and pay your deposit of AUD$750 per person IMMEDIATELY
3. Final balances will be due in early August 2027.

OLIVE TREE Travel

Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696
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DAY 1 FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER **DEPART SYDNEY /AUSTRALIA**

Depart Sydney this evening on your flight to Istanbul.

DAY 2 SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER **ARRIVE ISTANBUL**

On arrival into Istanbul, we will meet our guide who will stay with us for the entire trip. We will then be transferred to our Istanbul hotel for dinner & overnight. Overnight – Istanbul (D)

DAY 3 SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER **ISTANBUL**

Today we will visit some sites which really depict the fairly recent religious and political history of Turkey. The present day museum of HAGIA SOPHIA (also known as ST. SOPHIA) was built over two earlier churches and completed by Emperor Justinian in 537AD. Originally a Christian Basilica, later a Mosque and now a museum, it "continues to awe architects, church historians, and casual tourists alike". After lunch, we will spend time at the TOPKAPI PALACE of the Ottoman Empire, including its extraordinary treasures. In its grounds we pass the CHURCH OF ST. IRENE, site of the 2nd Ecumenical Council (381AD). The BLUE MOSQUE close by will also be visited. This mammoth building takes one's breath away. We will also see the ancient HIPPODROME dating from before the 4th century which connects the BLUE MOSQUE to HAGIA SOPHIA! We will also visit the BASILICA CISTERN built in 532 by the emperor Justinian to provide water to Hagia Sophia. It is underground and its roof is held up by 8 metre high ornate pillars – some 336 of them! Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight – Istanbul (BD)

DAY 4 MONDAY 11 OCTOBER **CAPPADOCIA**

We fly from ISTANBUL to NEVSEHIR on TBA (you will be given your E ticket by your tour guide), capital of the region of CAPPADOCIA, a popular area for tourism today. St Paul may have visited here, and we do know that St. Basil, an outstanding leader in the early Church, was bishop here from 370-379. We will visit GOREME with its churches hewn from rock, and ZELVE VALLEY and see dwellings and caves of ancient times, including its fairy chimneys. Enjoy dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia. Overnight – Cappadocia (BD)

DAY 5 TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER **CAPPADOCIA**

Today we visit ancient sites including the underground city of KAYMAKLI which extends eight floors down and oused thousands of people, and which early Christians found to be a safe haven from persecutors. In the evening we will see the famous WHIRLING DERVISHES, which is not planned as entertainment, but as a genuine spiritual experience. Enjoy dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia. Overnight – Cappadocia (BD)

DAY 6 WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER **KONYA**

We will see more of CAPPADOCIA this morning before making our way to KONYA, whose ancient name was ICONIUM, in the region of PHRYGIA. This city was visited by St. Paul on each of his three journeys and became an important Christian city following St. Paul's preaching. Barnabas also came here. Visit the Mevlana Museum. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Konya. Sunday Mass to be celebrated at the Catholic Church in the city centre looked after by 2 Sisters (confirmed by prior arrangement).
Overnight – Konya (BD)

DAY 7 THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER **PAMUKKALE**

We travel on from KONYA to PAMUKKALE, whose ancient name was HIERAPOLIS. On the way we will visit PISIDIAN ANTIOCH – Paul was here too. Among the ruins we will find ST. PAUL'S BASILICA and other ancient sites including well preserved baths. After dinner tonight you can relax in the thermal pool at our hotel. Overnight – Pamukkale (BD)

DAY 8 FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER **KUSADASI**

As we make our way from PAMUKKALE to KUSADASI, we will visit the limestone terraces/hot springs – a leading tourist site in Turkey. We begin to come to the sites of the seven Churches of the Book of Revelation in LAODICEA. We travel close to COLOSSAE of which little remains uncovered (ref. Paul's letter to the Colossians). Dinner and overnight is in Kusadasi. Overnight – Kusadasi (BD)

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DAY 9 SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER EPHESUS - KUSADASI

Today will be a memorable day – we visit EPHESUS and will be able to see the very recently uncovered terrace houses. Also on this trip we will see the few remains of the TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS, one of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. We will visit the ruins of ST. JOHN'S BASILICA with its baptistery. Also on the itinerary is 'MARY'S HOUSE', a place of devotion revered by both Catholics and Moslems. We have requested Mass in the ruins of the CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY, where the third Ecumenical Council was held at EPHESUS in 431AD. Return to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. Overnight – Kusadasi (BD)

DAY 10 SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER IZMIR - PERGAMUM

We travel on to IZMIR, known in the Book of Revelation as SMYRNA. This is one of the oldest continuously inhabited communities in the world. Along with Ephesus, SMYRNA is said to have been founded by the Amazons. ST. POLYCARP was bishop here from AD115 until he was martyred in AD156. The present church was reconstructed in 1620. We will also see more of the seven Churches mentioned by John in Revelation: THYATIRA (AKHISAR), SARDIS and PHILADELPHIA (ALASASEHIR). Proceed to ancient Pergamum (Bergama) for dinner and overnight. Overnight – Pergamum (BD)

DAY 11 MONDAY 18 OCTOBER CANAKKALE

Today takes us to CANAKKALE. Our day starts with a tour around PERGAMUM, a city dating from 4th century BC. It has a large theatre built into a hillside which extends upward for 78 rows, as well as other impressive structures. We pass by ALEXANDRIA TROAS which is mentioned in Acts, but very little of it remains today. Before arriving in CANAKKALE, we visit the ancient site of TROY - of the wooden horse fame. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Canakkale. Overnight – Canakkale (BD)

DAY 12 TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER GALLIPOLI – CANAKKALE

Today will be a very special day for us. We will be taken across the DARDANELLES STRAIT from CANAKKALE to GALLIPOLI, where we will visit ANZAC COVE and LONE PINE. On returning to CANAKKALE we will have Mass before dinner to commemorate our fallen soldiers. Overnight – Canakkale (BD)

DAY 13 WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER TURKISH/GREEK BORDER OR DEPARTURE FROM ISTANBUL

Today is our final day in Turkey. We journey north and will say our goodbyes at the Kesan Junction, where a waiting driver and vehicle will take those not travelling on to Greece back to Istanbul for your flight from Istanbul back to Australia. Those travelling on the Optional Greece Extension will continue driving to the Ipsala Border and will cross into Greece.

DAY 14 THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER ARRIVE SYDNEY

Arrive back to Sydney today with wonderful memories of our trip!

OPTIONAL GREECE EXTENSION

DAY 13 WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER TURKEY/GREECE BORDER, KAVALA

Meet our guide and driver at the Greek side of the border at Kipi, following the crossing from Turkey at Ipsala. Welcome to Greece. We drive to Kavala (Neapolis in New Testament times), where Paul landed with Timothy, Silas, and Luke. This ancient city of Neapolis was later renamed Christoupolis as it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will see the Aqueduct and the Acropolis in this beautifully located city. Aside from the great panoramas of Kavala, the city has a Byzantine castle, aqueduct, and museum containing finds from Ancient Amphipolis and Philippi. Dinner and overnight in Kavala.(BD)

DAY 14 THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER PHILIPPI — BAPTISTERY OF LYDIA — THESSALONIKI

After breakfast we travel to Philippi and then onwards to Thessaloniki. Philippi, as its name implies, was established by Philip II of Macedonia in 358 BC. It was here that Octavian and Anthony defeated Brutus and Cassius, last defenders

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of the Roman Republic in 42 BC. It was also one of the first European cities to accept Christianity. St Paul first arrived at Philippi around 50 AD and it was here he delivered his first sermon and baptized the first Christian convert, Lydia, on European soil. We will view the baptismal site and visit a crypt dating from the Roman period that is thought to have served as a prison for Paul. We will also see the famous Acropolis, the Market Place, Basilica, and the Theatre. We visit the Octagonal church, an early Christian monument thought to be built on the site where St Paul had established a house of prayer. Later we visit the baptismal site where Lydia surrendered her life to Christ. We commence our journey to Thessaloniki. Welcome to Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Time permitting visit one of the city's great early Christian basilicas : either St Demetrius (Agios Dimitrios), patron saint of the city and one of the largest basilicas in Greece, with remarkable 5th–7th century mosaics; or Aghia Sophia, one of the oldest standing churches in Thessaloniki and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, modelled on the great basilica in Constantinople. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (BD)

DAY 15 FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER VERIA — VERGINA — KALAMBAKA

After breakfast we depart from Thessaloniki. Today we visit Veria (ancient Berea), dubbed 'Little Jerusalem' for the many churches built across it. Here we visit the Bema of St Paul where the Apostle stood and preached the Gospel to the Beroeans in 49 AD. We continue to Vergina (ancient Aegae), the first capital of the Kingdom of Macedon. Here we visit the impressive Royal Tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, including the gold ossuary with the 16-pointed Macedonian star, gold wreaths and frescoes. We then journey south to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka. (BD)

DAY 17 SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER ATHENS

Athens, the capital of Greece, is one of the oldest cities in the world spanning a history of 3,400 years. Home of the great minds, philosophers and teachers of ancient times such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle, Athens is the birthplace of democracy and the cradle of Western Civilization. We visit the world-renowned Acropolis, walking through the architectural wonders of the Golden Age of Pericles — the Parthenon, the Propylaea and the Erechtheion. We also walk to Areopagus (Mars Hill), where St Paul delivered his speech to the Athenians. Our visit of Athens is not complete without a tour of the New Acropolis Museum, which houses the findings of the Acropolis of Athens, including the original Caryatid statues and the remarkable Parthenon frieze panels. We will continue on a panoramic bus tour, which will guide us through the highlights of Athens: House of Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Presidential Palace, Panathenaic Stadium, Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

DAY 18 MONDAY 25 OCTOBER ANCIENT CORINTH & MYCENAE

Today we drive through the coastal road to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two seas, the Ionian and the Aegean. Continue to Ancient Corinth, one of the most important trading cities of ancient Greece dating back to the 6th century BC. Visiting the archaeological site, we will come across the Temple of Apollo, the Agora, the sacred spring and the Peirene Fountain. The Apostle Paul resided in Corinth for 18 months in AD 51–52. Here he wrote the First and Second Epistles to the Corinthians. We visit the site of the Bema of St Paul, where he preached. We shall then visit Mycenae, one of the great centres of Greek civilisation during the Bronze Age and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enter through the magnificent Lion Gate — the oldest monumental sculpture in Europe — and explore the royal citadel, the cyclopean walls, and the Royal Grave Circle. Visit the Treasury of Atreus, a remarkable beehive-shaped tholos tomb. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (BD)

DAY 19 TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER DEPART ATHENS

After breakfast, transfer to the International Airport (Eleftherios Venizelos) for your return flight to Dubai and homeward bound to Australia. (B)

DAY 20 WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER ARRIVE SYDNEY

Arrive back to Sydney today with wonderful memories of our trip!

Itinerary subject to change
(B = Breakfast D = Dinner)

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MAIN TURKEY PACKAGE PRICE INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney to Istanbul and return. Airline and routing to be confirmed (likely will be Emirates, Singapore Airlines or Turkish Airlines).
- All current airport & departure taxes
- Porterage (where available), tips & gratuities throughout
- 11 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Whisperer Headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary

OPTIONAL GREECE EXTENSION INCLUSIONS:

- 6 nights in Turkey in hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms
- Porterage (where available), tips & gratuities throughout
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily, all meals at hotels unless otherwise specified
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- International return airfare (paid for in main package price) will be from Athens not Istanbul
- Greece City Taxes
- Headsets

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Drinks with meals
- Personal payments
- The services that are not mentioned in "Inclusions"
- Travel insurance
- Lunches

PROPOSED HOTELS (OR SIMILAR)

Turkey:

• Istanbul	Millenium Golden Horn Hotel	2 nights
• Cappadocia	Barcelo Cappadocia Hotel	2 nights
• Konya	Bayir Diamond	1 night
• Pamukkale	Doga Thermal Hotel	1 night
• Kusadasi	Elite World Hotel	2 nights
• Soma	Ramada by Wyndham	1 night
• Canakkale	Avec Hotel	2 nights

Greece:

• Kavala	Lucy Hotel	1 night
• Thessaloniki	Capsis Hotel	1 night
• Kalambaka	Hotel Amalia	1 night
• Athens	Stanley Hotel	3 nights



NEXT STEPS

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2. To secure your place on the pilgrimage, complete the booking form and pay your deposit of AUD$750 per person IMMEDIATELY
3. Final balances will be due in early August 2027.

WHO TO CONTACT:

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