

YOUR INVITATION

11 DAY PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

As Christians, our upbringing has been grounded on the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

I would like to invite you to join me in a life changing pilgrimage following the steps of St. Paul.

This pilgrimage is an amazing opportunity to bring our faith to life.



For more information, please contact:

The Catholic Pilgrim Office

Ask for Chris or Pete
800-769-9466
coordinator@catholicpilgrimoffice.com



Your Pilgrimage Features:

- Roundtrip air transportation from Dallas, TX or Boston, MA
- 3* Hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily.
- Professional Catholic, English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to all sites on itinerary
- Land transportation via deluxe, private motor coach
- Taxes & fuel surcharge(\$682) and tips (\$80) included.
- Daily Masses included
- Gelato in Rome on Day 10, compliments of The Catholic Pilgrim Office

Please Read This Important Information:

Deposit - \$300 (payable on booking)

Second Payment due - May 7, 2017 - 50% of balance

Full Balance due - July 21, 2017

Each tour member must hold a U.S. passport that is valid up to 6 months after the scheduled return. Your passport must be valid until April 30, 2018. Application forms are available at your local Passport Office or U.S. Postal Service. If you still need to obtain a passport, please send your enrollment form NOW and follow up with a copy of your passport upon receipt. Any required visas will be processed for US citizens only. **Non-US citizens are solely responsible for obtaining any required visas.**

Rates based on double-occupancy, the airline tax and fuel surcharge (\$682) and currency exchange rate(s) at the date of quotation to your host. Subject to change up to 30 days prior to departure.



METEORES, GREECE



ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS



PILGRIMS FLOCK TO ST. PETER'S SQUARE



THE WHITE TOWER IN THESSALONIKI



THE CATHOLIC PILGRIM OFFICE, INC.

Alternate departure cities may be available.
Please inquire with the CPO.

Departing:
October 04, 2017

\$3,748.00 from Dallas, TX
\$3,648.00 from Boston, MA

All Inclusive!
(except lunches)

CELEBRATING OUR 39TH YEAR PROVIDING SUPERIOR CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

P.O. BOX 53419 ATLANTA, GA 30355
COORDINATOR@CATHOLICPILGRIMOFFICE.COM

PHONE: (404)467-8041

FAX: (404)467-8042
WWW.CATHOLICPILGRIMOFFICE.COM

The Footsteps of St. Paul

DAILY MASSES INCLUDED

DAY 01, WED OCT 04: NORTH AMERICA / ATHENS. Tour members will gather at the ticket counter at the airport two hours prior to their departure to Europe.

DAY 02, THU OCT 05: ATHENS. Upon arrival in Athens, you are met by your guide and bus driver. Transfer to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 03, FRI OCT 06: ATHENS.

"Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription 'to an unknown God'. What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you..."

Today we visit Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. For twenty five centuries, the panorama of this city is dominated by the rock of the Acropolis; we see the ruins of the Parthenon, the Erechtheum and the Propylae. Thereafter, we will view Mars Hill where St. Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one and only God. *This is the same place Pope John Paul II prayed during his last visit to Athens.* From here we have an excellent view of the ancient agora; former center of the Athenian public life. We continue for a drive through the city to see the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square, the evzones in their picturesque uniforms guarding the Presidential Palace and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also see the Library, the University, the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympics of the modern era were held, the temple of the Olympian Zeus and Adrian's Arch. We visit the impressive St Denis Catholic Cathedral where we may celebrate **Mass**.



"Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city." (Acts 18:9)

We board our coach for Corinth, taking the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea. Short stop for pictures and continue to the site of ancient Corinth, Paul's beloved city and site of his most extensive ministry. Dominated by the Acro-Corinth rising 1700 feet above the ruins, the marketplace is laid out exactly as it stood in the days of the great Apostle. We see the bema (the judgement seat) where Paul stood before Galilo and preached (Acts 18). The museum contains a superb collection of artifacts portraying life in ancient Corinth. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.



DAY 04, SAT OCT 07: ATHENS / VERIA / VERGINA / THESSALONIKI.

"The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Beroea; and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue." (Acts 17:10-14)

This morning we continue to Veria (Beroea) where we visit the monument dedicated to Paul; we see the Bema where he stood and preached to the people of Veria. Continue to Vergina, where excavations in 1978 discovered three very important royal tombs. The most important tomb is believed to be that of Philip II of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great. We continue to Thessaloniki and explore this great city starting with a drive along the water front to the massive White Tower and nearby Triumphal Arch of Galerius, built in 303 AD. We shall also see St. Demetrios Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes and will drive up to the upper town which offers a marvelous view of the city. The site where the monastery of Vlatadon was built is believed to be the location where Jason's house once stood and where Paul was accommodated during his visit to Thessaloniki. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. **(Mass TBD)**.

DAY 05, SUN OCT 08: PHILIPPI / KAVALA.

"Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace and the following day to Neapolis " (Act 16:11)

We visit the beautiful city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis), and from there on to Philippi which was a Roman garrison town and the chief city in the province of Macedonia. It was here that St. Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, the market place (where St. Paul and Silas were brought before the rulers), the cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St. Paul were imprisoned. Celebrate **Mass** today at Lydia's Spring. We return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

DAY 06, MON OCT 09: THESSALONIKI / METEORES. After **Mass** at the hotel we continue to the Meteora Monasteries, perched upon the summits of gigantic rocks, which have been etched into variety of strange shapes. Grey gigantic stalagmites rising towards the sky, they seem to be nature's gift to the pious who opted for monasticism and for a life totally dedicated to the worship of God. The monastic history of Meteora goes back to the 11th century A.D. when the first hermits sought peace and solitude in the rifts and caves of these rocks, but the first monasteries were not built until the 14th century A.D. attaining their peak in the 16th. Of the 13 large and 20 small monasteries and hermit's cells, only four are not occupied: Megalo Meteora, Monie Varlaam, Monia Aghias Triadas and Moni Aghiou Stefanou. Apart from portable icons, miniatures, ecclesiastical robes, utensils and crosses, all of them excellent examples of Byzantine art, the Meteora Monasteries also contain rare editions and manuscripts. Dinner and overnight in Meteora.

DAY 7, TUE OCT 10: METEORES / ATHENS. After **Mass** at the hotel we depart for Athens, driving through the beautiful countryside of Greece, on past many picturesque towns and villages. We arrive Athens in late afternoon for time at leisure before dinner and overnight.

DAY 08, WED OCT 11: ATHENS / ROME. This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Italy. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our bus for our sightseeing in Rome. Our tour highlights of Ancient Rome include the Coliseum - site of early Christian martyrdom - the Forum, Mamertime prison, possibly the final place of confinement of the St. Paul before his execution and then St. Paul Outside the Walls. We then continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.



DAY 09, THU OCT 12: ST. PAUL'S ROME. After breakfast, we depart our hotel for the Papal Audience (if available). Then we visit St. Paul's Rome. First, the archeological complex of S. Paolo alla Regola, excavated, restored, and actually accessible. It is located on the first and second levels underneath the 16th c. Palazzo degli Specchi. A second place which tradition warrants to have been a St. Paul's site is the Church dedicated to Santa Prisca on the Aventino Hill. St. Paul spent a couple of years with Prisca and Aquila in Corinth and very often mentioned of them in his Letters (Act 18, 1-3 and Romans 16, 3-5). Located on the Ancient Appian Way is the place where the bodies of St. Paul and St. Peter were kept during the Christian Persecution. This is the reason why this place is still today called Memoria Apostolorum. Then we visit the Abbey of the Three Fountains. This is the place of St. Paul's martyrdom, where tradition implies that three different springs gushed out when Paul's head fell down. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 10, FRI OCT 13: ROME. After breakfast we visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. This afternoon we have a walking tour to visit the world famous Trevi Fountain (where romantics can toss a coin over their shoulders wishing and ensuring their return to Rome again). Here you will experience one of Rome's famous culinary treats – the "San Crispino Gelateria" for an authentic delicious gelato. Afterwards there is time to stroll among the shops and continue towards the Piazza di Spagna, with the very popular Spanish Steps. We enjoy dinner at our hotel and overnight.

DAY 11, SAT OCT 14: ATHENS / NORTH AMERICA. Transfer to the airport for your flight home, the end of a marvelous journey.