

# **PRICE \$6900 CAD**

PLEASE NOTE: PRICES ARE BASED ON DOUBLE OR TRIPLE OCCUPANCY ONLY

## FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL TO GREECE & TURKEY Oct 14 - Oct 29, 2025

#### OUR TOUR INCLUDES:

Air Fare: International airfare | Internal flights between cities as outlined in the itinerary.

Accommodation: Stay in 4-star hotels (Twin-bedded rooms with 2 people sharing)

Meals: Buffet breakfast, Set Lunches and Set Dinners

Tour Management: An English-speaking tour manager will accompany you throughout the entire journey to ensure a smooth and enriching experience.

You will have a local guide for all the scheduled tours, offering in-depth knowledge of each destination. Entrance Fees: All entrance fees for the sites and attractions listed in your itinerary are included, so you can enjoy each location without any additional costs.

Transportation: Travel comfortably by deluxe AC/Air-Cooled coach during all surface transport.

Tipping: A tip of EUR 140 per person is required for the entire tour. This includes tips for bus drivers, tourist taxes, guides, and restaurants during the tour. The tip is typically calculated per person per day.

#### YOUR TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

Personal Insurance for Travel Protection: Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance | Medical Insurance

Personal Expenses: Any personal items or purchases, such as souvenirs, personal hygiene products, Porterage, laundry, mini-bar, telephone calls, and other incidental personal expenses are not included

Wines & Beverages: Wines and beverages are not included

Any Items Not Specifically Mentioned in Inclusions This refers to anything not listed in the "What your Tour Price Includes" section. **Church Donations:** Church donations typically range from \$2 to \$5 (per person).

Visas to countries: Travelers are responsible for obtaining the necessary visas for the countries.

Meals not included in the itinerary (those outside the regular menus provided by the tour). Meals are pre-set with no option for a choice of menu. Special dietary requests may be accommodated with prior notice.

**Change of Travel Dates:** Any deviation from the original group travel dates may result in additional airfare and taxes.

ETIAS European Travel Authorization for visitors is not included (Cost Euro 7 for 3 years)

Airport Transfers for Land-Only Passengers (If a traveler is not taking a group flight and is arriving by land only, they are responsible for arranging their own airport transfer, either by taxi or bus. However, if they arrive at the same time as the rest of the group, transfers may be arranged for them)

Payment methods : You can pay by Cheque / E-transfer / Credit card payments will incur an additional service fee of 2.5% of the tour price. **Baggage Charges Not Included in Trip Cost:** 

Airline baggage charges are not included in the trip cost. We will advise you accordingly.

Any charges for baggage exceeding weight limits or size limits set by airlines will be the responsibility of the traveler.

BOOKINGS AND DEPOSITS - You must complete and sign the official Royale Orchid Booking form given below and read terms and conditions of the tour below. Please enclose an initial non-refundable- Non- Transferable deposit of \$500 per person (adult / child) towards the cost of the tour. All cheques must be payable to Royale Orchid Tours and Holidays upon which you will receive an official receipt. Your receipt is written confirmation of your tour.

BALANCE PAYMENTS - Balance payments towards the costs of the tour must reach us at least 120 days prior to departure of the tour Date.

AMENDMENTS - A transfer from one tour to another will be treated as a cancellation from a tour and a fresh booking of another. Therefore, cancellation rules will apply. Tour Itinerary/ Hotel/ Airlines/ Flights/ routes are subject to change without prior information.

CANCELLATION - All services such as airline seats / hotel accommodation / ground transportation are pre-booked well in advance. We are liable to pay penalties to all our suppliers/ vendors if these services are released within the mentioned period. If cancellation is made:

#### Deposit Non-Refundable & Non-Transferable - \$500 120-60 days - 25% retained and remainder refunded less Deposit 61-46 days - 50% retained and remainder refunded less Deposit 45 days or less - - 100% retained of your tour price

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THOUSAND STEPS EACH DAY, FREQUENTLY ON UNEVEN TERRAIN, COBBLESTONES, AND OCCASIONAL STAIRS. **DAY 1: DEPART FOR THESSALONIKI. GREECE** 

Departure from the Canada to connect to an International flight to Thessaloniki, Greece. Meals are served on board the flight.

### **DAY 2: ARRIVE IN THESSALONIKI**

Arrival at Thessaloniki Airport, where the group is welcomed by an English-speaking guide and assisted to the bus. St. Paul preached in the main synagogue of Thessaloniki and wrote two letters to the Thessalonians. The day includes visits to important historical sites The Triumphal Arch of Galerius: Erected to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius after his victory over the Persians. The Byzantine Church of Hosios David: Known for its beautiful mosaics. The Rotunda of St. George: A circular building with early Christian mosaics. After celebrating Mass, the group will head to their hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

#### DAY 3: THESSALONIKI – VERGINA – VERIA

After breakfast we travel to Thessaloniki focusing on its Byzantine churches and architecture. Church of Hagia Sophia: Known for its eighth-century mosaics. Church of St. Panteleimon, Church of Acheiropoietos, Church of Panagia Chalkeon, and Church of St. Demetrius. After lunch, the group departs for Vergina (ancient Aigai), where King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, was assassinated in 336 B.C. Key sites include: The Underground Museum of the Royal Tombs. The next stop is Veria (Biblical Beroea), a town with a rich Jewish and Byzantine heritage. Important sites include: The bema where St. Paul preached, marked by a monument and statue of St. Paul. The group will celebrate Mass at various holy sites and return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight stay.

#### DAY 4: PHILIPPI - KAVALA - THESSALONIKI

After breakfast we go to Philippi: St. Paul established the first Christian community in Europe here. Celebrate Mass at the river where Paul baptized Lydia, the first European convert. Explore the Roman Forum, where Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling woman. Visit the prison ruins, where Paul and Silas were held in chains before their miraculous release. See the new Baptistry of St. Lydia. Reflect on Paul's letter filled with joyful gratitude to the Philippians. Kavala (Ancient Port of Neapolis): The site where Paul and his companions-Silas, Luke, and Timothy-arrived in Europe by sea. Visit the Church of St. Nikolaus and view the monument "The Arrival of the Apostle Paul in Neapolis of Philippi". Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight stay.

#### DAY 5: THESSALONIKI – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

Travel through the Greek countryside towards the Meteora Monasteries. Visit Byzantine monasteries built on towering rock formations, which monks used as refuge from Ottoman invaders. These monasteries are famous for their stunning views, priceless artifacts, and peaceful surroundings. Note that visiting these monasteries requires walking on uneven terrain and climbing steps. After the monasteries, visit an icon workshop, learning how these sacred images are crafted. Mass will be celebrated at one of the sacred sites in the area. Enjoy a Greek dinner and overnight in Kalambaka.





















#### **DAY 6: ATHENS**

After breakfast we will drive to Athens. St. Paul's visit to Athens, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 17:16-34). Athens, known for its intellectual and philosophical significance, was a place where Paul encountered both admiration and opposition. Upon arriving in Athens, Paul was distressed to see that the city was full of idols, representing the many gods worshipped by the Athenians. This deeply troubled Paul because of his commitment to proclaiming the one true God. Despite this, Paul began to engage with the people, first in the synagogue, where he preached to the Jews, and then in the marketplace, where he debated with the local philosophers. One of the most famous moments in this encounter is when Paul saw an altar inscribed "To an Unknown God." This altar was likely dedicated to a deity whose identity was uncertain, perhaps because the Athenians did not want to neglect any potential god. Paul seized this as an opportunity to introduce the Athenians to the God of Israel, proclaiming that the unknown god they were worshipping was, in fact, the one true God who created everything. He declared that he was not speaking about an abstract or unfamiliar deity, but rather the God who made the world and everything in it (Acts 17:24). This speech, delivered on Mars Hill (Areopagus), is one of Paul's most philosophical and famous sermons, where he sought to bridge the gap between Greek philosophy and Christian teaching, inviting the Athenians to turn away from idols and embrace the living God. Temple of Olympian Zeus and Panathenaic Stadium: The site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Celebrate Mass in Athens.

#### DAY 7: ATHENS - CORINTH

Ancient Corinth: Here, St. Paul lived for two years. Visitors will explore. The firstcentury shops, the site of Paul's trial by Gallio, the Fountain of Peirene, and the Temple of Apollo. Learn about Paul's pastoral letters to the Corinthians, which express his care and guidance for the early Christian community. Return to Athens for more exploration. Mars Hill: The spot where Paul addressed the Athenians about the one true God before the Areopagus. The Acropolis: View the Parthenon, Erechtheum, and Propylaea, all iconic landmarks of ancient Athens. Celebrate Mass at a local church in Athens. Enjoy a festive dinner in the Plaka district, a picturesque area with cobblestone streets and traditional Greek tavernas.

#### **DAY 8: ATHENS - ISTANBUL - KUSADASI**

Today we will take our international flight and domestic flight to Kayseri early morning / afternoon to Izmir. Time permitting we will visit Kusadasi Castle .Overnight in Kusadasi.

#### DAY 9: KUSADASI (TOUR OF EPHESUS AND HOUSE OF ST. MARY)

After breakfast we will drive to Selcuk town. First, we will visit the House of Virgin Mary. After lunch, we will visit the ruins of Ephesus, famous throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis. First visit Hadrian Temple.

It dates back to 118 AD. This impressive Corinthian style temple has beautiful reliefs on the porch. According to local beliefs, the Medusa head on the porch would protect the city from its enemies. Proceed to Celsus Library. The library is the best structure of its kind. They embellished the façade of the library with four statues personifying virtue, wisdom, fate and genius. Visit the Great Theater where it is believed that St John gave his preach to Ephesians. Last, we will visit the Basilica of St John. You will visit the ruins of the Basilica that was constructed upon the burial ground of St John in the 6th century. Overnight in Kusadasi

#### DAY 10: KUSADASI - ANTALYA

After breakfast we take a flight to Antalya. You will begin with a visit to Perga visited by Paul and Barnabas on their first journey (Acts 13:13-14). There you will see its wellpreserved stadium and colonnaded street divided by a water channel. Returning to Antalya, you will see Hadrian's Gate and the Roman mausoleum of ancient Attalia. After lunch at the St. Paul Cultural Center, you will visit Antalya's renowned archaeological museum. Later in the afternoon you will take a boat ride from the port that Paul and Barnabas sailed from at the end of the first journey (Acts 14:25). The ride ends at the seaport of Magydos with swimming at Düden Waterfalls, weather permitting. Dinner and overnight in Antalya.

#### DAY 11: PISIDIAN ANTIOCH — ANTALYA

After breakfast you will depart early for Yalvaç, the site of the Roman colony of Pisidian Antioch. Paul visited this city on his three missionary journeys. His first recorded sermon in Acts 13 addressed the congregation of Jews and God-fearers in the synagogue. You will also visit the St. Paul Room in the Yalvaç Museum. Then you will make a scenic drive through Turkey's lake country before descending through the Taurus Mountains to the plain of Pamphylia. Dinner and overnight in Antalya.

#### DAY 12: ANTALYA - ISTANBUL

Morning flight from Antalya to Istanbul we will try to visit Spice Bazaar that wins the prize for being the most colorful, fragrant, and often the most fun – as visitors can taste the goods on offer. After lunch, Visit the Grand Bazaar, the largest and oldest covered bazaar in Turkey with more than 4,000 shops. So a variety of handicrafts, carpets, rare jewels and souvenirs all sold in small shops next to each other. Lastly, in the evening we will have a moonlight cruise on Bosphorus in the Black Sea. Overnight in Istanbul.

### DAY 13: ISTANBUL - FULL DAY HERE

#### **DAY 14: ISTANBUL TO CANADA**

After breakfast in the morning, we will leave for our flight back to Canada

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