

ATHENS CORINTH CRETE SANTORINI PATMOS EPHESUS

ISTANBUL AND THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ST. PAUL

Greece and Turkey

**12 Day Pilgrimage
with Cruise**



*Following in the Footsteps of St.
Paul, St. John, and the Early Church*

REV. THOMAS JOSEPH

St. Edward's Catholic Church Spring, TX

Spiritual Director

SEPT. 16-27, 2026



Where

Faith Meets Adventure

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Discover Biblical Greece and Turkey

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL

Today marks the start of your pilgrimage as you board your flight to vibrant Istanbul! Everything has been arranged for your comfort. Relax and enjoy your flight; a remarkable spiritual adventure awaits!

DAY 2: WELCOME TO ISTANBUL

Upon our arrival in Istanbul, a warm welcome awaits from our knowledgeable tour guide and friendly driver, who will escort us to our hotel. Prepare to settle in and refresh yourself before enjoying a delightful dinner together. You'll surely be ready for a restful night as you soak in the new surroundings.

DAY 3: ISTANBUL

After breakfast at your hotel, we'll explore Istanbul's wonders, including the magnificent Hagia Sophia, the Byzantine Hippodrome, the stunning Blue Mosque, the Patriarchal Cathedral Church, the Subterranean Cisterns, and the vibrant Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar), where you can enjoy a sensory delight. After a full day of exploration, we'll gather for dinner and enjoy a comfortable overnight stay at our hotel.

DAY 4: NICAEA | BURSA

Following breakfast, we'll embark on a journey from Istanbul to Bursa, with a stop at historic Nicaea, the birthplace of the Nicene Creed. Here, we'll visit St. Sofia of Nicaea, a site of profound significance where the First Council of the Christian Church was held. This region played a pivotal role in the history of Christianity.

After our busy day, we'll settle in for dinner and an overnight stay at our hotel.

DAY 5: PERGAMUM | THYATIRA | KUSADASI

We'll begin our journey in Pergamum, known as one of the seven churches St. Paul cherished, where the first Christians faced persecution by the Romans. We'll also explore the ancient Trojan temple and the Grand Theater. Then, we'll head to Thyatira, another of the seven churches famous for its "purple dye" and exquisite carpets, before continuing to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight at your hotel.

DAY 6: EPHESUS / KUSADASI

Today, we set off for Ephesus to explore one of the world's most impressive archaeological sites. Our visit will take us through the ancient city, where we will marvel at the Odeon, the Trojan Fountain, and the steam baths. We'll also visit the Temple of Adrian, the stunning Celsus Library, and the Grand Theater of Ephesus. After our journey through history, we'll make our way to the house of the Virgin Mary, reflecting on her life after the Crucifixion of her son, Jesus. Dinner and overnight accommodations will be at your hotel.

DAY 7: PATMOS

After breakfast, get ready for a scenic cruise to the Greek Islands, starting with the peaceful Island of Patmos! We'll visit the Monastery of St. John to see the original Gospel manuscripts,



\$4,999
From Houston (IAH)

 **what's included**

 Round-trip airfare

 Land transportation

 Admission fees

 Professional guide

 First-class hotels

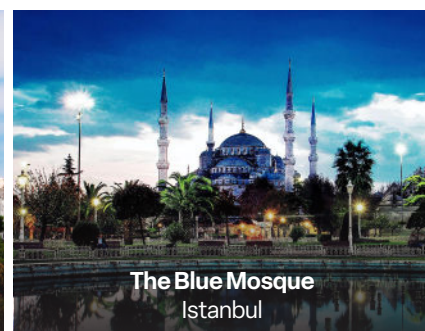
 Breakfast & dinner

 Daily Mass

 Medical insurance



Monastery of St. John
Patmos



The Blue Mosque
Istanbul



Santorini
Greece



Celsus Library
Ephesus

then explore the Grotto of the Apocalypse, where St. John wrote the “Book of Revelation.” You’ll also see the crack made by the divine voice of God. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay on board the ship, surrounded by the stunning sea.

DAY 8: RHODES

Today we arrive on the island of Rhodes where beautiful beaches, castles and ancient civilizations effortlessly mix with traditional cuisine and countless shops. Enjoy wandering through the medieval city on your own or participate in one of the offered optional excursions. We will return to the ship for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9: CRETE / SANTORINI

Our adventure begins in Crete, the largest of the Greek Islands and the renowned birthplace of the Minoan civilization, as well as the mythological home of Zeus. After passing through the village of Heraklion, we’ll explore the excavations of Knossos, which bear traces of civilization dating back to 4000 BC. You’ll have some free time in Heraklion to relax or explore on your own. When the time comes, we’ll return to the ship and continue our journey to Santorini, a stunning island rising majestically from the sea. We’ll take a chairlift to the top for a closer look at this breathtaking paradise. Dinner and overnight will be aboard the ship.

DAY 10: ATHENS

We kick off the day at the port of Athens, where our motor coach awaits to take us on a full-day tour. Our first stop is the 11th-century Monastery of Kaisariani, dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple. This serene place

inspires moments of prayer and reflection. Next, we’ll venture into Athens to see historic sites where the Apostle Paul had pivotal encounters, including the Parthenon, the Acropolis, and Hadrian’s Arch. We’ll even have a chance to celebrate Mass at a local church. Our tour concludes with visits to the Temple of Apollo, the Ancient Museum, and the Olympic Stadium. After a full day, we’ll enjoy dinner and return to our hotel for the night.

DAY 11: ANCIENT CORINTH

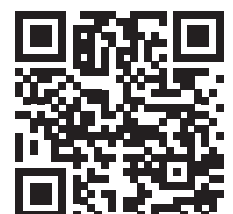
Our journey takes us to Corinth, where St. Paul established the first Church. Here, we will see Bema, the judgment seat where Paul preached to the Corinthians and was judged by Gallio. We’ll then make our way back to Athens. In the evening, we’ll gather for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant and enjoy our last night at the hotel.

DAY 12: RETURN FLIGHT HOME

After a heartfelt farewell, we will head to the airport for our return flight. We hope this spiritual journey has been enriching for you. Thank you for traveling with Nativity Pilgrimage. We look forward to welcoming you on another adventure soon!

register by mail or online

Submit a non-refundable \$800 deposit with a copy of your registration form and passport. The names on the registration form and passport must match exactly. U.S. passports must be valid for at least six months from the return date. Full payment is due 5/19/2026 (120 days before departure).



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

YOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

Air Transportation: Economy class and round-trip airfares are based on the time of the reservation. Rates and times are subject to change without notice. Airfares, once issued, are non-refundable, non-transferable, and cannot be used towards future travel.

Land Transportation: All land transportation as described in the itinerary will be by Deluxe Motor Coach. Some may be equipped with Wi-Fi service.

Hotels: Your hotels will be first-class with double occupancy (2 people per room with a private bath). Neither Nativity Pilgrimage nor the trip coordinator are responsible for providing a roommate.

Meal Plan: The meal plan offers breakfast & dinner daily, unless otherwise stated.

Baggage: Most airlines limit passengers to one (1) piece of checked luggage and one (1) carry-on. All passengers should check with the airlines carriers for up to date baggage weight and dimensions.

Airport Fees: Airport Taxes, Portage, Fuel Surcharges and Security Fees

Medical Insurance: Medical coverage for the duration of your trip.

YOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Cancellation Insurance: We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance upon registration.

Passport Expenses: This includes any passports or additional travel documents that may be required. Passports must be valid until at least 6 months from your return date.

Personal Expenses: Laundry, beverages (including wine, liquor, mineral water, tea, coffee, etc.), meals or food items not listed on the included menu plan, and any excess or additional luggage.

Non-itinerary fees: Any sightseeing or service fees or personal items that are not specifically mentioned as being included in the itinerary.

Non-included meals: You are responsible for any meals not specified in your itinerary.

Tips/Gratuities: This includes tour guides, drivers, hotel service staff, and wait staff.

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Group Air: Group Air differs from individually purchased airline tickets in that it is subject to the terms and conditions of the airlines. For this reason, we need to receive your registration and full payment by the payment deadline. After that date, registrations may be subject to a different air rate, ticketing method, or on a different airline. Additional fees and charges may apply. Group air flights are confirmed 60 - 90 days prior to departure.

Departure Cities: If your departure city is not listed on the brochure, indicate which airport you would like to depart from on the registration form. We will provide you with the best possible price and flight schedule in order to connect with the group. Additional fees and charges may apply.

Land-Only Option: If you would like to book your own air travel, indicate on your registration form that you want the 'Land Only' option. This amount equals to the total tour price minus \$800 for all destinations except Mexico, which is minus \$350. By booking your own air, you may select your seat, airline, and travel schedule, use airline miles/points, provide airline reward program information, and make any special requests directly with the airline. No changes can be made after the final payment deadline. Land-only services begin and end at the hotels unless you are able to meet the group at the airport. Land-only travelers are responsible for their own airport transfers.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

The airline selects seat assignments for group air, not the tour operator. Seat upgrades are available for registered travelers, by request. Quoted rates for an upgrade are subject to change until payment is received. Some upgrades are not available until the group tickets are issued.

Single Room: Tour price is based on double occupancy. If you'd like a single room, there is an additional cost per person as specified on the registration form. Single rooms are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Seat Upgrades: Once Nativity Pilgrimage receives an upgrade or seat location request, we will contact the airlines to finalize your request. We cannot guarantee the acceptance of this request as it is subject to availability and pricing (which changes daily).

Other Special Requests: Once Nativity Pilgrimage receives a special request, such as a wheelchair, food, etc., we will contact the airlines to finalize your request. We cannot guarantee acceptance of this request as it is subject to availability and pricing (which changes daily)

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person is required at the time of booking. No reservation will be processed without a deposit.

Payment Deadline: Full payment is due 5/19/2026 (120 Days before departure). Late registrations received after the deadline require an additional \$100 (subject to availability). If payment is not made in full 50 days prior to departure, your payments are non-refundable.

Payment Methods: We accept major credit cards, checks, money orders, and Zelle payments. There is an additional 3% fee for each credit card transaction.

LATE PAYMENT POLICY

Customers will receive Late Fees if they are not paid in full:

| PRIOR TO DEPARTURE | FEE |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 120 - 61 days | \$150 |
| 60 - 30 days | \$300 |
| 30 days - day before departure | subject to cancellation |

Customers are also responsible for any difference in fare due to late payment (subject to availability). Refusal to pay will be considered a cancellation.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

We hope that nothing will prevent you from taking your pilgrimage with Nativity Pilgrimage, however, should you need to cancel your trip, your cancellation must be in writing via email or letter. It will be effective on the date of receipt. The following cancellation fees will apply:

| PRIOR TO DEPARTURE | PENALTY |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 120 + days | Lose deposit |
| 119 - 50 days | 50% of trip cost |
| 49 days or less | 100% of trip cost |

Insurance premiums are non-refundable. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance to avoid these cancellation fees.

PROTECT YOUR TRIP

Every pilgrim traveling with Nativity will receive complimentary medical insurance that provides coverage for the full duration of your trip.

We also strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation insurance (available at an additional cost) to safeguard your travel investment in case unforeseen circumstances require you to cancel. Please contact our office for details about trip cancellation insurance options.

Important: If you plan to purchase Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) coverage, it must be purchased at the time of registration.

RESPONSIBILITY

Nativity Pilgrimage, Inc. and their agents assume no liability or responsibility in regards to travel in any form for any injuries or loss of property, accidents, delays, changes in schedule or itinerary, incidental damages or any irregular circumstances. This would include, but not limited to, default or omission by any third party providing services or facilities related to and/or included in the tour or any part thereof.

The IATA carriers, steamship firms and other transportation companies, whose services are featured in these tours, are not to be held responsible or accountable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their respective conveyance.

The passage contract in use by these companies, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passengers and Nativity Pilgrimage, Inc. does not assume any liability or responsibility in connection therewith. They are not responsible for any losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, guarantees, or other causes.

All such losses or expenses shall be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality to those specified in the itinerary. Nativity Pilgrimage reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. Refund details vary upon each trip. No refund will be made for any used portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure from the United States. Prices and itineraries are subject to change without notice if booking conditions are not complied with.