

JOURNEY OF ST PAUL & CLASSICAL GREECE

(INCLUDES CONSTANTINOPLE/ISTANBUL)

4th – 20th June 2015 Led by the Very Rev. Archimandrite Elpidios Karalis & Dimitri Kepreotes

GREECE – what better place to explore the history of Western philosophy and religion! Join us as we spend two weeks roaming the ancient temples, monasteries and cities in which the great themes of human life were articulated in debate and dogma and from which many of our parents, grandparents and ancestors came. Reconnecting with our heritage, we'll meet with many familiar names and places – St Paul at Philippi, the Oracle at Delphi, the Olympians, the Corinthians, St John on Patmos to name just a few. As a bonus, our journey commences in ancient Constantinople, where we'll explore the marvels of Istanbul and meet with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to expand our minds as we explore the beautiful vista that is Greece.

ABOUT OUR LEADERS:

Fr Elpidios is a Greek-Australian born priest who serves at the Church of Sts Constantine and Helene in Perth, WA. Fr Elpidios also teaches Greek Orthodox Studies at St Andrew's Grammar and is a graduate of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College (NSW). He has been a priest for 7 years serving in the parish that he was christened and grew up in.

Dimitri Kepreotes is a faculty member of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney. He is keenly interested in the continuity of education from ancient Greece into the Christian era, which was also the topic of his PhD.

DAY 1: Thursday 4th June 2015

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Australia today on your Emirates flight bound for Istanbul (via Dubai).

DAY 2: Friday 5th June 2015

ISTANBUL (D)

Arrival into Istanbul International Airport and meet your waiting driver and tour guide. We will enjoy a visit to Hagia Sofia, one of the great architectural marvels of the ancient world. Check-in to your hotel. Dinner and overnight is at your hotel.

DAY 3: Saturday 6th June 2015

ISTANBUL (B, D)

Catch a privately chartered ferry to visit the Island of Halki. Then we will visit the Theological School by horse-drawn carriage & walking. Visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for an Audience with His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I. If time allows, browse around the exciting Grand bazaar, a maze of over 4000 tiny shops selling jewelry, leatherwork and fine carpets. Return to your hotel in Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: Sunday 7th June 2015

ISTANBUL (B, D)

Attend Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Church of St George (optional). Afterwards, we visit the Moni Horas (Chora Monastery) & Panagia Blahernon and Agia Triada Peran in Taksim. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5: Monday 8th June 2015

ISTANBUL - THESSALONIKI - PHILIPPI - KAVALA - THESSALONIKI (B, D)

In the morning we transfer to Istanbul Airport for your flight to Thessaloniki. Upon arrival in Thessaloniki we will be met by your guide and transferred via the Lakes Koronia and Volvi to Philippi. Here St Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe and sowed the seeds of Christianity. It is also here that he baptized "a woman named Lydia" the first Christian convert in Europe. The Roman Forum, completely excavated, was built after Paul's time. Among the ruins, located on the rocky ledge above the town's main road, is the alleged "prison" where Paul and Silas were chained. It was in Philippi that Octavian and Anthony defeated Brutus and Cassius, the last defenders of the Roman Republic in 42 B.C. We follow the Via Egnatia, remnant of Rome's highway system, viewing Roman and Greek tombstones and ruts of ancient chariot wheels. We then proceed to the modern port city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis) where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. Aside from the great panoramas of Kavala, the city has a Byzantine castle and aqueduct. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner & overnight.

DAY 6: Tuesday 9th June 2015

THESSALONIKI - VERIA - VERGINA - KALAMBAKA (B, D)

Today become acquainted with Thessaloniki, built about 315 B.C. by Cassander, brother-in-law of Alexander the Great. St Paul wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. In the morning we enjoy a city tour of Thessaloniki – White Tower,

Egnatia Avenue, Arch of Galerius and visit the early Byzantine Church and Crypt of St Dimitrios, Patron Saint of Thessaloniki. We then proceed to the "upper city" of Thessaloniki to see the remains of the Byzantine acropolis. Here was the house of Jason where St Paul stayed during his visit to Thessaloniki. Drive to Veria (Beria) famous for its more than 70 Byzantine churches also known as "little Jerusalem". We visit here the Bema of St Paul. In Vergina, the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom, we visit the "Vergina findings", treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. Continue drive to Kalambaka. Dinner & overnight in Kalambaka

DAY 7: Wednesday 10th June 2015

METEORA - DELPHI (B, D)

In the morning we visit Meteora. Among striking scenery perched on top of huge rocks, which seem to be suspended in mid-air, stand ageless monasteries containing priceless Byzantine art. We will visit one or two of the monasteries here. Depart from Kalambaka and drive via Trikala and Lamia to Delphi. Dinner/ overnight in Delphi

DAY 8: Thursday 11th June 2015

DELPHI - OLYMPIA (B, D)

In the morning we visit the museum in Delphi with its renowned bronze sculpture, "The Charioteer" and other famous pieces. At the archaeological site we visit the Temple of Apollo, the Athenian Treasury and Castalian Spring. Depart Delphi and cross the new Rion Antirion Bridge from Antirion to Rion. Once in the Peloponnese continue the drive to Olympia. Dinner/ overnight in Olympia

DAY 9: Friday 12th June 2015

OLYMPIA - NAFPLION (B, D)

In the morning we visit Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games. The visit includes the verdant archaeological site and museum. In the afternoon the drive takes us to Nafplion via Megalopoli and Tripoli. Dinner/ overnight in Nafplion or in Tolo (resort town on the sea near Nafplion)

DAY 10: Saturday 13th June 2015

NAFPLION (EPIDAUROS, MYCENAE, ANCIENT CORINTH) - ATHENS (B, D)

In the morning we visit the theatre of Epidaurus famous for its astonishing acoustics. Thereafter we continue to Mycenae and visit the Lion's gate, the Cyclopean walls and the Royal Tombs. We then proceed to Ancient Corinth and visit the Archaeological Museum, the Bema of St Paul, and the Market Place and Temples. Corinth was home to St Paul for



18 months. From the Bema at Corinth, Paul spoke to the Corinthians about Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We continue to the Corinth Canal, which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the two Seas (Ionian and Aegean). After a short stop, we continue our way to Athens. Balance of the day at leisure. Dinner /overnight in Athens

DAY 11: Sunday 14th June 2015
ATHENS (ACROPOLIS & MARS HILL) (B, D)

In the morning, start the day with optional attendance of Sunday Liturgy (which finishes about 10.30am). We then enjoy a sightseeing city tour of Athens, the cradle of democracy. The tour includes a visit to the world renowned Acropolis, with the ruins of the Parthenon, Erectheum, Propylea & Metropolis of Athens. Thereafter ascend Aeropagus "Mars Hill", where Paul preached. We also view the Acropolis Museum and the Byzantine & Christian Museum. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner /overnight in Athens

DAY 12: Monday 15th June 2015
ATHENS – PATMOS (B, D)

Enjoy the morning at leisure. Meet for an afternoon visit to the Agora (ancient market place) the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Presidential Palace, the Panathenaic Stadium (where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held), the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch as well as the Metropolis Cathedral of Athens. Transfer to the port in time to board the 7pm overnight ferry to Patmos. Dinner/overnight is on the ferry.

DAY 13: Tuesday 16th June 2015
PATMOS – RHODES (B, D)

Arrive into Patmos early this morning and transfer directly to your hotel for immediate check in and a few hours of rest.

Visit the Monastery of St John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse. Catch the afternoon ferry or catamaran to Rhodes (schedule not yet available). Dinner and overnight is at your hotel in Rhodes.

DAY 14: Wednesday 17th June 2015
RHODES (B, D)

Enjoy a panoramic view of Rhodes Town, passing by Mandraki port (visit to Evangelismos church), Monte Smith, the Acropolis of Ancient Rhodes, Apollo Temple, Ancient Stadium. Continue to the Acropolis of Ancient Ialysos, Filerimos monastery. Visit the church of St George Hostos. Enjoy a guided walking tour in the Old Town with a visit to the Palace of the Grand Master passing by the Knight's Street and the Archaeological Museum. Return for dinner and overnight to your hotel in Rhodes.

DAY 15: Thursday 18th June 2015
RHODES (B, D)

This morning, on our way to Lindos, we stop in at the Tsambika Church. Enjoy a walking tour in Lindos Village with a visit to church of the Virgin Mary. Visit the Acropolis and enjoy the panoramic view of St Paul's Bay. Depart Lindos and visit Kallithea for a refreshment stop. Return to your hotel in Rhodes for dinner and overnight.

DAY 16: Friday 19th June 2015
RHODES (B, D)

Enjoy the morning at leisure before being transferred to the airport for your domestic flight to Athens. On arrival, transfer to the international terminal for your return flight back to Australia.

DAY 17: Saturday 20th June 2015
ARRIVE HOME

Arrive home with wonderful memories of your trip!



TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE:

AUD \$6390* per person twin share Single supplement: **AUD\$1095**

* Price is based on minimum of 30 full paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply

PROPOSED HOTELS OR SIMILAR (all local 4 star hotels):

Istanbul	Blackbird Hotel (local 4 star hotel) (3 nights)
Thessaloniki	Hotel Capsis (1 night)
Kalambaka	Hotel Divani (1 night)
Delpi/Itea	Hotel Amalia/Hotel Nafsika Palace (1 night)
Olympia	Hotel Olympion Asty or Hotel Europa (1 night)
Athens	Hotel Titania (2 nights)
Overnight	Ferry from Athens to Patmos (1 night)
Patmos	Hotel Skala (1 night)
Rhodes	Hotel Petit Palais (3 nights)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney/Perth to Istanbul & Athens – Sydney/Perth with Emirates Airlines
- Turkish Airlines economy class flight from Istanbul to Thessaloniki
- Aegean Airlines flight from Rhodes - Athens
- All airport & departure taxes (subject to change)
- 14 nights hotel accommodation plus one night on the overnight ferry (inside cabins)
- Breakfasts and Dinner daily
- Expert local guides with you from start to finish (1 in Turkey and 1 in Greece)

- All transfers, transport in luxury air conditioned coaches
- Heybeliada privately chartered boat between Istanbul - Halki
- Portage, tips and gratuities
- Whisper Headsets

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Lunches
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from the team at Olive Tree Travel, Fr Elpidios or Dimitri
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$350 per person is required by Monday 2nd March 2015 (unless sold out prior).
3. Full payment will be required by 15th April 2015.

WHO TO CONTACT:



Olive Tree Travel
Katrina Maggs

Suite 1, level 1
 230 Balaclava Road, North Caulfield VIC 3161
 T: +61 3 8488 9696 or 1300 55 08 30
 katrina@olivetreetravel.com.au
 www.olivetreetravel.com.au



Fr Elpidios Karalis

Parish Priest
 PO Box 17 Northbridge WA 6865
 T&F: (08) 9328 7452
 M: 0407 260 071
 E. p.karalis@bigpond.com

Dimitri Kepreotes

M: 0406 387 850
 E: dkepreotes@rocketmail.com



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