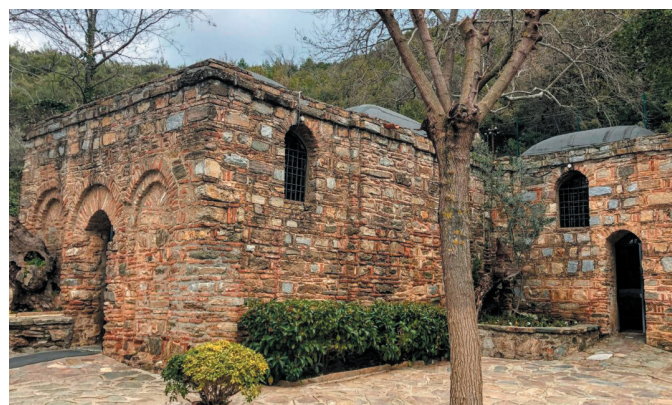
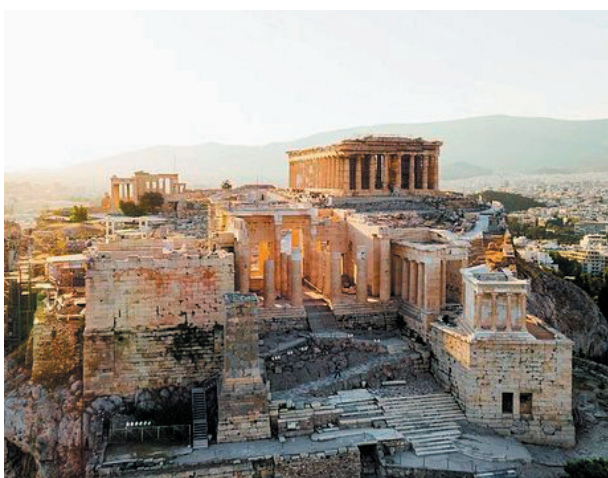


A 12-Day Pilgrimage to
GREECE & TURKEY

with Fr. Christopher Smith & Fr. Jason Barone

November 8-19, 2024



ST. CHARLES
Catholic Pilgrimages



Register at stcharlespilgrimages.com/smith-barone



The goal of this pilgrimage is “to put people in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.”

- POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *CATECHESIS TRADENDAE*

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: NOVEMBER 8 — ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Depart the USA today on board your overnight transatlantic jet flight to Athens, arriving the following day. Enjoy a full meal service as well as in-flight entertainment such as movies, music, etc.

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 9 — ARRIVAL IN ATHENS

After arriving in Athens, you will meet your dedicated pilgrimage director and local guide and transfer to your hotel. This day will be dedicated to leisure and adjusting to the new time zone. Mass, dinner, and overnight in Athens. (D)

DAY 3: NOVEMBER 10 — ANCIENT CORINTH / TOUR OF ATHENS WITH THE ACROPOLIS & MARS HILL

After breakfast, we will board our motor coach and make our way to the Ancient Corinth site passing the Corinth Canal. Here the Apostle Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. The mostly Gentile Church he founded here caused him much grief and prompted from him at least four letters. It is from Corinth, also, that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. On our return, we visit the ruins of Cenchaee, the harbor from which St. Paul sailed to Ephesus (Acts 18:18).

Continue to Athens. We will visit the Acropolis, the crowning beauty and glory of Ancient Athens, with its many monuments atop its rocky base, including the awesome Parthenon, the Propylea, the temple of Athena Nike, and the Erechtheion, with its Porch of Maidens. Afterwards, we will ascend Mars Hill where St. Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one and only God.

From here we have an excellent view of the ancient agora; former center of the Athenian public life. Drive to the Roman Temple of Olympic Zeus, the Panathinaikon Stadium (site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896), and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament House on Constitution Square. See views of government buildings and elegant structures of the 19th century. Drive along Panepistimiou Avenue and view the Catholic Cathedral, the Academy, University, and National Library. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

“If Jesus Christ has not been raised our teaching is empty, and so, too, your faith.” - 1 Cor. 15:14

DAY 4: NOVEMBER 11 — TOUR OF DELPHI & DRIVE TO KALAMBAKA

After a buffet breakfast at the hotel, we load the bus and drive northbound through the picturesque village of Arachova where we will later reach Delphi. Delphi is considered the navel (omphalos) of the ancient world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pithios. Visit the site and the museum where we can see, among other archaeological treasures, the unique bronze statue of the Charioteer. Free time for lunch and continue to Kalambaka. Check-in at hotel, dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 5: NOVEMBER 12 — METEORA / BEROEA / TOUR OF THESSALONIKI

Today we will marvel at Meteora, the supernatural mix of natural landscape and human-made constructions. Meteora is not only a unique witness of monastic life and art in Greece, but also an incredible place to mesmerize at amazing views, green valleys and steep rock formations that will leave you breathless. Continue to Beroea to visit St. Paul’s Bema surrounded by mosaics of Paul and the plaque of scripture regarding the “more noble” church.

Free time for lunch and drive to Thessaloniki. St. Paul preached in the city and wrote two epistles to the Ancient Thessalonians. Visit the old city ramparts, the Forum, St. George’s church, the ancient Roman monument which transformed into a church and Galerius Arch which rises over the famous





via Egnatia. We will also see the beautiful Basilicas of martyred Christian and former distinguished member of the Roman army, St. Demetrius as well as St. Sophia. Check-in at hotel, dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 6: NOVEMBER 13 — PHILIPPI / KAVALA

After breakfast, we leave Thessaloniki to visit Philippi where St. Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. Here Paul baptized a “certain woman named Lydia” the first Christian convert in Europe. Lastly, we will visit The Roman forum, completely excavated, which is from after Paul’s time. Among the ruins, located on the rocky ledge above the town’s main road, is the prison where Paul and Silas were thrown.

Continue into the modern port city of Kavala, ancient Neapolis, where St. Paul accompanied by Silas, Luke, and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. Free time for lunch and a walk on the beautiful seaside promenade of the city before returning back to Thessaloniki for dinner & overnight. (B, D)



DAY 7: NOVEMBER 14 — DRIVE TO ATHENS THROUGH THERMOPYLAE

After breakfast drive southbound to Athens. On the way we will stop at Thermopylae where Leonidas, the 300 Spartans and 800 more Greeks defended their land in 480 BC. Continue to Athens for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 8: NOVEMBER 15 — EMBARK ON AEGEAN CRUISE / MYKONOS

Awaken refreshed this morning and ready to begin your 3-night cruise around the Greek Isles and Turkey. Head first to mountainous Mykonos with its iconic windmills and brilliant whitewashed houses. Wander through the narrow winding streets, do a little shopping, or sit in a café to people-watch. (B, L, D)



DAY 9: NOVEMBER 16 — DAY 2 OF CRUISE: EPHESUS / PATMOS

Visit the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the Ephesus Archaeological site, the former capital of the Roman province of Asia. Walk in the footsteps of Paul, who lived and preached here, and meditate on what life must have been like for the early Ephesian Christians in this pagan society. Also, see the House of Mary, where the Virgin Mary is said to have spent her last days.

Continue your cruise to the island of Patmos, the “Jerusalem of the Aegean,” where you can join an excursion to see the Monastery of St. John and the Cave of the Apocalypse. Here, John the Evangelist received the visions that he recorded in the Book of the Revelation during his exile. (B, L, D)

“I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God’s word and gave testimony to Jesus.” - Rev. 1:9

DAY 10: NOVEMBER 17 — DAY 3 OF CRUISE: CRETE / SANTORINI

The first port of call today is Heraklion, Crete. Enjoy an excursion to nearby KNOSSOS, the center of the 3000 BC Minoan civilization and historic site of mythology’s tales about the Minotaur and the labyrinth. Afternoon call (weather permitting) at Santorini, the “Black Pearl of the Aegean.” An optional excursion (not included), that will take you to the cliff-top village of Oia for one of the world’s most glorious panoramic views, is available. In the early evening, we board the ship for the return trip to Athens. (B, L, D)



DAY 11: NOVEMBER 18 — FREE DAY IN ATHENS

Upon our return to Athens, we disembark our cruise ship and transfer to our hotel. Free day at leisure to relax, shop, dine, and explore the city of Athens. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 12: NOVEMBER 19 — OUR JOURNEY HOME

After an early breakfast and whole-hearted farewells, you will transfer to the Athens airport for your return flight(s) home. (B)



INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip flight from Charlotte (CLT) to Athens (ATH)
- Accommodations at the best four-star hotels
 - Athens (4 nights), Kalambaka (1 night), Thessaloniki (2 nights), Upgraded cabins on the cruise (3 nights)
- Luggage handling (1 piece)
- Breakfast and dinner daily, plus 4 lunches
- Select drinks with meals while on cruise
- Private airport transfers in Greece
- Ground transportation in a deluxe motor coach with A/C
- 3-night cruise around the Greek Isles and Turkey
 - Visits to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete (Heraklion), and Santorini
- Admission tickets and private tours through all shrines, monasteries, abbeys, and historical sites on our itinerary
- ALL TIPS for local guides, driver, and hotel staff
- Daily Mass, spiritual activities, and devotions led by Fr. Smith & Fr. Barone
- A dedicated pilgrimage director and a dedicated local guide
- Two pre-departure information meetings
- Custom booklet and luggage tag for each pilgrim

Not included:

- Meals not mentioned above
- Travel insurance (*highly encouraged*)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- A deposit of **\$500** per person is due upon registration.
- Final payment/remainder of balance is due on or before **August 8, 2024**.
- Late bookings after 90 days prior to departure require payment in full at time of booking.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All payments are refundable up to 90 days prior to departure. The total fee is 50% refundable from 90 days to 30 days prior to departure. There is no refund for cancellations within 30 days of departure.

By registering for this pilgrimage you understand and agree to the terms and conditions of St. Charles Catholic Pilgrimages:
stcharlespilgrimages.com/terms-and-conditions

**DOUBLE
OCCUPANCY
PRICE: \$4,950***

**SINGLE
OCCUPANCY
PRICE: \$5,950***

** Prices are per person and reflect a cash/check discount.*

**LAND-ONLY
REDUCTION: -\$900**
stcharlespilgrimages.com/flight-options

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:
CANCEL FOR ANY REASON
("CFAR") TRAVEL INSURANCE IS
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

St. Charles Catholic Pilgrimages does not arrange travel insurance policies on behalf of our pilgrims. Check out travelguard.com for an initial quote. If you wish to purchase travel insurance, do so shortly after registering for the pilgrimage: stcharlespilgrimages.com/travel-insurance

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
REVIEW OUR FAQs:**
stcharlespilgrimages.com/faqs

