

TURKEY GREECE JOURNEY

Travelling in the Footsteps of St. Paul and St. John

16 – 31 October, 2026



Hosted by Rev. Lori & Chris Diaz – Central United Church

“The Word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region and the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 13:49, 52)



Istanbul (Constantinople)



Theatre at Pergamum



Cave City of Uchisar



Library at Ephesus



Travel Industry Council of Ontario
T.I.C.O. Registration # 2976741

DAY 1: FRI. 16 OCTOBER: Depart for Istanbul

Today, we depart from Toronto on our overnight flight(s) to Istanbul. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

DAY 2: SAT. 17 OCTOBER: Arrival Istanbul

Upon arrival at Istanbul, we will be met by our guide and driver. Once in Istanbul, we shall drive through the Marmara Region where we arrive at the gateway between Europe and Asia, Istanbul (Constantinople). Here, we check-in to **The Germir Palas Hotel** for the next two nights. **(B, D)**

DAY 3: SUN. 18 OCTOBER: Istanbul

After breakfast, we enjoy our full day historical Istanbul tour. Visiting the **Hagia Sophia Museum** (built in the 6th century,) the **Blue Mosque**, famous for its blue Iznik tiles and the **Hippodrome Square** where ancient chariot races were held. **Topkapi Palace** – This former Sultan's Palace and museum offers wonderful views of the Bosphorus River. We shall also visit the **Grand Bazaar**, home to over 4000 shops and merchants.

DAY 4: MON. 19 OCTOBER: Istanbul

This morning, we enjoy more of the sites in Istanbul such as:

Egyptian Spice Market – Experience the atmosphere of the authentic marketplace, with sights, sounds and smells stimulated by this unique covered bazaar.

Bosphorus River Cruise – viewing the picturesque beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side.

This afternoon, we leave Istanbul and fly inland to the staggering geological Central Anatolian region of Cappadocia

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

DAY 5: TUE. 20 OCTOBER: Cappadocia

Truly one of the most unique landscapes in the world! It was here that early inhabitants carved into the soft volcanic rock to create underground dwellings, which eventually grew to become entire cities. Over one thousand elaborate places of worship, early churches, were carved out from the landscape. Many of the lavishly decorated frescoes, from as early as 5th century, can be seen today. Sometimes as many as six thousand Christians escaped from persecution by hiding in this region. Our overnight and dinner will be at **Ramada Cappadocia Hotel** during the next two days. **(B, D)**

DAY 6: WED. 21 OCTOBER: Cappadocia

This morning, you have the option to take a hot air balloon ride for sunrise over the Cappadocia valleys. After breakfast, we shall visit to Rose Valley one of the most beautiful trekking valleys in Cappadocia, and explore the famous rock-cut churches by hiking through the valley. Rest in Cavusin, an old Greek village, known for its Christian houses and churches.

After lunch, visit Ortahisar Castle, similar to Uchisar Castle in style, where storage caves can also be observed. In the afternoon, visit Kaymakli (or Ozkonak) Underground City where early Christians lived in fear and faith. On the way back, visit to panoramic Pigeon Valley where pigeons contributed to the lives of locals with their manure to fertilize the vineyards.

Our afternoon sees us travel west towards the Aegean coast. Our first stop is the ancient mystic City of Konya. Here, we will visit Sille and Aya Elenia Church which was built by Helene, the mother of Constantine the Great. Helene who was the first Christian aristocrat, during her life had tried to find the holy cross of Jesus, visited Jerusalem many times and built many churches on her way. Aya Elenia Church points us clearly that Sille was over this route.

Anemon Konya Hotel, for dinner and overnight stay. **(B, D)**

DAY 7: THU. 22 OCTOBER: Pisidian Antioch, Pamukkale

Today, our journey follows that of Paul and Barnabas as we stop in Pisidian Antioch. Here, we will visit the site of the synagogue that Paul visited during his journey. The ruins of an early Byzantine church are still visible with a mosaic of Psalm 42:4 found during recent excavations.

From here, we enjoy a scenic journey through the mountains of Galatia until we arrive at ancient cities of Colossae and Laodicea.

Our day ends with a visit to the natural salt flats of Pamukkale, a truly spectacular sight indeed!

Dinner and overnight stay will be at **Colossae Hotel**. **(B, D)**

DAY 8: FRI. 23 OCTOBER: Laodicea, Hierapolis, Free Afternoon

Today, our journey continues with a visit to our first of the Churches of the Book of Revelation.

Laodicea – The “luke warm” Church that is neither hot nor cold. (Revelation 3:14-22)

This afternoon, we have made free time at Pamukkale to enjoy the natural hot spring pools of the hotel and maybe take advantage of the Turkish baths and spa facilities!

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the hotel. **(B, D)**

DAY 9: SAT. 24 OCTOBER: Free morning and spa day

Today, we leave Pamukkale and head towards the Aegean coast and overnight in the picturesque port City of Izmir. En-route, we shall visit one of the Seven Churches of the Book of Revelation.

Philadelphia – The Church that had endured patiently. (Revelation 3:7-13)

Sardis – The Church that had fallen asleep. (Revelation 3:1-6)

Dinner will be at our hotel in the City of Izmir (ancient Smyrna). **(B, D)**

DAY 10: SUN. 25 OCTOBER: Ephesus

Today, we have a full day visit to the unforgettable ruins of **Ephesus** – The ‘desirable Church’ that left its first love! (Revelation 2:1-7)

In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world. It was here that Paul visited, whilst on his return to Israel but was forced to leave the city vowing to return.

He never returned to Ephesus but, instead held council from Melitus during his Third journey. Our day also includes a visit to the Church of Apostle John.

Dinner is back at our hotel in Izmir. **(B, D)**



DAY 11: MON. 26 OCTOBER: Smyrna, Thyatira, Pergamon

After breakfast, we depart for a day visiting some more sites of the Seven Churches of Revelation.

Smyrna – The persecuted Church that suffered poverty and martyrdom. (Revelation 2:8-11)

Thyatira – The false Church that followed a seductive prophetess. (Revelation 2:18-29.)

Pergamum – The worldly Church that mixed doctrines and needed to repent! (Revelation 2:12-17)

A truly memorable day, we arrive back to Izmir for dinner and overnight stay. **(B, D)**

DAY 12: TUE. 27 OCTOBER: FREE MORNING, PATMOS

The morning is free until we embark on our Aegean Island cruise, departing at 12:00 noon. Lunch is served on board.

At 4:00 p.m., we arrive at **Patmos**. (Disembarkation either by tender boats or the ship docks, sea and weather permitting). This is a beautiful, peaceful and almost mysterious rocky island of the Dodecanese where the Apostle John was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation. Here, we tour the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist where we also have a wonderful view of the island. We will visit the Grotto of the Revelation. After some free time for browsing, we return to the ship and set sail for Rhodes at 9:00 p.m.

Dinner & overnight on board. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 13: WED. 28 OCTOBER: RHODES

Breakfast on board at 7:00 a.m. Then, we arrive at **Rhodes**. This stronghold was built by a Crusading Order which originated from Palestine and in older days, it boasted another achievement of the then known world - The Colossus of Rhodes!

Our optional morning half-day excursion takes us to visit the Temple of Athena on the majestic rocky Acropolis of Lindos, with the blue Aegean Sea beneath it and the sophisticated whitewashed artists' colony at its foot. Local tradition has it that on his way to Rome, Paul's vessels spent some time here in the small harbour. (Acts 21:1)

The afternoon is free for you to peruse through Rhodes for a most delightful experience. You can stroll around the medieval walled city and enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere from one of the elegant cafes in the marina. We shall set sail for Heraklion, Crete at 6:00 p.m. Dinner & overnight on board. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 14: THU. 29 OCTOBER: CRETE & SANTORINI

Breakfast on board. This morning, we dock at the port of **Heraklion Crete** (Acts 27:7-13) where our optional excursion takes us from the lively bustling city to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur (half bull and half man). Then, we set sail for **Santorini** at 11:30 a.m.

Later this afternoon, our cruise-ship drops anchor in Santorini. (Disembarkation by tender-boats, sea & weather permitting).

The town of Fira is perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano. In the town of Fira, white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques cling to steep cliffs. The eruption of the volcano in 1,600 BC literally buried a flourishing Bronze Age town which has now been excavated at Akrotiri.

Free time for taking photos, browsing, shopping and enjoying the unique view. Set sail for Piraeus at 9:00 p.m.

Dinner & overnight on-board. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 15: FRI. 30 OCTOBER: Corinth

This morning, our excursion takes us by the Saronic Gulf. It was here in 480 BC that the small Grecian fleet managed to defeat the enormously powerful armada of the Persians. From here, via the historic Corinthian Canal, we arrive at ancient Corinth. (Acts 18:1-18)

It was to this megalopolis where the apostle Paul came and worked, established a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles now part of the New Testament. Here, we see all of the sites associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's Seat. In Romans 16:23, Paul mentions his friend Erastus and we will see an inscription to him at the site. From here, we see the ruins of early Christian 5th century basilica in **Cenchreae** before returning to the hotel in Athens.

It was the harbour of Corinth, on the Saronic Gulf east whence Paul sailed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). There was a church here, of which Phoebe was a member (Rom. 16:1), and Lucius its first bishop, appointed by Paul. There was a temple at the end of each mole, and a statue of Poseidon (Neptune) on a rock between, as may be seen on an ancient coin of Corinth.

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening in Athens. **(B, D)**

DAY 16: SAT. 31 OCTOBER: Athens

This morning, we shall visit the **Acropolis site**, the sacred rock of Athens, the citadel and the sanctuary of the city in antiquity. We visit the famous Parthenon and the Erechtheion with its porch of maidens.

We will then walk to nearby **Mars Hill** and stand on the very spot, where Paul gave his famous speech to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:18-34) and spoke about the inscription: "to an unknown god".

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. A wonderful time to reflect on our experience! **(B, D)**

DAY 17: SUN. 01 NOVEMBER: Homeward bound

After breakfast, we board our morning flight and depart for home. Our flights bring us back to Toronto in the late afternoon. Complimentary in-flight service is provided on our flights, including breakfast and lunch. **(B, L)**

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



INCLUDED

Group air travel: Round trip from Toronto. Fares from other cities available upon request.

Hotels: First class hotels throughout.

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner daily.

Transportation: Air-conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

Sightseeing: Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

Tour Guide: Government licensed Tour guides will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

Shore Excursions: Patmos, Rhodes and Santorini.

Cruise Silver beverage package

Cruise port taxes: Equivalent to USD\$199

Porterage: One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for their other luggage.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

“Whisper” head sets.

Bottled water- 2 per day.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches. (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD\$275.

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Christian Journeys requires that you must have – “out of country” – emergency medical insurance, equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please visit our website for policy details and premiums.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport, valid to 01 May 2027. N. American passport holders do not currently require a visa for Turkey or Greece at time of going to print.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A nonrefundable deposit of \$750 is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 90 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable after 16 July 2026.

Fuel surcharges: These are included in the pricing but are subject to change.

Currency surcharge: If, in the event that the US dollar devalues against the Euro by over 7% between the time of printing and 120 days before departure, Christian Journeys may levy a currency surcharge.

Travel Insurance: Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes ‘trip cancellation’ coverage to protect you against any cancellation penalties.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.

17 DAY JOURNEY PRICING

JOURNEY PRICE:	CAD \$5999
GROUP AIRFARE:**	CAD \$1600

JOURNEY COST:	CAD \$7599
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(Based upon 30 paid passengers)

**** Group airfare is an estimate and will be confirmed by the end of November, 2025.**

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: CAD\$1799



*for more
information
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