

World Of St Paul Tour

26 August – 11 September 2012

Led by Archdeacon Ray McInnes

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to trace the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Here is your opportunity to do just that. Experience the sights and sounds of early Christianity as you journey and cruise to a number of places associated with the missionary journeys of the apostle and key New Testament destinations.

Among the many highlights will be an exploration of ATHENS and the Acropolis, ancient CORINTH, PHILIPPI, THESSALONIKA, RHODES and EPHESUS, all places of great significance for Paul's



ministry in Greece and Turkey. In addition the tour will take us to PATMOS where the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, and then on to the SEVEN CHURCHES of the REVELATION in Turkey.

Our 17 day journey is an ideal first pilgrimage to New Testament Turkey and Greece. The trip includes the 'essential' elements of the Seven Churches of Asia as well.

Ray McInnes is the Vicar of Albert Park (Anglican Parish of the Parks) and together with his wife Glenys they have led pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in Spain in 2008 and to Israel and Jordan in 2010.

They have also travelled to Italy, France, U.K., Bali, USA and Japan. Ray was appointed an Archdeacon in the Anglican Church in 2008 and has served in parishes in Melbourne, North East Victoria and England. He is a keen golfer and enjoys painting water colours and visiting galleries. Glenys enjoys reading, travel and has also taken up painting as a hobby.

For more information, application forms and frequently asked questions, go to www.missiontravel.com.au/stpaul2012



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World of St Paul Tour, Greece and Turkey 2012

Proposed Schedule

Day 1 - Sun, Aug 26:

Depart Australia

Depart Melbourne at 10.25pm flying Emirates, arriving into Dubai at 5.40am with a connecting flight departing Dubai at 10.05am arriving Athens 1.20pm Monday 27 August.

Day 2 - Mon, Aug 27:

Athens Arrival (D)

Meet the local representative for transfer to hotel in Athens.

Day 3 - Tue, Aug 28:

Full day Athens & Corinth tours (B,D)

Our excursion out of Athens takes us by Saronic Gulf to the historic Corinth Canal.

A cut of land connecting the waters of Ionian Sea to the Aegean. After a short stop continue on to the ancient city of Corinth, connected with the ministry of Apostle Paul. Visit the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's seat. We also visit the small archaeological museum.

Return to Athens to enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. Climb up to Acropolis and visit Parthenon and Erechtheion. Then walk down to visit Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul delivered his soul-stirring sermon to the giants of philosophy, logic and learning and spoke about the inscription: "to an unknown god".

Day 4 - Wed, Aug 29:

Athens-Meteora- Kalambaka (B,D)

In the morning we enjoy a spectacular drive up to visit Meteora. Colossal symmetrical gray and reddish boulders, as though pushed upwards from the bowels of mother earth by an invisible hand, sustain breathtaking beautiful monasteries perched precariously high above the ground. They were first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation, accessible only by ropes thrown from above. We will climb through steps built since. They are veritable Byzantine museums exhibiting superb icons, old manuscripts and unique mosaics and frescoes.

Day 5 - Thu, Aug 30:

Kalambaka-Berea-Thessalonica (B,D)

We depart from Kalambaka and drive towards Thessalonica. On our way we will stop in Berea to see the monument commemorating Paul's preaching (Acts 17:10-11). Continue on to Thessalonica where we arrive in early afternoon. We enjoy a panoramic tour of the city to see: Old City Walls, White Tower, St. Demetrius and St. Sophia churches, the Galerius Arch and Rotunda along the Egnatian way.

Day 6 - Fri, Aug 31:

Philippi - Kavala - Thessalonica (B,D)

Morning drive to Philippi. On our way we will stop at Amphipolis to see the Lion Statue. Continue on to Philippi, the site where Apostle Paul came and worked, establishing a strong church. To this congregation, later he sent his Philippian letter. Of all the churches Paul founded, probably none was as near and dear to him as the church at Philippi (Acts 16:9-33). We see the river where Lydia is thought to have been baptised, the ruins of a Prison where Paul and Syllas had been kept, the Agora, 5th and 6th century Basilica and the Theater.

Day 7 - SAT, Sep 1:

Thessalonica - fly to Istanbul (B,D)

Flight from Thessalonica to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines. Flight departs at 12.25pm arrives Istanbul 1.45pm. Upon arrival at Istanbul Airport meet the local guide who will assist with transfer to hotel.

Day 8 - Sun, Sep 2:

Istanbul (B,D)

Today we will enjoy a full day tour of this unique city situated between two continents, Europe and Asia. We will visit St. Sophia museum, the Roman Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and the Basilica Cistern.

Day 9 - Mon, Sep 3:

Istanbul (B,D)

In the morning we will visit Topkapi Palace and then the Spice market.

In the afternoon we will embark on our private boat to enjoy the Bosphorus cruise along the European and Asian shores. Enjoy pretty panorama of the richly decorated late Ottoman palaces, wooden houses and the fortresses.

Return to our starting point at the pier and board the bus to visit the famous Grand Covered Bazaar. A maze of 65 winding, covered streets crammed with about 4,000 tiny shops, cafés, and restaurants. It is reputedly the largest number of stores under one roof anywhere in the world.

Day 10 - Tue, Sep 4:

Istanbul - Gallipoli - Canakkale (B,D)

Morning drive from Istanbul to Gallipoli. Cross the Dardanelles straits by ferry.

Day 11 - Wed, Sep 5:

Anzac Cove - Canakkale (B,D)

Morning visit Anzac Cove, Lone Pine and War museum. Return to hotel in late afternoon.

Day 12 - Thu, Sep 6:

Troas - Pergamum - Izmir (B,D)

Morning departure from

Canakkale to visit Alexandria Troas. In Roman times, it was a significant port for travelling between Anatolia and Europe. Paul sailed to Neapolis (Kavala city of Greece) through Samothrace and crossed to Europe for the first time from Alexandria Troas.

Continue on to Pergamum, one of the seven churches of Asia Minor [Rev. 1:11; 2:12]. Here we explore the impressive Acropolis, the steepest theatre in the world, the Asklepieion, famous medical centre of classical times, see the Altar of Zeus which is mentioned as the "Throne of Satan" in the book of Revelation, the marble columns of the Temple of Trajan and the Library which was foremost in the world and was long a rival of the equally famous Library of Alexandria in Egypt. Its wealth of volumes was estimated at over 200,000. It inspired the invention of parchment. We will also visit the Red Basilica (St. John's Church) before we leave for Izmir.

Day 13 - Fri, Sep 7:

Izmir - Ephesus - Kusadasi (B,D)

In the morning we enjoy the city tour of Izmir and visit St. Polycarp church.

We then leave Izmir and drive to Ephesus, where Paul lived for three years and preached to the Ephesians. This church also received an epistle from him. We walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Theatre. The Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city.

Day 14 - Sat, Sep 8:

Embark On 3-Day Cruise - Patmos (B,L,D)

At 8:30am transfer to port of Kusadasi for embarkation on the cruise ship. At 12 noon sail for Patmos where we arrive at 4p.m. Disembark by tender boats. Patmos is a beautiful, peaceful and almost mysterious rocky island of the Dodecanese where St. John was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation. Our shore tour by bus will take us up to the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist and the Grotto of the Book of Revelation. We enjoy the wonderful panoramic views of the harbour and the small town. After some free time for browsing, return to the ship and set sail for Santorini at 9p.m.

Day 15 - Sun, Sep 9:

Santorini (B,L,D)

Early in the morning we arrive in Santorini. At 8a.m. disembark by tenders and enjoy a spectacular ride by cable car which takes us to the capital town of the island,

called Fira. We have free time to explore the town or get a public bus to Oia village. Enjoy a coffee or refreshment at one of the open air cafes or walk along the narrow streets with the whitewashed house, glittering boutiques, traditional shops and restaurants. At 9p.m. sail for Piraeus port of Athens.

Day 16 - Mon, Sep 10:

Athens Disembarkation (B)

At 6a.m. dock at Piraeus port. Breakfast on board. At

8a.m. disembark and board the bus to drive to Athens International Airport for departure flight. Emirates flight departs Athens at 4.40pm arrives Dubai 10.05pm.

Day 17 - Tues, Sep 11:

DUBAI transit

Flight from departs Dubai at 3am arrives Melbourne on Wednesday September 12 at 2.05am.

Cost

PACKAGE RATES PER PERSON:

Twin Share per person \$6499.00

Single supplement \$1199.00

Land only \$4799.00

What this includes:

- Return economy class airfares from Melbourne to Athens flying Emirates
- 12 nights accommodation at 4*star hotels in Greece & Turkey on half board basis (breakfast & dinner)
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours/visits with the services of professional local English-speaking government licensed Bible oriented tour guides as outlined in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to the archaeological, historical sites & museums as specified in the itinerary
- Flight from Thessalonica to Istanbul with Turkish Airlines
- 3-Day Cruise to the Greek Islands & Turkey, based on an outside category stateroom, with private facilities, on full board basis aboard ship beginning with lunch on embarkation day and including breakfast on the day of disembarkation; with entertainment, free use of shipboard facilities and services of cruise staff
- Upgrade to outside cabin
- Port taxes
- Shore excursion to St. John Monastery and Grotto of the Book of Revelation including bus transportation from/to port of Patmos and professional English speaking tour guide
- English speaking escort assistance during the 3-day cruise
- English-speaking escorted group transfers between Athens/Istanbul/Thessalonica Airports or ports and hotels, transportation by private, fully air-conditioned, deluxe motor-coaches as outlined in the itinerary
- Highway tolls and ferrying fees
- Embarkation charges for Kusadasi port
- All tips and gratuities to local tour-guides, escorts, motor-coach drivers, hotel and restaurant staff
- Hotel service charges, local & municipal taxes, VAT

Not included in the above package cost:

- All personal expenses such as phone-calls, laundry/ valet service, beverages
- Travel & Medical Health insurance (please ask us for a quote)
- Lunches in Greece and Turkey
- Optional shore tour in Santorini and cable car ticket at 4 Euros per person per way
- Additional tips/porterage to waiting staff
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as being included

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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