



13 Day Steps of St. Paul, Matta, and Turkey Pilgrimage

Malta ♦ Gozo ♦ St. Paul's Bay ♦ Athens
Thessaloniki ♦ Istanbul ♦ Bosphorus

October 6 – 18, 2024

\$4,690.00 Per Person From Miami

Includes: Roundtrip Air Transportation From Miami, First Class Hotels, Double Occupancy, 2 Meals A Day - Breakfast And Dinner, Daily Sightseeing, Bilingual Guides, Airport Taxes, Fuel Surcharges - Which Are Subject To Change, And Tips To Drivers And Guides.

Spiritual Director:

Fr. Alex Vargas

St. Thomas More Catholic Church – Boynton Beach, FL

13 DAY TRAVEL ITINERARY

DAY 01 MIAMI / ISTANBUL

Depart Miami to Istanbul.

DAY 02 ISTANBUL / MALTA

Upon arrival in Malta, you will be met and transferred to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 03 MALTA: THE THREE CITIES / VALLETTA

After breakfast at your hotel, depart for a guided excursion to the Three Cities on Vittoriosa, Cospicua, and Senglea, where in 1530 the Knights of St. John settled on the east coast in the creeks of Grand Harbor. See the Miraculous statue of Jesus Christ the Redeemer in the Oratory of the Basilica dedicated to the birth of the Virgin Mary in Senglea. Later, take a typical harbor boat tour from Vittoriosa across the Grand Harbor to Valletta and see its waterfront. See St. Johns Co-Cathedral and Museum of Valletta and visit the oratory which houses the famous Caravaggio painting. Return to your hotel in Malta for dinner and overnight.



St. Paul of Valetta

DAY 04 MELLIEHA / GOZO

After breakfast, depart to Gozo, a sister island of Malta. Here you'll visit the Mellieha Sanctuary on Our Lady, a Marian Shrine. The sanctuary was blessed by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Malta in 1990. The Sanctuary enjoys a picturesque view of the Valley of Our Lady, Mellieha Bay, Camino, and Gozo. Later see Munxar Parish Church, a Baroque style building dedicated to St. Paul, the Bozo Cathedral of the Assumption, and St. George's Basilica, known as the golden church of the "marble basilica" of Gozo. The relics of St. Clement rests in the Baroque alter in the side chapel of St. Lazarus, one of 11 side chapels within the Basilica. Later, visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu, Malta's most important pilgrimage site. The narrow rooms of either side of the alter are full of testaments of the local belief in the intercession of Our Lady. Later, return by ferry to Malta, and enjoy dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 05 ST. PAUL'S BAY / MOSTA / MDINA / RABAT / ATHENS

After breakfast at your hotel, a full day guided touring will begin with seeing St. Paul's Bay by boat. The Church of the Assumption of our Lady, St. Paul's Cathedral and Museum in Mdina, the medieval walled city, the Bastions, St. Paul's Catacombs, and St. Paul's Grotto. St. Paul's Grotto is said to be the place where St. Paul took refuge and prayed for three months while trying to convert the Maltese to Christianity following his shipwreck around 60 AD. Pope John Paul prayed in the grotto during his visit in 1990. Late afternoon we will head to the airport for your flight to Athens. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

DAY 06 ATHENS

In the morning we will tour Athens which includes the Acropolis, the Hill of Mars, one of the most important preaching of the Gospel of Paul during his stay in Athens during his second missionary journey (ACTS 17; 16-34), it was where he addressed the religious idolatry of the Greeks. We will visit the Parthenon with the famous Museum, the Temple of Zeus, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Agora, we will see the ruins of the ancient market where Socrates questioned the understanding of the meaning of life. We'll see the changing of the guard at Syntagma Square. We'll enter the Plaka district and the Royal Palace. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. Mass at St. Denis Catholic Cathedral.



Athens (Acropolis)

DAY 07 CORINTH / MYCENAE / ATHENS

We'll meet the guide and driver at the hotel to drive us to Corinth. We will have a tour of the Corinth Canal, ancient Corinth, the excavations and the Bimah. Also, Mycenae, the mighty kingdom of ancient Greece and a military fortress. We will see the Tombs of the Hive, the Treasury of Atreus. We will visit the remains of the ancient city, including the Lioness's Gate, the tomb of Agamemnon and the Palace. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

DAY 08 BERE A / THESSALONIKI

This morning we will transfer to the airport for your flight to Thessaloniki. Then, we will visit Berea, where Paul preached in the synagogue and continue from there to Thessaloniki, which is the largest city in northern Greece, we will visit the Museum with the famous "Treasures of Vergina", Byzantine churches and Roman ruins. Continue touring the city, visit the ancient church of Agia Sophia, the White Tower of Thessaloniki, which is a relic of the walls of the Byzantine era. See the Roman Rotunda of Galerius. Visit the Arno Poli neighborhood. Mass at the Immaculate Conception. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.



Thessaloniki

DAY 09 KAVALA / PHILIPPI

This morning we will go to Kavala, where Paul arrived with his disciples Timothy and Silas. Luke, the evangelist, came here from Troas. We will see the Roman aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. We will continue to Philip, where Paul preached his first sermon and baptized the first Christians on European soil. We'll see the Acropolis, the Market, and the crypt that dates back to Roman times, and is believed to have served as a prison for St. Paul. We return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.



Kavala

DAY 10 ISTANBUL

Head to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 11 ISTANBUL

The morning mass at St. Spirit Church will be followed by a full-day tour of Istanbul, including Topkapi Palace, the Imperial Palace of the Ottoman Sultans, Hagia Sophia, one of the great wonders of world architecture built in 6 BC by Emperor Justinian, the Blue Mosque, the interior decoration with blue-green tiles is unique in the world with its 6 minarets. Continue to the Byzantine Hippodrome, where chariot races were held in honor of the Byzantine emperors, the Church of Chora after Hagia Sophia, the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul and finally the Grand Bazaar: the largest souk in the world, heart of the magic of Istanbul with more than 4000 shops. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 12 BOSPHORUS / ISTANBUL

Depart from your hotel for a full-day tour of the Bosphorus and Asia. The first visit to the Spice Market and then embark on a boat tour of the Bosphorus to see the beauty of the European and Asian coasts on either side. After lunch, cross over to the Asian side to visit Camlica Hill and tour the Beylerbeyi Palace. This was a summer residence of the Ottoman sultans with its magnificent gardens. Return to Istanbul for dinner and overnight.



Istanbul

DAY 13 ISTANBUL / HOUSTON

Transfer to the airport and flight to Houston.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

Fr. Alex Vargas
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Tel: 561-737-3095

EARLY REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The Tour Price Includes:

Air Transportation: Airfare is based on special contract agreements with various international airlines and include certain restrictions and deadlines. These fares are subject to cancellation penalties, and once tickets are issued, they are **NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE AND CANNOT BE USED TOWARDS FUTURE TRAVEL**. Please refer to our CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY below. Airfare and tour prices are based on prices effective as of **JANUARY 1, 2024** and are subject to change without notice.

Surface/Land Transportation: All surface/land transportation described in the itinerary will be provided by modern motor coach, designed for highway travel. Groups will be met and transferred upon arrival and departure.

Hotels: Hotel accommodations are based on double occupancy (2 per room). We reserve the right to substitute hotels of similar quality for those specified in the itinerary.

Single Room Supplements: If you would like a single room, there is an additional cost of **\$1,200.00** that will be added to the tour price. Single rooms are limited and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. If you request a roommate and none is available, you will be considered a "forced single," and charged one half (½) of the Single Room Supplement cost.

Meal Plan: Meal plans include two (2) meals per day, breakfast and dinner, with timing depending on the itinerary. Taxes and service charges normally appearing on restaurant bills are included in the tour price for these meals. **A list of any and all dietary requests or food allergies must be emailed to cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com for hotel/airline accommodation at least seven (7) days before departure.** We cannot guarantee any dietary accommodations but will make all efforts to secure special dietary requests. In the event airlines or hotels are unable to accommodate dietary requests, you will be responsible for your meals; it is the individual's responsibility to choose appropriate foods while on the tour. Unused meals will NOT be reimbursed.

Baggage: Inspirational Tours, Inc. restricts all passengers to one (1) piece of checked luggage (max. 50 lbs.) and one (1) carry-on (max. 18 lbs.). **All passengers should check with the airline for up-to-date baggage weight/dimension information and restrictions, which are subject to change at any time before departure.**

Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges: are included in the tour price and are subject to change.

Tips On The Tour: Tips to guides, porters, headwaiters, and drivers are included in the tour price, unless otherwise specified.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Expenses related to issuance/renewal of passports, laundry, mineral waters, wine & liquor, after-lunch/dinner tea, coffee, or food not included in the meal plan above; additional baggage; expenses of carriages, guides, sightseeing or other services other than those specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary; insurance for baggage or personal trip or health insurance; all items of a personal nature, in addition to those not listed above as being included in the tour price.

Booking Conditions: Deposits and Payment: **A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person**, payable via cash, check or money order, is required at the time of registration. No registration will be processed without a deposit. Invoices for final balances are issued at or near 90 days before departure. Full and final payment is due 60 days before departure. Registrations received within 90 days of departure require payment in full. If there is any outstanding balance by the Final Payment due date listed on your invoice, all travel services will be subject to automatic cancellation and cancellation fees will apply. A service reinstatement fee may be added to your invoice and must be paid in advance in order to apply for reconfirmation of services. **WE ONLY ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE.** Payment by credit card is accepted ONLY for final balances or payments towards final balances; all credit card payments will be assessed a **3% non-refundable** convenience fee, which will be added to the total amount being charged.

Cancellations and Refund Policy: All cancellations **MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING VIA FAX, E-MAIL OR U.S. MAIL**. The date of the cancellation request is the date used for purposes of any assessed cancellation fees. Please note that some Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE as stated on the Registration. Cancellation fees (as to any monies paid over the deposit for a tour with a non-refundable deposit) depend on the timing of the cancellation request, and are as follows: request received between time of registration and up to 90 days prior to departure—automatic \$100.00 cancellation fee; request received within 89 to 60 days prior to departure—automatic \$300.00 cancellation fee; request received within 59 to 30 days prior to departure—cancellation fee of **50%** of tour cost; request received 29 days or less prior to departure through date of departure—assessed **100%** of the tour cost (air and land, and any deviation fees) as the cancellation fee. Additional charges/fees for deviations and/or upgraded seats may require full payment at time of booking/confirmation and may be non-refundable; **if a non-refundable air ticket has been issued prior to receiving notice of a cancellation request, you will be 100% responsible for those fees, in addition to the cancellation penalties listed above.** Package cancellation fees include airfare. Once airfare is purchased, either at time of booking, including but not limited to, deviations or seat upgrade requests, or at time of full payment, airline tickets will be issued and are always subject to a 100% penalty. Once full payment is received, Inspirational Tours, Inc. will issue airline tickets, which are non-refundable. If the tour is canceled for any reason, including but not limited to, tour leader's decision, decision of Inspirational Tours, Inc., weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event, Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a minimum \$100.00 administrative fee per person, plus any non-reimbursable expenses incurred from airlines and/or overseas operators. **ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.**

Deviations/Seat Upgrades: Deviation policies vary by airline and are normally allowed only on the return journey, **from the same departing city as the group, and is subject to availability.** There is a **minimum** change fee of \$150.00 per person, plus any additional airline charges. Seat upgrade requests may also require additional fees by the airlines and vary. Any additional fees required to be paid by the airline for deviation requests and/or seat upgrade requests will need to be approved by the passenger in writing before confirmed/reserved, and if the request requires payment at the time of confirmation, this must be paid by the passenger at the time requested, and may be non-refundable. **ALL deviation or seat upgrade requests must be made in writing, at least 90 days prior to your departure date.**

Tour Prices: All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements in this tour are based on rates, (including foreign exchange rates), in effect at the time of the original tour agreement with your tour host and Inspirational Tours, Inc. and are subject to increase without notice prior to departure. **NOTE:** Our tours are based on a minimum number of participants. We reserve the right to cancel or reschedule any tour for any reason including insufficient participants, or events beyond our control. Any cancellation will be advised at the soonest date possible. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for any costs related to the issuance and/or cancellation of airline tickets or visa fees that are not refunded by those entities.

Travel Insurance: To protect your travel plans, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF TRIP INSURANCE.** A brochure for a company we recommend will be provided with your deposit confirmation letter, upon our receipt of your registration and deposit. We do not sell travel insurance and travel insurance is not included in the tour price.

Passports: It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your current passport with your Registration Form. Validity date on passports must be for at least six (6) months after the date of return of the tour as per the tour dates, or any deviation request. If we do not receive a copy of your current passport, the information you provide on your Registration Form will be used for ticketing purposes. If ANY information provided (name, date of birth, etc.) does not match what is on your passport, you may be subject to penalties or fees for corrections to airline tickets, and/or may be denied boarding by the airline. Any name change, including minor spelling corrections, may require reservations to be canceled and re-booked. Reservations will then be subject to availability and pricing at the time of re-booking; any increase in airfare will be borne by the passenger. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for the denial of services by a carrier due to any name or passport discrepancies. If you have a passport issued from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to contact the embassies of the countries to be visited to determine if a visa will be required, and if so, it will be your responsibility to obtain such visa before departure. Please contact us for further information if this applies to you.

Travelers Needing Special Assistance: We recommend you please select a tour suitable to your physical capabilities. Our tours are often-times fast paced and may require lengthy walks over uneven terrain and/or steps. If you require any form of mobility assistance or for any sight/hearing disabilities, you are required to notify us before registering so we can best assist you and/or determine if this tour is suitable. Inspirational Tours, Inc., tour leaders/coordinators, guides, drivers or other tour, hotel, transfers or ship personnel will not provide individual services, such as assistance with walking, pushing wheelchairs, or helping one embark/disembark motor coaches, cruise ships, etc. We reserve the right to reject participation or remove an individual from a tour in the event that notification was not provided and/or when, in our sole judgment, continued participation would significantly hinder the services to be provided to all guests. Expenses, including cancellation fees and/or costs for alternate travel plans or to return home, will be the responsibility of the passenger. All unused services are non-refundable. **Wheelchairs & Walkers:** certain features of tours may not accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, or other special equipment. We cannot provide individual assistance to travelers with wheelchairs or other mobility devices. We regret that some itineraries cannot accommodate these devices. You are required to notify us before registering of a need for a wheelchair, walker or other mobility devices.

Responsibilities: Inspirational Tours, Inc. or their agents act only as an agent in regards to securing air and ground arrangements. We do not own or operate any entities providing such services; all such persons/entities are independent contractors and Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person, entity or third party. Inspirational Tours, Inc. assumes no liability for injury, damage, or loss to person or property, due to accident, death, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by acts or defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for circumstances beyond its control. Inspirational Tours, Inc. does not accept any responsibility, nor shall be held responsible, for cancellations, losses or expenses due to delay/changes in air or other services, passenger's sickness, weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event. Where trip cancellations result from the inability to depart as scheduled, based on any of the above-mentioned incidents, Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not liable for restitution, and reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tour without any liability when travel becomes impracticable or impossible. Any losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason; a refund may be issued depending on the reason for cancellation. Any such refund shall constitute full and final settlement to the passenger. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure from the United States and approved by Inspirational Tours, Inc. We reserve the right to accept, reject or refuse service to any person at any time for any reason; in this event, expenses, including cancellation fees/costs will be borne by the passenger, and any unused services are non-refundable. The airlines used, their agents, or affiliates and other carriers, are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time a passenger is not on board their aircraft. The passenger's ticket issued by said carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of these tickets and/or the passenger.



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