

70th Anniversary of Ordination

Pilgrimage to GREECE



In the Footsteps of St. Paul
with Optional Post-Tour to Rome



Msgr. Hilary Franco



March 29 - April 8, 2025



\$5,179 per person with Airfare

**All pricing based on double occupancy.
Pricing available from any airport. www.206tours.com/airports*

Optional Post-Tour to Rome

April 8 - 11, 2025 | \$2,740 per person

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Your Pilgrimage Includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- Airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- 9 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
 - 1 night: March 30 – 31: Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens
 - 1 night: March 31 – April 1: Amalia Hotel Delphi, Delphi
 - 1 night: April 1 – 2: Grand Hotel Meteora, Meteora
 - 2 nights: April 2 – 4: Lazart Hotel, Thessaloniki
 - 1 night: April 4 – 5: Grecotel Imperial Hotel, Larissa
 - 3 nights: April 5 – 8: Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- Wine and Mineral Water with Dinners
- Transfers by air-conditioned motor coach

- Whisper Headsets where needed
- Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Tips to Hotel Staff, Restaurants, and Porters
- Flight Bag & Digital Travel documents

Additional Inclusions for Optional Post-Tour to Rome:

- One-way flight from Athens to Rome
- 3 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
 - April 8 – 11: Hotel della Conciliazione, Rome

Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1 | Sat, Mar 29: Depart for Greece

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Meals will be served to you onboard.

Day 2 | Sun, Mar 30: Arrive in Athens

Upon landing at Athens Airport, you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Board the bus to transfer to your hotel. Enjoy some time to relax after check-in. After a delicious meal, overnight in Athens.

Day 3 | Mon, Mar 31: Athens – Holy Jerusalem Monastery – Delphi

Start the day with breakfast and then visit the Holy Monastery of Jerusalem. Holy Mass at garden at the Tree of Life. Short nature walks in the cedars forest to a hermit's cave, panoramic view of Valley of Boeotia. Drive to Arachova, the famous shepherd's village and enjoy the panoramic view of the Ionian Sea. Proceed to Delphi. Visit the archeological museum, the Gallio inscription, the Sphinx of Thebes, Temple of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom. Dinner and overnight in Delphi.

Day 4 | Tue, Apr 1: Delphi – Meteora

After breakfast, we will board our transfer and drive to Meteora. Visit the western monasteries that were built here. Celebrate the Holy Mass at a panoramic terrace in front of Meteora cliffs. Evening tour of the illuminated cliffs of Meteora. Arrive at our hotel for dinner and overnight in Kalambaka.

Day 5 | Wed, Apr 2: Meteora – Vergina – Veria – Thessaloniki

After breakfast, we will visit Vergina. Walk along the Barbuta river into the old Jewish quarter. Visit the ancient synagogue and see the Bema where Paul spoke to the Bereans. Holy Mass at the Berea ancient synagogue. Drive along the Aegean coast to Thessaloniki. Visit the Jewish quarter: the Synagogue, the Ancient Jewish Bath house and the Modiano market. Arrive in Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 | Thu, Apr 3: Thessaloniki – Philippi – Baptism of Lydia – Thessaloniki

Early morning breakfast followed by a drive east to Philippi. Visit the jail where St. Paul was imprisoned, the Christian Basilica, and the Greco-Roman round theatre. See Lydia's baptismal site at Zigakti river and have Holy Mass here. Walk along Via Egnatia, where Paul journeyed to Thessaloniki. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Day 7 | Fri, Apr 4: Athens – Thessaloniki – Mount Olympus– Larissa

After breakfast, drive across the Macedonian river delta to Mt. Olympus. Visit the village of Litochoro and proceed to Greece's biggest nature reserve: Mt Olympus. Enjoy a nature walk near Stavros, enjoy panoramic views of Mytikas, see the traditional place of Palace of the gods, visit the ancient monastery of Agios Dionysius. At the Pinios River, walk across a suspension bridge to visit the holy cave of baptismal site with a fresco of St. Paul. Proceed to Larissa for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 | Sat, Apr 5: Larissa – Mount Metamorphosis – Athens

After breakfast we depart for Larissa. While there, we will visit the ancient Roman Theatre, the Byzantine acropolis. Holy Mass at the Catholic Church of Larissa. Drive up to Mt. Metamorphosis and enjoy the panoramic view of the Gulf of Kamena Vourla. A short walk will bring us to the monastery commemorating Jesus's transfiguration. Visit the monastic garden and the wall painted church with the famous depiction of Jesus's Transfiguration. Proceed to Athens for dinner and overnight.

Day 9 | Sun, Apr 6: Athens – Ancient Corinth– Athens

Enjoy breakfast and then head to the Peloponnesian Peninsula & Corinth. Jeff's first teaching is here. Paul stayed in Corinth at least 3 times while on his journeys. Little is left of the Temple of Aphrodite or the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo which dominated the life of the Corinthians in Paul's time. Paul's teaching on the Body of Christ was perhaps inspired by Asclepius' Temple of healing in Corinth. Return to Athens for sightseeing until dinner and overnight.

Day 10 | Mon, Apr 7: Athens

We will take time for breakfast and then visit Mars Hill and the Acropolis. See magnificent monuments such as the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, the Propylaea, the Ancient Agora, the theatre of Dionysus and the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. We will have the chance to walk around the Parthenon Monument, which was built during the 5th century BC by the architects Ictinus and Kallikrates. Enjoy free time in the district area of Plaka. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Day 11 | Tue, Apr 8: Return Home (or depart for Rome)

After breakfast, depart for Athens Airport where you will say farewell to your fellow pilgrims before returning home.

Or for pilgrims continuing on the Optional Post-Tour to Rome:

Day 1, Tue, April 8: Depart Athens – Arrive in Rome

We will have breakfast and then depart for Athens Airport where we board our flight to Italy. Welcome to Rome, also known as "The Eternal City". Upon landing at Rome airport, claim your baggage proceed to the arrival hall, where your tour guide and/or driver will greet you. Following check-in at the hotel, enjoy some free time to unpack, relax or explore Rome on your own. Your tour escort may suggest places to visit. Later this afternoon, your group will meet in the hotel lobby for a meet and greet with fellow pilgrims and your Priest. Together we will depart for Mass. Following Mass, you will attend a welcome dinner. After dinner you have to opportunity to join in a walk to St. Peter's Square for the Rosary (optional).

Day 2, Wed, April 9: Rome: Papal Audience- Trevi Fountain- Basilica of St. John the Lateran – Holy Stairs –Basilica of St. Mary Major

After breakfast, we start the day with the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square! The Audience is celebrated each Wednesday by His Holiness, Pope Francis (pending the papal schedule). Following the Audience, we will visit the Trevi Fountain, where you may enjoy some free time on your own for lunch. This afternoon, visit the oldest of the four major Basilicas in Rome and the home to the relics of Peter and Paul, the Basilica of St. John the Lateran. This Basilica is where Pope Francis became installed as Bishop of Rome. Next, you will cross the street to visit the Holy Stairs. These Holy Stairs are the very-steps leading up to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem on which Jesus stepped on his way to trial during his Passion. In the fourth century, these stairs were brought to Rome by Saint Helena. People ascend on the Holy Stairs on their knees, in memory of Christ's agonizing Passion. We conclude your day with a Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. St. Mary Major is the only Basilica that reigns from its original structure and is an authentic jewel in the crown of Roman Churches. This Basilica contains a relic from the Manger of the Infant Jesus. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 3, Thu, April 10: Rome: St. Peter's Basilica – Vatican Museum –Appian Way – Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls – Catacombs

This morning, you will enjoy an early breakfast before making your way to the largest Christendom Church, St. Peter's Basilica. Build on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. Our Pope Francis became the first pontiff to visit the necropolis, where pagans and early Christians were buried since extensive archaeological excavations were conducted decades ago. It is here that you will view Michelangelo's Pieta. This stunning marble sculpture depicts the Virgin Mary holding Christ after His crucifixion, death, and removal off the cross before being placed in the tomb. Continue to proceed to the Vatican Museums. At the world-renowned museum, view the most impressive of edifices, galleries, and awe-inspiring relics. Additionally observe the Tapestry Gallery, Raphael Rooms, Sistine Chapel, and Michelangelo's Masterpiece, the restored mural of the Last Judgment. The final stop on your Vatican tour is the tomb of Saint John Paul II. After free time for lunch, we will continue on a short journey down the Appian Way, the earliest road from Ancient Rome. This road leads to the Domino Quo Vadis Chapel, the Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Drusus, the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, and the catacomb of St. Callixtus. The day concludes with a visit to the Basilica of St. Paul, outside the walls. Originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century this Basilica is the burial place of Saint Paul the Apostle. Next, make your way to a local restaurant for dinner. Following dinner, you will have time to explore the streets of Rome or return to the hotel for overnight.

Day 4, Fri, April 11: Rome – Return Home

We will have breakfast and then depart for Rome Airport where you will say your heartfelt farewells to a journey that will last in your memory forever.

**206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.*