



CHRISTIAN FAITH TOURS



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Introduction to Common Christian Tours

From the infancy of Christianity, people have traveled the world to spread the word of God. What a wonderful way to spend your vacation by visiting these amazing biblical and historical places in time.

Let us take you to Israel where it all began and follow in the footsteps of Jesus our Lord Savior. Let us help you retrace Apostle Paul's Missionary Journeys in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Italy and Asia Minor. Imagine visiting the seven churches in today's modern day Turkey or Jordan's sites and its undeniable involvement in early Christianity, where Moses first saw the promised land and where John baptized Jesus. Visit Egypt's St. Catherine's Monastery with its magnificent collection of manuscripts. Climb Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Cruise the various Greek islands including the island of Patmos, where St. John was exiled, visit the Monastery built over the cave where he lived and wrote the "Book of Revelations." Travel to Ephesus in nearby Turkey where Paul preached the gospel and gained followers and where St. John lived prior to his exile. Visit the Virgin Mary's house where she spent her later days.

Tour the Vatican with its awe-inspiring St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel or Medjugorje in Croatia, where innocent

children in today's world were visited by the Virgin Mary many times over. Imagine following in the footsteps of St. Thomas as he traveled through India spreading the word of Jesus. What a wonderful way to have your faith touched by visiting these significant biblical places while learning the culture and history of the areas you chose to visit.

Follow the various itineraries as Christianity spread throughout the world - from the Mediterranean to the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and beyond. Regardless of one's Christian heritage, what binds us all together is the undeniable common belief in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our itineraries welcome every Christian denomination to the significance and wonders of these very special places.

Since 1969, Homeric Tours, a long-established leader to the Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East and Africa, has set the industry standard by providing quality vacation packages. Our Christian faith brochure is designed to deepen the Christian belief and inspire the Christian soul. You will find our packages to be affordable with excellent services and centrally located hotels and you will feel confident that Homeric Tours will seamlessly make your experience one that will last a lifetime. Welcome to Homeric Tours' common Christian itineraries.

Footsteps of Jesus

10 Days / 8 Nights, Netanya, Caesarea, Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Galilee, Samaria, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ein Karem



All Nations Church, Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2: WELCOME TO THE HOLY LAND

Meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to the coastal resort town of Netanya. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: CAESAREA / HAIFA / MT. CARMEL

After a delicious Israeli breakfast you travel up the coastline to the ancient Roman city of Caesarea. Continue on to Haifa. Visit the Carmelite Monastery "Stella Maris", Elijah's Grotto and home of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Celebrate Mass enjoy the view from atop Mt. Carmel then proceed to Nazareth, see Mary's Well where the Angel Gabriel told Mary she will give birth to Our Lord Jesus Christ. See St. Joseph's church and the Church of Annunciation. Continue to Cana to visit the Wedding Church, site of Jesus' first miracle and an opportunity to renew your marriage vows. Overnight in Nazareth or Tiberias. (B,D)

DAY 4: GALILEE

Spend the day in His Footsteps. Sail across the Sea of Galilee. See the "Jesus boat" uncovered in 1986. Visit the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. Explore Capernaum and see the new church built on St. Peter's house and visit Chorazim, cursed because the people did not follow his teaching.

Drive to the Mount of Beatitudes where Our Lord preached the Sermon on the Mount. Proceed to Tabgha, and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves. Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: SAMARIA

Visit Mt. Tabor and the Church of Transfiguration, before proceeding through Samaria to Jacob's Well, where Jesus met the Samaritan Women. Today you are in the center of the land as described by the Old Testament. If available, meet with a priest from a local Christian Village and listen to his stories of their everyday life. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 6: JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY

View from atop the Mount of Olives. See the place where Jesus taught the Apostles to pray the "Our Father." Visit the church of Pater Noster and the Chapel of Ascension. Walk the Palm Sunday road, stopping at the Chapel of Dominus Flevit (the teardrop). Continue to the Church of All Nations (Garden of Gethsemane). Descend to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu where the Apostle denied Christ three times. Continue to Mt. Zion to visit the room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb and the Church of the Dormition. Continue to Bethany, the site of the house of Mary and Lazarus. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – ISRAEL
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Water, tea or coffee with included meals
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

*The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group
* Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 7: BETHLEHEM / EIN KAREM / NEW CITY

Visit Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field and Grotto. See the Church of Nativity built over the birthplace of Jesus and St. Catherine's built over the tomb of St. Jerome. Stop at the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of St. John the Baptist, and see the Church of Visitation where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 8: JERUSALEM, OLD CITY

Enter the old city via Zion Gate, see the Wailing Wall and the Temple Mount, the Pool of Bethesda, St. Anne's Church (birthplace of Mary), the Chapel of Flagellation and Condemnation, the Prison, Ecco Home Arch and onto the Via Dolorosa, to retrace the final hours of His life as you pray the Stations of the Cross. Celebrate Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Our Lord's death and resurrection. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 9: JERUSALEM

Enjoy a free day in Jerusalem and the opportunity to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, visit the Bible Land Museum, Yad Vashem Memorial, and shop in the old town bazaar or take a tour to Masada (optional). Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 10: U.S.A.

Morning transfer to the airport for your flight back home. (B)

Passion Play of Sordevolo and Shroud of Turin

9 Days / 7 Nights, (June – September 2015 and 2020)

Since the early 1800's residents of the tiny hamlet of Sordevolo in northwest Italy's Biella province – with a population around 1,200 – have joined together to stage its own grand production of the Passion of Christ. Similar to Oberammergau in Germany, this moving production called "La Passione" or the Passion Play of Sordevolo represents the final days of Christ on earth and is performed every five years with the next events scheduled for June-September in 2015 and then in 2020. According to local lore, villagers made a vow in 1634 to perform a passion play here in perpetuity because their town was spared the ravages of the plague. Also, visit nearby sanctuaries including Sacro Monte di Oropa, one of the nine Sacred Mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Travel to Turin to view the Cathedral and museum of the Holy Shroud followed by Lake Maggiore, one of Italy's famous Northern Lakes, and to Milan to see Sforzesco Castle and Duomo, Milan's famous Cathedral. Below is a sample itinerary. Or, we can customize an itinerary for your specific group.



Scene from the Passion Play

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for your overnight flight.

DAY 2: MILAN / SORDEVOLO

Upon arrival, meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel or Sanctuary on the outskirts of Sordevolo. The balance of the day is at leisure. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

DAY 3: SORDEVOLO (PERFORMANCE DATE)

Morning tour of Piedmont's countryside and the historical center of Sordevolo, including the church and museum of Santa Marta. Sordevolo is the village where, every 5 years, the Passion Play is performed, with all the actors being local village people. Dinner will be at a local restaurant in Sordevolo before we attend this remarkable performance of 'The Passion of Christ.' (B,D)

DAY 4: SORDEVOLO (GRAGLIA / OROPA)

After breakfast onto Santuario Santa Maria di Loreto in Graglia, located 2,664 feet above sea level with panoramic views of the Elva Valley. See the statue of the Black Madonna of Loreto. Continue to the Sacro Monte di Oropa, one of the nine Sacred Mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy and is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The 12 chapels

(plus another seven nearby) create a devotional path. Inside each chapel are scenes of the Virgin Mary's life. The path culminates on top of the hill with the Crowning of Mary. After, visit the sanctuary, at the old Basilica then an early dinner at the local restaurant in Oropa. Overnight in Sordevolo. (B,D)

DAY 5: SORDEVOLO / TURIN

After breakfast depart for Turin. Explore the city's monuments and Piazza Castello. The highlight of the day will be the Cathedral and museum of the Holy Shroud, whose last public display was April-May 2010. Time at leisure to shop and explore on your own. Afternoon, return to your hotel and enjoy dinner at a lively restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 6: TURIN

After breakfast a full day at leisure to relax or discover more of the city on your own. Optional activities and tours will be available to enhance your travel experience. Dinner at hotel this evening. (B,D)

DAY 7: TURIN / LAKE MAGGIORE

Breakfast, then depart for Lake Maggiore, Italy's famous Northern Lakes. In Stresa, enjoy stunning

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Milan
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 4, 5 or Sanctuary accommodations
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.

** Ask about our church donation program*

views of Lake Maggiore. an optional cruise of the islands, including the beautiful Borromeo Palace and Gardens is available. Check in to your hotel on Lake Maggiore. Dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 8: LAKE MAGGIORE (MILAN)

Morning exploration the vibrant city of Milan with a guided tour that includes Sforzesco Castle and Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. Your tour will end at the Duomo, Milan's famous Cathedral. Time permitting shop in Milan, home to some of the most famous and beautiful boutiques. In the afternoon, return to Lake Maggiore for your overnight stay. Dinner is at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 9: LAKE MAGGIORE / MILAN TO USA

Morning transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport for your return flight home. (B)

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES FOR 2015; ASK FOR 2020 PERFORMANCE DATES

JUNE 2015	JULY 2015	AUGUST 2015	SEPTEMBER 2015
Sat. Jun 13, 9:30pm	Fri. Jul 03, 9:30pm	Sat. Aug 01, 9:00pm	Fri. Sep 4, 9:00pm
Fri. Jun 19, 9:30pm	Sat. Jul 04, 9:30pm	Fri. Aug 07, 9:00pm	Sat. Sep 5, 9:00pm
Sat. Jun 20, 9:30pm	Fri. Jul 10, 9:30pm	Sat. Aug 08, 9:00pm	Fri. Sep 11,* 8:30pm
Sun. Jun 21, 4:30pm	Sat. Jul 11, 9:30pm	Fri. Aug 14, 9:00pm	Sat. Sep 12, 9:00pm
Fri. Jun 26, 9:30pm	Tue. Jul 14, 9:30pm	Sat. Aug 15, 9:00pm	Sun. Sep 13, 4:00pm
Sat. Jun 27, 9:30pm	Fri. Jul 17, 9:30pm	Fri. Aug 21, 9:00pm	Fri. Sep 18,* 10:00am
Sun. Jun 28, 4:30pm	Sat. Jul 18, 9:30pm	Sat. Aug 22, 9:00pm	Fri. Sep 18, 9:00pm
	Sun. Jul 19, 4:30pm	Fri. Aug 28, 9:00pm	Sat. Sep 19, 9:00pm
	Fri. Jul 24, 9:30pm	Sat. Aug 29, 9:00pm	Sun. Sep 20, 4:00pm
	Sat. Jul 25, 9:30pm	Sun. Aug 30,* 4:30pm	Fri. Sep 25, 9:00pm
	Fri. Jul 31, 9:30pm		Sat. Sep 26, 9:00pm
	Sun. Sep 27, 4:00pm		

**Play performed by children on this day.*

Cyprus: Steps of Apostle Paul

8 Days / 6 Nights, Larnaca, Pafos, Lemesos, Nicosia, Troodos Mountains, Galata, Kakopetria



Kikkos Monastery, Troodos Mountains, Cyprus

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight transatlantic flight to Cyprus.

DAY 2: LARNACA

Upon arrival in Larnaca airport meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B)

DAY 3: LARNACA / PAFOS

After breakfast, your tour begins with a visit to St. Lazarus Church built in the 9th century. Below the church for viewing lies the Tomb of Saint Lazarus. Continue onto Angeloktisti Church, visit Kolosvsi Castle (served as the Grand Commander of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem). Visit the Greco-Roman theatre of Kourion and the House of Eustolios and the Cathedral of Kourion. Arrive in Pafos. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: PAFOS

Enjoy breakfast, then a visit to the Pafos Archaeological park with the Roman villas and Mosaics at the house of Aion, Dionysus and Theseus, the Tombs of the kings, St. Paul's Pillar and Panagia Chrysopolitissa Church. This is the city where the Roman emperor Sergio was converted to Christianity after hearing Apostle Paul's speeches. This is also, where Apostle Paul was tied to a pillar outside the historic church of Panagia Chrysopolitissa and received 39 lashes for preaching Christianity. Later we visit the Agios Neophytos Monastery. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: LEMESOS

Morning departure after breakfast to Kykko Monastery, founded in 1100 and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The monastery possesses one of the three surviving Icons painted by St. Luke. Also visit the Kykko museum with priceless collection of Icons, manuscripts and other Cypriot antiquities. Continue to Lemesos via picturesque Omodos village, a wine producing village with the beautiful monastery of the Holy Cross at the village square. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Cyprus
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- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
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- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 6 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 5 Days of sightseeing tours
- All entrance fees
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DAY 6: LEMESOS / NICOSIA / LEMESOS

After breakfast, depart for Nicosia with a visit to the Cyprus Archeological Museum. Visit the Byzantine Museum with the largest collection of Byzantine Icons and St. John's Cathedral. Free time at Laiki Yeitonia (Pedestrian area with small shops and galleries). Return to Lemesos. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 7: LEMESOS / TROODOS MOUNTAINS / GALATA / KAKOPETRIA / LARNACA

Following breakfast travel to Troodos Mountains and visit several of the 10 Byzantine Churches sanctioned by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Tour through the wine producing villages stopping first at the church of Agios Panagia, The Podithou at Galata. Continue to Kakopetria with free time to walk and to eat lunch. Dinner and overnight in Larnaca. (B,D)

DAY 8: LARNACA / USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Greece: In the Footsteps of Apostle Paul plus 4 Day Cruise

10 Days / 8 Nights, Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Kalambaka (Meteora), Thermopylae, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Heraklion, Santorini



The Acropolis at dawn, Athens

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for Greece on your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2: ATHENS

Arrival Athens, transfer by motorcoach with your Homeric representative. Visit the Acropolis, climb Mars' Hill where Apostle Paul addressed the Council and philosophers of the Aeropagus and see St. Paul's well and the foundations of the church dedicated to Dionysius the Areopagite, one of St. Paul's converts. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight accommodations. (D)

DAY 3: ATHENS / CORINTH / DELPHI

Depart for Ancient Corinth where Paul arrived in (A.D. 50-51) to spread the teachings of Christ. Visit the archaeological site housing statues and artifacts, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Agora, and the Berma court house where St. Paul's enemies brought him before Gallio, Corinth was where Apostle Paul wrote "First Thessalonians" and most likely, his Epistle to the Romans. Then continue on to Delphi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: DELPHI / KALAMBAKA

After breakfast, visit the archaeological site of Delphi, including the Sanctuary of Apollo, Doric Temple of Apollo, the Sacred Way, the 5,000 seat theater where the Pythian Games took place every

four years, the Castalian Spring, sanctuary of Athena and the Tholos Rotunda. Visit the museum to view the bronze sculpture of "The Charioteer." Continue to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 5: KALAMBAKA / METEORA / THERMOPYLAE / ATHENS

Breakfast then visit Meteora with its 24 rock-top monasteries. Visit two of them: Varlaam Monastery, famous for its frescoes and St. Stephen's featuring a unique collection of icons and an incredible panoramic view. Return to Athens, passing the town of Larisa to Thermopylae, the site of the heroic battle of Leonidas' 300 doomed Spartans against Xerxes' huge Persian army. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

DAY 6: 4-NIGHT GREEK ISLAND CRUISE: MYKONOS

Transfer to Piraeus to board your cruise ship. The first port of call is Mykonos. Beneath its sophisticated surface lies a quintessential Greek Island. Hundreds of tiny chapels dot the island and sheep graze in the shadow of white washed houses. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: KUSADASI, (EPHESUS) / PATMOS

Arrival in Kusadasi, the best preserved of the original Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev.2: 1-7). Here Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthian (Acts: 19:1-20:1). View master pieces as the Magnesium Gate, Library of Celsius

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- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 4 Nights of hotel accommodation
- 4 Night cruise to the Greek Islands & Turkey
- Choice of inside or outside cabins
- Optional shore excursions available
- 4 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Port taxes and onboard gratuities
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- 24-Hour "Emergency" Hotline
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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and the Amphitheater, also visit the Virgin Mary's house. Afternoon sail to Patmos, where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation during his exile by the Roman authorities. Return to the ship and sail to the next destination. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: RHODES

Above the charming town of Lindos rises an ancient acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena. Below lies the Bay of St. Paul, where the apostle landed during his voyages. The crusading Knights of St. John left the magnificent medieval city of Rhodes behind when Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent defeated them. Return to the ship and sail onward to the next destination. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: CRETE / SANTORINI

Today we visit Heraklion, the capital of Crete to view the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos at the seat of ancient Minoan culture. This afternoon depart for the island of Santorini, maybe the most breathtaking of all Greek Islands. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: PIRAEUS / ATHENS / USA

After breakfast onboard, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Greece & The Holyland: Steps of Apostle Paul

19 Days / 17 Nights, *Thessaloniki, Philippi, Kavalla, Clambake, Delphi, Corinth, Athens, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Patmos, Santorini, Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberius, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Mt. Tabor, Jerusalem, Gethsemane, Ein Kareem, Bethlehem, Qumran, Jericho, Masada, Dead Sea, Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion, Holy Sepulcher*



Monastery in Meteora

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart USA for your overnight flight to Greece. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 2: THESSALONIKI

After your connecting flight to Thessaloniki, you will meet and be transferred to your hotel with assistance by your Homeric Tours representative. Time to relax, meet your fellow travelers, dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (D)

DAY 3: PHILIPPI / KAVALA / THESSALONIKI

Visit Philippi where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. "And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days..." (Acts 16:12-18) Here Paul baptized a certain woman named Lydia, the first Christian convert in Europe. Among the ruins is the prison where Paul and Silas were thrown. Continue to Kavala, ancient Neapolis, where Paul accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

DAY 4: THESSALONIKI (CITY-TOUR) / KALAMBAKA

Paul preached in Thessaloniki during the winters of 49-50 AD and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. See the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius starting at the Via Egnatia, once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire. Depart for Kalambaka, location of the Meteora Monasteries. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka. (B,D)

DAY 5: KALAMBAKA (METEORA) / DELPHI

Visit Meteora Monasteries. Among striking scenery, perched on top of huge rocks that seem to be suspended in mid-air, stand ageless monasteries where you can see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. Continue to Delphi. Dinner and overnight in Delphi. (B,D)

DAY 6: DELPHI / ATHENS

Visit Delphi, the center of the ancient world. Visit the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pthios and the museum. Continue to Athens. "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are religious." Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

DAY 7: ATHENS / ANCIENT CORINTH

After breakfast, visit the Acropolis to see the ruins of the Parthenon, and its Museum. Ascend to Mars Hill where Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one and only God. Continue to Ancient Corinth. Here, St. Paul preached and lived for two years. His church was founded here in 50 AD which caused him much grief and prompted him to write, at least, four letters to them. Visit the ruins of where Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. See the remains of the first century shops, the agora where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, the Fountain of Peirene, Temple of Apollo and the Bema. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: MYKONOS

After breakfast transfer to Piraeus to board your cruise. First port-of-call is Mykonos. It is the most cosmopolitan of all Greek islands and attracts many visitors from all over the globe, including large numbers of artists and intellectuals. Underneath its sophistication lies a quaint Greek island with numerous small white washed churches dotting the island.

DAY 9: KUSADASI / EPHESUS (MARY'S HOUSE) / PATMOS

Drive through the colorful town of Kusadasi to reach Mt. Koresos. Visit the humble chapel which lie on the site of the little house where The Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Continue on to Ancient Ephesus, walk through the Magnesian Gate, entrance to the ancient city of Ephesus. See the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the steam-heated Baths of Scolastika, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrians, and the Library of Celsus. "I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription "to an unknown God." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you..." Continue to the Great Theatre, where St. Paul preached, the largest theatre in antiquity with a capacity of 24,000 people. View the Basilica of St. John, erected over his grave in the 6th Century AD by the Emperor Justinian. Our next port of call is Patmos where the monastery of St. John is built within the walls of a strong fortification. Visit the main church noting its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. On to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse. See the silver niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of the Revelation as well as the three-fold crack made by the voice of God emphasizing the honor of the Holy Trinity. Afterwards,



Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque harbor. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: HERAKLION / SANTORINI

In the morning we will visit Heraklion, just three miles away the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. It is in Heraklion where Paul met the owner and captain of the ship who warned him of continuing his journey to Rome. In the afternoon we will cruise on to the idyllic island of Santorini. Santorini is perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. In the town of Thira white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques cling to steep cliffs, accessible by cable-car or mule. Return back to the ship. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: PIRAEUS / ATHENS / TEL AVIV

Today marks the end of our cruise. After disembarkation you will be transferred to the Athens airport where you will board your flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, you will be met by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: CAESAREA / STELLA MARIS / NAZARETH / TIBERIAS THE ANNUNCIATION

Breakfast then leave for Caesarea, the ancient capital of the Roman province. View the impressive archaeological remains of the Roman and Byzantine city. It was at Caesarea that Peter came to understand that the Good News was not for Jews only, but for the whole world. Here he baptized the Roman Centurion, Cornelius, and his family. It was from Caesarea that Paul set sail for Rome, an event that eventually brought Christianity to the World. Continue north to Haifa to visit Stella Maris, a Carmelite Monastery dedicated to Our Lady of Mt Carmel and located over the cave where Elijah lived. Drive to Nazareth, the site of Mary's home. Visit the Byzantine Church of St. Joseph and Mary's

Well. Continue to Tiberias to check – in to your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: TIBERIAS: SEA OF GALILEE

(The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee)

After breakfast we start with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. View the remains of a boat that dates back to the time of Jesus. Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. Nearby is Tabgha, where Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 and onto the site known as "Peter's Primacy". Here, after His resurrection, Jesus met with His disciples and told Peter to "feed my lambs; feed my sheep." [John 21:9]. A short drive is Capernaum, from where Jesus launched his Ministry. In the afternoon visit Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle at the request of His mother [John 2:1-11]. Visit the Franciscan chapel, those who wish to may renew their wedding vows. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 14: JORDAN RIVER / MT. TABOR / JERICHO / JORDAN RIVER / JERUSALEM

(The Transfiguration)

Today, drive to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration, with time to reflect on Christ's Humanity and Divinity. Mass here will be a good preparation for the journey to Jerusalem where Jesus was to suffer the crucifixion and resurrection. Drive to Jericho, where we view Mt Temptation and an example of a Sycamore Tree. Visit the Baptismal site on the Jordan River then to Jerusalem, where you check into your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: JERUSALEM: TEMPLE MODEL / EIN KAREM / BETHLEHEM

(The Visitation and Nativity)

Visit to the Second Temple scale model for an overview of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus. Visit the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist, and the church that commemorates his memory. Visit the Church of the Visitation. Depart to Bethlehem, beginning at Manger Square, which stands in front of one of the Church of the Nativity. Enter the Church and down to the Grotto of the Nativity which marks the spot of Jesus' birth. After Mass we will return to the hotel in Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 16: BETHANY / MASADA / DEAD SEA

(Early Years in Jerusalem & the Wilderness)

This morning drive to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Take the cable car to the top of Masada to learn about the heroic last stand of the Zealots. Afterwards time for a dip in the Dead Sea for those who want. Drive through the Judean Wilderness where Jesus spent 40 days fasting, and it is in this area that John the Baptist lived and baptized Christ. Then to Bethany where He raised Lazarus from the dead. Celebrate Mass here before returning to the hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 17: JERUSALEM: MT. OF OLIVES / GETHSEMANE / MT. ZION / WESTERN WALL

(Palm Sunday and the Agony in the Garden) From the Mount of Olives take in the panoramic view of Jerusalem. Then to the Pater Noster shrine, where Jesus taught His disciples The Lord's Prayer

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- 17 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily throughout plus lunch during cruise
- 17 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
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(Luke 11:1-4). Walking down the Palm Sunday Road stop at the little church, Dominus Fleuit - "The Lord wept." [Luke 19:41]. At Gethsemane reflect on Jesus' final night. Visit the Church of All Nations to pray at the "Rock of Agony," the place where Jesus prayed. Visit the Western Wall, to see the remains of the Temple compound. Continue to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas where he was interrogated and imprisoned. Now called Peter in Gallicantu ("crowing rooster"), this beautiful Church also commemorates Peter's Denial of Christ, his repentance and then being forgiven by Jesus. After Mass we will go up to Mt. Zion to visit the Upper Room, which commemorates the Last Supper. Nearby is the Benedictine Church of the Dormition. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 18: JERUSALEM: VIA DOLOROSA / HOLY SEPULCHRE

(The Way of the Cross, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection)

This morning we start the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) at the Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate. From there He was taken through the city to be crucified. The Stations of the Cross lead through the markets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here is the site of Calvary and the Tomb of Christ. Mass will be in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After breakfast visit the Church of St Anne's, the Pool of Bethesda and the Sisters of Zion. This afternoon there will be time to revisit the Old City. Dinner and Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 19: TEL AVIV / USA

Transfer to airport for the flight home. (B)

Turkey & Greece: Classical & Footsteps of Apostle Paul

11 Days / 9 Nights, *Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Amphipolis, Kavala, Philippi, Pella, Berea, Vergina, Kalambaka, Meteora, Delphi, Athens, Ancient Corinth, Mykonos, Patmos, Ephesus, Heraklion, Santorini*



Bell tower and arches of the Monastery of St. John, Patmos

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Istanbul, Turkey.

DAY 2: CITY TOUR IN ISTANBUL / ARRIVAL IN THESSALONIKI

Upon your arrival at the airport in Istanbul, you will be greeted by your Homeric English-speaking guide, who will take us to Hagia Sophia, Hippodrome and Topaki Palace to view the relic arm of John the Baptist. Return to the airport for our flight to Thessaloniki. Here, we will be met by our English-speaking Christian Tour Escort and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: THESSALONIKI / AMPHIPOLIS / KAVALA / PHILIPPI / THESSALONIKI

After breakfast sightseeing of Amphipolis (Acts 17:1). Visit part of the extensive site, including the North Wall. See both Beta and Gamma gates, and the remains of the Strymon Bridge. View the 4th century B.C. Lion Statue that was prominent on the ancient Egnatian Way that St. Paul would have traveled. Kavala - Acts 16:11. Stop near the harbor

of Kavala (biblical Neapolis), St. Paul's gateway to Europe. See Agia Sofia, the Greek Orthodox seaside church that marks Paul's landing spot. Stop for lunch. Philippi - Acts 16:12-40. As a prosperous Roman colony, Philippi had a spacious forum and Agora, as well as a theater that was also a gladiator arena. Nearby, a crypt, has been honored since the 5th century as the place of St. Paul's first imprisonment. Here in Philippi, St. Paul first preached the Gospel in Europe. Outside the ancient city, the River Gangites still flows where St. Paul addressed his first European congregations and the businesswoman, Lydia, was the first to be baptized by him. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 4: THESSALONIKI / PELLA / BEREA / VERGINA / KALAMBAKA

After breakfast depart for a full day of sightseeing tour of Thessaloniki (Acts 17:1-9). See the Church of George (Rotonda), built at the 3rd - 4th century AD. It is an important monument of that era, built with bricks and part of the palace complex of Galerius (293-310 AD). Its original use is not clear, possibly was a mausoleum or a temple of eastern

deities. In Byzantine times, emperor Theodosios (379-395 AD) was christened in Thessaloniki and turned the building into a Christian church. Rotonda was the cathedral church of Thessaloniki for more than 1,100 years. At St. Dimitrios, descend to the crypt where St. Paul preached and Dimitrios was martyred. Visit the cave and well of St. Paul at the Monastery of Vlattan and the 'House of Jason,' built where St. Paul stayed. We head west to Pella, birthplace of Alexander the Great. Visit the House of the Lion Hunt view the preserved mosaics in its museum. Free time for lunch then continue to Berea, Acts 17:10-15. Mount Vermion and Veria, (biblical Berea) see the Hellenic tower and walls, St. Paul's Steps, commemorating the willing audience the apostle found amongst Jews and Gentiles. Visit Ayios Christos Church, which marks the growth of the gospel. Continue to Vergina, visit the local museum and see the Macedonian Tombs before continuing to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)



The Celsus Library of Ancient Ephesus

DAY 5: KALAMBAKA / METEORA / DELPHI

As the Pindus Mountain Range begins to form, one comes upon 24-perpendicular rocks on which Byzantine monks chose to worship God and built Meteora, their monastic community. The 'Monasteries Hanging in the Air' is known for their ancient icons. We will visit two of these stunning mountain locations and then have free time for lunch. We continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 6: DELPHI / ATHENS

Morning visit to the ancient sanctuary of Apollo. Visit the impressive archeological site associated with the mythology and history of the 'Oracle'. See the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Doric Temple of Apollo, the Sacred Way, the 5,000 seat theater, where the Delphic Festivals were held, the Stadium, where the Pythian Games took place, the Castalian Fountain, the Sanctuary of Athena and the Tholos Rotunda. Visit the museum and the amazing 'Charioteer,' an ancient bronzed statue. Stop for lunch then continue to Athens. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: ATHENS / ANCIENT CORINTH / ATHENS

After breakfast our Athens City tour begins with the Dipylon Gate near the ancient Roman Market and then the Temple of Hephaistos, spending time exploring the Ancient Agora and the rebuilt Stoa of Attalus and its museum, visiting the water-clock of Andronicos and Hadrian's Library. We will then climb Mars Hill, associated with Paul's address to the councilors and philosophers of the Areopagus, view St. Paul's Well and the foundations of the church dedicated to Dionysius the Areopagite, one of St. Paul's converts (Acts 17:16-34). After

visiting the famous Acropolis and the Parthenon, we will continue the tour by visiting the Acropolis Museum and its many artifacts, then continuing on to view the Filopapu Monument, Hadrian's Arch and the Olympic Stadium. After lunch, travel to Ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-18), where St. Paul arrived in A.D. 50-51 to preach the teachings of Christ. Visit the archeological site housing many statues and artifacts, such as the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Agora, and the Bema Courthouse, where St. Paul's enemies brought him before Gallio, the pavement inscription of Erastus, the Roman Lechaion Road and the Lower Fountain of Peirene. It was here in Corinth that St. Paul wrote First Thessalonians and also, most likely, his Epistle to the Romans. Continue to Athens and cross the Corinth Canal, stopping briefly to learn the history of this famous man-made construction - one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Then return to Athens for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: ATHENS / PIRAEUS / MYKONOS / SAILING

After breakfast board the ship and set sail to Mykonos. Beneath its sophisticated surface, lays a quintessential Greek island. Hundreds of tiny chapels dot the island and sheep graze in the shadow of whitewashed windmills. Find a table on the waterfront and bask in the serenity of sunset over the picturesque harbor. Be sure to send your regards to Peter the Pelican and then board the ship to sail through the night. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: PATMOS / KUSADASI (EPHESUS) / SAILING

Morning arrival on the island of Patmos. This serene island is known as the site of the apocalyptic revelations of St. John the Divine, written here

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during his exile from the Roman Empire. The cave where he is said to have lived is now the site of the Monastery of the Apocalypse. In the 11th century, the Abbot Christodoulos founded the Monastery of St. John on one of the island's highest points. Here, priceless icons and manuscripts are on display for all to see. This afternoon, we will arrive into Kusadasi. A shore excursion to nearby Ephesus is included. Walking towards the ancient harbor, down a marble road rutted by the wheels of countless chariots, we will pass architectural masterpieces like the Magnesia Gate and the Library of Celsus before arriving at the Great Amphitheater where St. Paul was arrested and cast out of the city. We then continue on to the House of the Virgin Mary, where she spent the last years of her life before turning to the ship and sailing through the night. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: CRETE (HERAKLION) / SANTORINI / SAILING

After breakfast onboard and just 3-miles away are the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of Ancient Minoan culture. Return to the ship. In the afternoon, arrive on the island of Santorini, perhaps the most breathtaking of all Greek islands. Visit to Akrotiri, where recent Minoan excavations support the theories that Santorini might be the fabled lost continent of Atlantis. Return to the ship. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: RETURN TO THE USA

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight. (B)

Cruise: Seven Day Pilgrimage Voyage of Greece & Turkey

10 Days / 8 Nights, Athens, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Istanbul, Dikili, Pergamon, Ephesus, Miletus, Patmos, Syros, (call for specific sailing dates)



Monastery of St. John, Patmos Island, Greece

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight.

DAY 2: ATHENS

Upon arrival meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel, rest of the day is at leisure to acclimate to your new time zone. Dinner at hotel this evening. (D)

DAY 3: ATHENS (CRUISE)

After breakfast, begin your Athens city tour. Visit the Acropolis and its Museum, climb Mars' Hill where Apostle Paul addressed the Council and philosophers of the Aeropagus (Acts 17:22) and see St. Paul's well and the foundations of the church dedicated to Dionysius the Areopagite, one of St. Paul's converts. Transfer to the Piraeus to board your cruise ship. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: THESSALONIKI (CRUISE)

Your first port of call is Thessaloniki, where the New Testament books of I & II Thessalonians will come alive. Visit the old city ramparts, the newly excavated Forum, St. George Church, an ancient Roman monument which was transformed into a church, and the Galerios Arch which rises over the famous Via Egnatia, the road on which Paul walked to Thessaloniki. It was here in the synagogue that Paul "...reasoned with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks." (B,L,D)

DAY 5: KAVALA (CRUISE)

After breakfast, visit Kavala (biblical Neapolis) where St. Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot in Europe. This ancient city was later renamed Christoupolis because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. Visit the white Tower, the Byzantine Museum, the Citadel,

5th c. Basilica of St. Demetrius, the largest church in Greece, visit the crypt where Demetrius, an officer of the guard, was confined. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: ISTANBUL (CRUISE)

Your Istanbul tour starts from the Karakoy Ship port to the Old City area. On the way to the old city you will see Galata District which was a capital of commerce during the Ottoman Empire, Galata Tower, Galata Bridge, Eminonu Square and New Mosque. Your first stop will be the Ancient Hippodrome, which was a sporting and social centre of Constantinople (Capital of Byzantine Empire). Continue to the Blue Mosque known for its 21,000 handmade blue Iznik tiles. Continue to Hagia Sophia Museum, a former Church and very important place for the Christian Orthodox World. Before lunch, visit Topkapi Palace, a primary residence of the Ottoman Empire and view the relic arm of John the Baptist in its religious room. Lunch at the Konyali Restaurant with a Bosphorus view. Lastly, a shopping opportunity at the Grand Bazaar, with over 3000 shops. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: DIKILI / PERGAMON (CRUISE)

Your tour starts from the Dikili port and your first stop will be Acropolis, the part of the ancient town of Pergamon. After the Acropolis, you will visit the Red Basilica, which is one of the largest Roman structures still surviving in the Ancient Greek World. Optional Mass at your discretion may be held here. Following lunch, visit the ancient city of Asklepion. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: KUSADASI / EPHESUS / MILETUS (CRUISE)

Your excursion begins with a visit to the House of Virgin Mary. Spend time celebrating mass before continuing to the ancient site of Ephesus, where you will see the Hadrian's, Trajan's and the

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Domitian's Temples, the huge Roman bath, Harbour Street, the Marble Street, the Gate of Mithridates and Mazues, Commercial Agora, Latrina, the Scolastica Baths, Curetes Street, Polio Fountain, Memnius Monument, the Prytaneion, Odeon, the Satet Agora, the Celsus Library and the biggest amphitheater of Turkey. Then we will drive to St. John Basilica. It was constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century. It stands over the believed burial site of John the Apostle. It was modeled after the now lost Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. Stop for lunch. Then onto Miletus, one of the oldest cities of Ionia. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: PATMOS / SYROS (CRUISE)

Upon arrival, drive to the Chora, where the Monastery of St. John stands. Visit the Monastery, where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts and jewelry are housed. Return to your motorcoach and continue to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse. Here you will see the niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of the Revelation and the crack in the rock made by the voice of God honoring the Holy Trinity. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque town. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: ATHENS / USA

Upon your return to Athens transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Malta & Italy: Steps of Apostle Paul

12 Days / 10 Nights, Malta, Medina, Mosta, Rabat, Valetta, Sicily, Catania, Calabria, Campania, Positano, Naples, Herculaneum, Pozzuoli, Gaeta, Citta Mediovale, Rome



The Vatican, Rome, Italy

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your transatlantic flight to Malta.

DAY 2: MALTA

Meet your Homeric Tours representative and proceed to Valletta for a visit. View a media presentation on the history of Malta entitled "The Malta Experience." Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 3: MEDINA / MOSTA / RABAT

Following breakfast, enjoy a visit to St. Paul's bay and the site of the ship wreck. On to "Mosta Rotunda," a dome shape Church in Mosta. We then continue to Rabat to visit St. Paul's church and its Grotto. Visit the Roman Domus, followed by a walking tour of the Cathedral dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: VALETTA

After breakfast depart for worship at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Valetta. St. Paul's is one of two cathedrals that serves the Diocese of Europe and the Church of England. The afternoon is for leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: MALTA / SICILY

Transfer to the airport for your flights to Catania, Sicily. Meet your Homeric Tour representative upon arrival and proceed to Siracusa, the site of St. Paul's arrival in Sicily. Continue to Taormina. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: CATANIA / CALABRIA / CAMPANIA / POSITANO

After breakfast, morning departure to cross the Straits of Messina via ferry for our trip north along the western coast of Italy through the regions of Calabria and Campania, en route to the Amalfi Coast. Stop in Vietri for a visit to the pottery shops of this famous village prior to Positano. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: NAPLES / HERCULANEUM / POZZUOLI / GAETA

Enjoy breakfast before traveling along the Amalfi Coast to Naples with a stop in Herculaneum. Visit this ancient city buried by the same eruption that destroyed Pompeii. Continue to Pozzuoli where Apostle Paul landed after leaving Rhegium. Continue to Gaeta. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: SAN VINCENZO

After breakfast, depart for San Vincenzo al Volturno for a visit to the Abbey of San Vincenzo. The Abbey dates back to 703 A.D. Dinner and overnight in Gaeta. (B,D)

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DAY 9: GAETA / CITTA MEDIOVALE

Following breakfast enjoy a tour of Gaeta to visit Monte Orlando, site of a first century B.C. mausoleum and Montagna Splicatta's, monastery. Continue onto Citta Mediovale to visit the Golden Chapel of the church of Annunciation and the Doumo. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: ROME

After breakfast, depart for Rome with a stop in Minturno. Visit the ruins, and then continue on the Appian Way viewing the sites of Foro Appio and Tres Tabernae. Your visit will include San Paola Fuori le Mura, built on the tomb of St. Paul. Visit also includes the cloisters and the catacombs of San Sebastiano. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: ROME

Enjoy breakfast and then prayer time at the Episcopal Church of St. Paul. After church visit Vatican City followed by free time at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Christian Israel and Greece

11 Days / 9 Nights, Nazareth, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Cana, Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jordan Valley, Jericho, Dead Sea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, Athens, Corinth with option: Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini



The Temple Mount in Jerusalem, including the Western Wall and the golden Dome of the Rock

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Tel Aviv. (B,D)

DAY 2: HOLY LAND

Upon arrival and after custom control, you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours escort and depart for your hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean. A short visit to the ancient Port of Jaffa is included. Overnight in Netanya or Nazareth. (D)

DAY 3: CAESAREA / MT. CARMEL / NAZARETH / CANA

After breakfast, visit the Roman capital of ancient Israel, Caesarea, where Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome. Continue to Haifa. Visit Mt. Carmel, see Elijah's Grotto and the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. See Megiddo, 20 cities layered in one city and the Valley of Armageddon. We continue to Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus and Cana, and the place of the First Miracle. Dinner and overnight Galilee. (B,D)

DAY 4: GALILEE

The day starts with a prayer service on board the ship as you sail on the peaceful waters of the Sea of Galilee. See the Jesus boat and stop at Chorazim, the cursed city. Visit Capernaum the center of Jesus' Ministry. Travel to Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached to his people and visit Tabgha, the Church of the Fishes and the Loaves. Stop at Yardenit, the Baptismal site on the river Jordan. Dinner and overnight Galilee. (B,D)

DAY 5: MT. TABOR / JORDAN VALLEY / JERICO / DEAD SEA / JERUSALEM

A visit to the Mt. Tabor Church of Transfiguration starts the day before departing for Jordan Valley to Jericho, the oldest known city. Take a dip in the water, weather permitting. Stop at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Continue to Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 6: BETHLEHEM / JERUSALEM

Our day begins with the unforgettable view from the Mount of Olives as we marvel at the beauty of a 400-year-old city laid out before us. Our visit includes the Church of Pater Noster and the Chapel of Ascension. We will walk down the Palm

Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Visit Bethany, home of Mary, Margaret and Lazarus, and Bethlehem to see the Shepherd's Field and Grotto, the Church of Nativity and Manger where Jesus was born. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: JERUSALEM: (OLD CITY / NEW CITY)

After breakfast enjoy a morning walk in the Footsteps of Our Lord Jesus via St. Stephen's Gate, on to the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) and the Temple Mount. See the Dome of the Rock Mosque and the original Temple grounds. Sing a hymn in the Church of St. Anne and view the pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed the Sabbath Miracle. Reflect on the final hours of His life as you walk "the Way of the Cross" culminating with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Leave the Old City passing through the bazaar and the Jaffa Gate. Visit a model of the City of Jerusalem as it was during the Roman occupation. Visit the Israeli Museum to see the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Temple of Apollo, ruins of Ancient Corinth

DAY 8: JERUSALEM

After breakfast we visit Mt. Zion see the Upper Room, revered as the site of the Last Supper, and the Tomb of King David. Behold the house of High Priest Caiaphas where Jesus was imprisoned for a night and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu where the Apostle denied Jesus three times. End the day with worship at the Garden Tomb. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: TEL AVIV / ATHENS

After breakfast we fly to Athens where we begin our city tour. We visit the Acropolis, the ruins of the Parthenon, and its Museum, Erectheum, and Propylaea. View Mars Hill and the Agora, ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life, where Paul preached. Also experience modern Greece, the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Palace and much more. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: CORINTH

Drive to Corinth, the city that inspired many of St. Paul's most familiar letters, to visit the Archaeological Museum, the marketplace, the Bema and the Temples. Return to Athens where you have the rest of the day at leisure. Tonight you have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Greek music, dancing and food in the Plaka section. (B)

DAY 11: USA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight back home. (B)

WE RECOMMEND AN OPTIONAL 3 OR 4-DAY GREEK ISLAND CRUISE

DAY 11: PIRAEUS / MYKONOS

Board the ship at the Port of Piraeus and sail to Mykonos. Stroll at leisure through the white washed, flower decked alleyways of Mykonos, to the sculpture-like church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront to the famous windmills. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: EPHESUS / PATMOS

Arrive at the port of Kusadasi, Turkey. Here you begin your excursion to the ancient Greek City of Ephesus where Paul spent two years during his ministry. It was to this community that Paul may have written his Epistle to the Ephesians. Early Christian tradition also suggests that Mary, mother of Jesus, may have died here. You will visit the ruins of St. John's Basilica where tradition tells us the "disciple whom Jesus loved" was buried. You will also visit the Temples of Diana (Artemis), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Board the ship and sail to the beautiful island of Patmos. Here St. John wrote the Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. (B,L,D)

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DAY 13: RHODES

This old fortified city was built by the Knights of St. John upon their return from Jerusalem and has changed little since. You may elect to stroll through the streets or take an excursion to the Acropolis of Lindos. Visit the port where Apostle Paul arrived. Several optional shore excursion are available upon request. (Note: Rhodes not included with the 3-day cruise). (B,L,D)

DAY 14: CRETE / SANTORINI

Arrive in Heraklion, the capital of Crete. Take an optional excursion to the Palace of King Minos at Knossos, the center of the Minoan civilization. Afterwards, cruise to Santorini, the Volcano island considered to be one of the 10 best islands to visit in the world. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: ATHENS / USA

This morning disembark at the Port of Piraeus and transfer to the Athens airport for your flight home. (B)

Christian Egypt, Jordan & Israel

14 Days / 12 Nights, *Cairo, Sinai, Taba, Petra, Amman, Madaba, Nebo, Jerusalem, Nazareth*



Monastery of St. Catherine, Sinai, Egypt

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Today we depart for our overnight flight to Cairo, Egypt. (B,D)

DAY 2: CAIRO

We arrive in the land of the Pharaohs. Upon arrival in Cairo, we meet our guide and driver who will transport us to the hotel for dinner Overnight at hotel. (D)

DAY 3: CAIRO

After breakfast, spend time at one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Pyramids. Cheops, with an original height of 496 feet, is the most colossal pyramid ever built. Today, we will also see the Sphinx and tour the Egyptian museum, the location of Tutankhamen's treasures and ancient remains. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4: SINAI

After breakfast, depart Cairo towards Sinai. Cross the Red Sea and arrive at St. Catherine's Monastery. Inside the monastery, priceless icons. Legend says that the well there is Jethro's well and just behind the St. Catherine's basilica within the walls one can see the tree also called "burning bush." Dinner and overnight at St. Catherine hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: ST. CATHERINE / TABA / PETRA

Early morning departure from St. Catherine. Drive towards Taba for a ferry boat across the Red sea to Aqaba. Begin our tour with a Drive via Wadi Mussa to Petra. Full day tour of Petra. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: AMMAN / MADABA / NEBO / ALLENBY BRIDGE

Morning departure for Madaba to see the ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. On to Mount Nebo to view the Promised Land. Continue to the Jordan River and visit the traditional site where Jesus was

baptized by John the Baptist. Continue to Amman for a short orientation tour of the city before checking into the hotel in Amman. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: JERUSALEM

Drive from Amman to the Allenby Bridge to cross over to Israel. After crossing, meet with the Israeli guide and begin your touring program of the Holyland. Drive via ancient Jericho with a view of the Mount of Temptations to Quasr El Yehud – the baptismal point on the River Jordan, near Jericho for baptism service. Continue down to Qumran for a visit and then return back to Jerusalem. Panoramic view from the Mount of Olives. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: JERUSALEM

Full day Old City – Mount Zion and the Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall, Temple Mount, St. Anne, Pool of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa and the way of the Cross, Lithostrotos, Flagellation, Holy Sepulcher. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: JERUSALEM

After breakfast, we will leave for old Jerusalem, visiting Mt. Zion and Dormition Abbey. Continue onto Mount of Olives and the Church of the Holy Ascension, then Dominus Flevit Church, Gardens of Gethsemane with the Church of All Nations and St. Peter's in Gallicantu. Return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: BETHANY / DEAD SEA / YARADENIT

Breakfast then visit Bethany, where Jesus went to visit his friend Lazarus, (Lazarus tomb). Continue to Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls). Afterwards at the River Jordan at Yaradenit Garden, you will have a chance to renew your baptismal vows. Pass the Mount of Temptation and return for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

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- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 3 Nights of hotel accommodation in Egypt
- 2 Nights of hotel accommodation in Jordan
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation in Israel
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 Full Days of touring in Israel
- Horse ride in Petra
- Ferry boat from Taba (Egypt) to Aqaba (Jordan)
- Meet and assist at Allenby Bridge on arrival from Amman to Israel
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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DAY 11: TIBERIAS / NAZARETH

Breakfast then visit Tiberias. Today's pilgrimage includes a boat ride across Sea of Galilee to visit Capernaum, St. Peter's House and the Synagogue area where Jesus spent most of his time preaching. Short bus ride to the Mount of Beatitudes. Last stop today will be at the Primacy of St. Peter, Church of Multiplications of the loaves and fishes in Tabgha. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: NAZARETH

Most of the day you will spend visiting Nazareth. Visit will include Church and Cave of the Annunciation, Workshop of St. Joseph, Ancient Synagogue and Mary's Well & Fountain. In the afternoon, depart for Mount Tabor visiting the Church of Transfiguration. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: CANA / MT. CARMEL

After breakfast visit Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle. Celebrate Mass and if you wish renew your marriage vows. Continue to Haifa area and Mount Carmel to visit the Carmelite Monastery. Dinner and overnight at our Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 14: TEL AVIV / USA

Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for our flight back home to the U.S. (B,D)

Christian Pilgrimage of Jordan

7 Days / 5 Nights, Amman, Jerash, Ajlun, Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Bethany, Mukawir, Dead Sea, Petra Pella, Um Quis



The Treasury at candlelight, Petra

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight.

DAY 2: AMMAN

Meet your Homeric Tours representative upon arrival into Amman and transfer by private motorcoach to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 3: AMMAN / JERASH / AJLUN / AMMAN

After breakfast enjoy a full day tour of Jerash, where Jesus cast the evil spirits out from a man. Visit a well preserved Greco-Roman city. Continue to Ajlun to view "The Fortress." Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 4: AMMAN / MADABA / MOUNT NEBO / BETHANY / MUKAWIR / DEAD SEA / PETRA

After breakfast motorcoach to Madaba, city of the Sihon (4 Moses: 21:30). See the mosaic map of the Holy Land from Byzantine times. Continue onto Mount Nebo, and then to Bethany where Jesus was baptized. Afterwards visit Mukawir where John the Baptist was beheaded. (B,D)

DAY 5: PETRA / AMMAN

Breakfast then a full day visit of Petra (city of the Nabatean), descendants of the Nebajots (1 Moses: 25:12-18 and 1 chronicles 1:29 and Isaih 60:7). Artas was the first King of the Nabateans (2 Makkabar 5:*) Continue to Amman for your dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 6: AMMAN / PELLA / UM QUIS / AMMAN

After breakfast begin your Amman city tour, including the Citadel and Roman Theater. Onto Pella with a visit to Umm Qeis. According to Matthew (8:28-34), Jesus cast the evil spirits out from two men. Return to Amman for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 7: AMMAN / USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 5 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 4 Days of sightseeing tours
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
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Biblical Sites of Turkey & Greece

16 Days / 14 Nights, *Istanbul, Izmir, Philadelphia, Sardis, Pammukale, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Ephesus, Island of Patmos, Ephesus Museum, Thyatira, Pergamum, Bergama, Assos, Troy, Canakkale, Philippi, Kavala, Amphipolis, Thessaloniki, Pella, Berea, Vergina, Kalambaka, Meteora, Delphi, Ancient Corinth, Cencreae, Athens*



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight transatlantic flight to Istanbul.

DAY 2: ARRIVE ISTANBUL

Arrival into Istanbul's International Airport, meet your Homeric Tours representative. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: ISTANBUL

After breakfast, enjoy a full day tour of Istanbul with a visit to the "Hippodrome Square," the Obelisk, the Serpentine Column from Delphi, Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace. We will finish the tour with some free time for shopping at the Grand Bazaar. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: ISTANBUL / IZMIR / PHILADELPHIA / SARDIS / PAMMUKALE

Following breakfast, we will transfer to Istanbul Airport for a short flight to Izmir. Visit the city of Philadelphia, famed for its preserved town with its Gymnasium, Synagogue and Byzantine Shops. Continue to Pammukale, once a prosperous city of antiquity. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: PAMMUKALE / LAODICEA / HIERAPOLIS / EPHEBUS

After breakfast we will travel to Laodicea, the seventh city of the Book of Revelations. There we will see the remains of the Roman stadium, Hierapolis. We continue to Ephesus, the ancient capital of Asia Minor and the best preserved of the original Seven Churches of Revelation. Tour the Celsus and Colossal Libraries, the fountain of Trajan, Agoras, baths and the theatre where riots against Paul took place. Paul made his European headquarters here, and he stayed for two years. Ephesus played a significant role in the history of early Christianity. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: SAMOS / PATMOS / EPHEBUS

Breakfast at your hotel and then transfer to the pier in Kusadasi to embark via ferry to the islands of Samos and Patmos. Patmos is an island sacred for Christians. Visit the Monastery of St. John and the Grotto where the author of the Book of Revelation received his first vision (Rev. 1:9). Dinner and overnight in Ephesus. (B,D)

DAY 7: EPHEBUS MUSEUM / THYATIRA / PERGAMUM / BERGAMA

After breakfast visit the Ephesus Museum. Onto Thyatira, hometown of Lydia who followed the teachings of Paul. Continue to Pergamum which was the capital of the Hellenistic Kingdom of Pergamum, and famous for its health center, Asclepium, and the Altar of Zeus in its Acropolis. Dinner and overnight accommodation in Bergama. (B,D)

DAY 8: ASSOS / TROY / CANAKKALE

Following breakfast depart for Canakkale. Scenic drive to Assos, where St. Paul visited and board the boat to the Holy Land. Continue to Alexandria Troas where St. Paul picked up the boy who fell down from the third floor when he was listening to him. Continue to Assos. Afternoon tour to the mythological city of Troy. Dinner and overnight in Canakkale. (B,D)



Interior of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, Meteora

DAY 9: TURKISH BORDER / PHILIPPI / KAVALA

After breakfast depart for the Greek border and the city of Alexandroupolis and continue to Philippi. See the prison where Paul and Silas sang hymns to the jailer and caused the earthquake that set them free. It was in Philippi where St. Paul first preached the Gospel in Europe. Outside the ancient city, the river Gaggotas still flows through quiet countryside where Paul addressed his first European congregations and where the businesswoman, Lydia, was the first to be baptized. Continue to Kavala. We stop near the Biblical harbor of Neapolis, Paul's gateway to Europe. See the Greek Orthodox sea-side church that marks Paul's landing spot. Dinner and overnight in Kavala. (B,D)

DAY 10: KAVALA / AMPHIPOLIS / THESSALONIKI

After breakfast, traveling east by coach, we arrive in Amphipolis. Visit part of the extensive site including the North Wall and see both the Beta and Gamma gates and the remains of Strymon bridge. View the 4th century BC Lion statue which was prominent on the ancient Egnatian, which St. Paul would have traveled. Tour Thessaloniki and the Basilica of St. Demetrius, patron of the city. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

DAY 11: PELLA / BERE A / VERGINA / KALAMBAKA

Today, after breakfast, we travel south into the mountains to Pella. Stop in the city of ancient Macedonia and the birthplace of Alexander the Great. Visit the beautiful House of the Lion Hunt and the outstanding mosaics preserved in the museum. We approach Mount Vermion and Veria (Biblical Berea) to see the Hellenic tower and walls, and the Ayios Christos Church marking the growth of the Gospel. Proceed onto Vergina and visit the local Museum and view the Macedonian Tombs. Continue to Kalambaka dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: CENTRAL GREECE / METEORA / DELPHI

Breakfast, then visit two of these stunning mountain locations. On the western edge of the plain of Thessaly, one comes upon a unique phenomenon of nature - 24 perpendicular rocks upon which about 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship. Continue on to Delphi. Overnight and dinner. (B,D)

DAY 13: DELPHI

After breakfast visit the archeological site of the 'Oracle.' Among the many points of interest, we will see the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Doric temple of Apollo, the Sacred Way, theatre (5,000 seats) the Stadium where the Pythian Games took place, the Kastalian Fountain, the Sanctuary of Athena, and the Tholos of Rotunda. Depart from Delphi for ancient Corinth. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

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- 14 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 13 Days of sightseeing tours
- Port taxes and onboard gratuities
- All entrance fees
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DAY 14: CORINTH / CENCHREAE / ATHENS

After breakfast at hotel, we make a morning visit to Corinth, where St. Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, arrived in A.D. 50-51 to preach the Christian faith. Stop at the Archeological site, housing many statues and artifacts. The site includes the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Agora and the Bema Courthouse, where the Apostle was brought before Gallio by his enemies. It was in Corinth that St. Paul wrote the first of his epistles, the First Letter to the Thessalonians. At Cenchreae, visits include the location where St. Paul took a vow and shaved his head and the remains of the old harbor from where he sailed to Ephesus. Continue to Athens. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: ATHENS CITY TOUR

In the morning, after breakfast, enjoy a city tour of Athens starting at the Dipylon Gate near the ancient Roman market. See the Temple of Hephaestus and spend time exploring the ancient Agora. Walk across Mars Hill, where Paul addressed the councilors and philosophers of the Areopagus. See St. Paul's well and the foundation of the church dedicated to Dionysius the Areopagite. Visit the famous Acropolis and its Museum. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Athens. (B,D)

DAY 16: RETURN TO THE USA

This morning you will be transferred to Athens Airport for your return flight to the USA. (B)

Turkey: In the Footsteps of Apostle Paul

12 Days / 10 Nights, Istanbul, Adana, Antioch (Antakya), Tarsus, Perga, Hierapolis, Pamukkale, Colossa, Laodicea, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Izmir, Smyrna, Sardis, Philadelhia, Thyatira, Pergamum, Ayvalik, Assos, Troas, Canakkale



Wall mosaics of ancient Chora Church, Istanbul

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for Turkey on your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2: ISTANBUL

Upon arrival in Istanbul, you will be met by your Homeric Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: ISTANBUL / ADANA

After breakfast, visit Hagia Sophia, the church of the Divine Wisdom and Topkapi Palace to view what is claimed to be the arm of John the Baptist given as a gift by the Romans to the Sultans. Other stops the Hippodrome, Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar. Afternoon flight to Adana. Dinner and overnight accommodation. (B,D)

DAY 4: ANTIOCH (ANTAKYA) / TARSUS / ANTALYA

It was in Antioch that many Christians fled after the death of Stephen (Acts 11: 19-21). Apostle Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch for a year and assembled the church and taught many people (Acts 11:22-26), becoming the center from which Paul performed his missionary labors (Acts 13:1-5, 14-44, 14:26-28, 15:22-41, 18:22-23). It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians," and it was here that the first non-Jews were accepted into the early church. Visit one of the oldest churches, St. Peter which Paul (Acts 22:3) visited on his second and third missionary journeys. Drive to Adana for a flight to Antalya. Dinner and overnight in Antalya. (B,D)

DAY 5: PERGA / HIERAPOLIS / PAMUKKALE

Morning drive to Perga, a Hellenistic city, where St. Paul preached (Acts 14:25). Visit the ruins, stadium, baths and tombs. Evidence of its former greatness. St. Paul and St. Barnabas visited here on

their first journey. Drive to Hierapolis, blessed by hot mineral springs. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4: 13). See the impressive theatre, the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches, known today as Pamukkale. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

DAY 6: COLOSSAE / LAODICEA / KUSADASI

Drive to Colossae, receiver of St. Paul's Letter to Colossians. After visiting Aphrodisias, continue to Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14-22), whose people were chastised for being lukewarm. "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3:15). In the scripture from Revelation (3:20-21), Jesus said to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." Continue to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: EPHESUS / IZMIR

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11). St. Paul visited Ephesus on three separate missionary tours - the last one included a three year stay (Acts 19:1 to 20:31). Luke's account of the worship of Diana appears in Acts 19:34-35. The Great Theatre mentioned in Acts 19:29-31 seats 24,000 people. See the Fountain of Trajan, the Library of Celsus. Visit the Chapel of the Virgin Mary, where the Third Ecumenical Council convened. Visit the Basilica of St. John, and the Museum of Ephesus. Overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

DAY 8: SMYRNA / SARDIS / PHILADELPHIA / IZMIR

Smyrna known today as Izmir, was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2:8-11). Here you'll see the Agora, the colonnaded center. Continue to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3:1-6). Coins were minted and the

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- Choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 10 Nights of Hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 9 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
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dyeing of wool originated in Sardis. Visit the Temple of Artemis, by the synagogue. Visit the site of Philadelphia, also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3:7-13). Christ told those who overcame that he would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem". (Rev. 3:12) Return to Izmir for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: THYATIRA / PERGAMUM / AYVALIK

After breakfast, depart for Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1:11, 2:18-29). Continue to Pergamum, another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations (Rev. 2:12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which Christ dismissed (Rev. 2:13-17). Dinner and overnight in Ayvalik. (B,D)

DAY 10: ASSOS / TROAS / CANAKKALE

Today we tour Assos where Paul rejoined his companions after walking across the heartland on his own. Visit the ruins of the city. Then drive to Troas, where Paul received the "Macedonian call." This is where Luke's account changes from "They" to "we" (Acts 16:6-12), indicating that he joined St. Paul's team at Troas, returning from Macedonia during his third journey. Overnight in Canakkale. (B,D)

DAY 11: ISTANBUL

Continue to Istanbul via the beautiful Dardanelles, visit the Church of St. Saviour in Chora, famous for its mosaics and frescoes. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

DAY 12: ISTANBUL / USA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Turkey: Seven Churches

8 Days / 6 Nights, Istanbul, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Pamukkale, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Izmir



The House of the Virgin Mary, Ephesus

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for Turkey on your overnight flight.

DAY 2: ISTANBUL

Upon arrival, meet with your Homeric Tour representative and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (D)

DAY 3: ISTANBUL / THYATIRA / PERGAMUM / IZMIR

After breakfast take the Fast Ferry across the Marmara Sea. Then drive to Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 1:11; 2:18-29) which St. Paul visited in his missionary journeys (Acts 19:10). Next stop is Pergamum (2:12-17) where you will explore the Acropolis with its theatre. Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

DAY 4: IZMIR / KUSADASI / IZMIR

After breakfast, depart for Ephesus, one of the Seven Churches in Revelation (Rev. 1:11). Visit the enormous Amphitheater, and see the gymnasiums, baths houses, the library of Celsus, and the Temple of Artemis. Afterwards, visit the house of the Virgin Mary. Drive to Smyrna and visit Mt. Pagus, once called the crown of Smyrna. Return to Izmir for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: IZMIR / SARDIS / PHILADELPHIA / PAMUKKALE

Visit Sardis mentioned in the Book of Revelations (Rev. 3:1-6). See the Temple of Artemis and Royal Road, the gymnasium and the synagogue. Next, visit Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) referred to as the New Jerusalem and Pamukkale, where calcium rich waters created shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites. (B,D)

DAY 6: PAMUKKALE / LAODICEA / ISTANBUL

After breakfast, visit Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev 3:14-22), which was chastised for being lukewarm in faith, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3:14). Visit a factory where artisans make fine carpets, before driving to Izmir Airport for an evening flight to Istanbul. (B,D)

DAY 7: ISTANBUL

Breakfast then visit Topkapi Palace once home to the Sultans. Here, visit what is claimed to be John the Baptist's arm given by the Romans as a token gift. Then visit the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome and the magnificent Basilica of St. Sophia, constructed in 326. Farewell dinner tonight. (B,D)

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to Istanbul Airport for your flight home. (B)

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Christian Egypt

10 Days / 8 Nights, Cairo, Aswan, Edfu, Luxor, Mt. Sinai



The Temple of Philae

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Egypt.

DAY 2: CAIRO

Upon arrival meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach to your hotel. Day at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: CAIRO

After breakfast, meet your guide. First stop is the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx. Take a camel ride and transport yourself back in time. Next visit the Solar boat Museum followed by a visit to the Egyptian Museum. Continue to Memphis (biblical name "Nope" Isaiah 19:13, Jeremiah 2:16, 46:14 & 19, Ezekiel 30:13,16, Isaiah 10:25). Return to Cairo. For dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: ASWAN

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our short flight to Aswan. Upon arrival transfer to board our cruise ship. Lunch on board. Sail the Nile by Felucca around Kichener's Island & Agha Khan Mausoleum. Afternoon tea, later dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: HIGH DAM / THE TEMPLE OF PHILAE / GRANITE QUARRIES

Visit the High Dam of Aswan and then Philae Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then onto the Granite Quarries to see the Obelisk weighing 1168 tons. Visit Elephantine Island and its remains of a Jewish temple. Lunch on board, followed by

a visit to the Temple of Kom Ombo, which was once used by Christians as a church. Sail to Edfu. Afternoon tea and dinner on board. Overnight in Edfu. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: EDFU

Disembark and visit an ancient Greco-Roman Temple in Edfu, one of the best preserved temples in Egypt. The building inscriptions provide details of its construction and the conflict between Horus and Seth. Lunch on board. Sail to Luxor. Dinner and evening Gallabia Party. Overnight in Luxor. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: LUXOR

Today we visit the West Bank, The Valley of the Kings and The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at El Deir El Bahari. Visit to the East Bank, Karnak and Luxor Temples follow. Onto the airport for your short flight back to Cairo. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: CHRISTIAN CAIRO TOUR

After breakfast, visit the Suspended Church, the Hanging Church built in the 4th century on top the south gate of the fortress of Babylon. Continue to the Church of St. Serguis a 5th century Basilica built on the cave where the Holy Family stayed, and which is regarded as a source of blessing. Visit the restored Synagogue of Ben Ezra marking the Place where Moses was saved by the water girl of Pharaoh. Continue towards the Land of Goshen, tracing the route of the Biblical Exodus (Genesis 16-18). We stop in Marah where the children of Israel found the waters bitter, and continue to

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- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 4 Nights Nile cruise with full board
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
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Elim, an oasis site where 12 wells and 70 palm trees were found during the journey to the promised land by the children of Israel. Onto Wadi Feiran (Rephidim), where the children of Israel fought the Amalekites, and the possible site where Moses held his arms up in Victory. Onto Mt. Sinai and Wadi el Raha, the area where the golden calf was forged (Exodus32). Arrival of St. Catherine, dinner an overnight. (B,D)

Optional night activity: Climb Mt. Sinai, Camel ride up to 1/3 up Mt. Sinai.

DAY 9: MT. SINAI (ST. CATHERINE MONASTERY) / CAIRO

Early morning optional ascent to Jebel Musa – Mt. Sinai (approx. 6,900 ft.). Walk in the footsteps of Moses and the devoted pilgrims. Opt to take a camel ride to one of the stations to take in the scenery along the climb to the summit (750 steps). As you read the book of Genesis remember this is the place where Moses met the Lord from the burning bush and where he received the Ten Commandments. Descend and return to our hotel for breakfast. After relaxing, we will leisurely begin our motorcoach journey back to Cairo. Arrive in Cairo in time for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

OPTIONAL RETURN:

Motorcoach to the Taba border into Israel or Jordan (call for Israel and or Jordan extension details)

DAY 10: USA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Ethiopia: The Old and New Testament

9 Days / 7 Nights, Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar, Gondar, Lalibella, Axum



Church of St. George, one of eleven monolithic churches in Lalibella, Ethiopia

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Ethiopia.

DAY 2: ADDIS ABABA

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel for check in. Addis Ababa is a lively city rich with beauty and culture. Begin your tour up to Mount Entoto. The panoramic view is breathtaking. Enjoy a visit to Trinity Cathedral, the largest and most revered of all the churches. Visit the Ethnological Museum to learn about Ethiopia's rich ethnic diversity. The museum has an array of religious crosses, triptychs and murals. Dinner and overnight in Addis Ababa. (D)

DAY 3: ADDIS ABABA / BAHIR DAR

Morning flight to Bahir Dar, located on the shores of Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia. There are 37 islands on Lake Tana; 30 of them have churches and monasteries of considerable importance. Check in to our hotel. Then take a boat cruise on Lake Tana to visit the 13th century Monastery of Ura Kidane Mihret, the most famous of the Zege peninsula monasteries. We then begin our city tour of Bahir Dar, visiting the market and stopping at the palace of Emperor Haile Selassie (entry not permitted) and the deacon school at Trinity. Dinner and overnight in Bahir Dar. (B,D)

DAY 4: BAHIR DAR / GONDAR

Morning flight to Gondar. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Gondar was the first capital of the Ethiopian Empire. Visit the royal enclosure containing six castles, a complex network of connecting tunnels and raised walkways. We tour the bathing palace of King Fasilidas. Later, proceed to the fascinating Debre Birhan Selassie Church with its walls and ceilings decorated with scenes of Biblical lore and medieval history. Dinner and overnight in Gondar. (B,D)

DAY 5: GONDAR / LALIBELLA

Today fly to Lalibella, described as the eighth wonder of the world, and considered one of the holiest cities in Ethiopia. Lalibella's beautiful rock hewn churches is on the UNESCO's World Heritage site. Begin our exploration with the twelve majestic rock-hewn churches, with the breathtaking Bette Giorgis church, carved in the shape of a cross and set apart from the other church groupings. Other churches include Bete Medhane Alem, Bete Mariam, Bete Maskal, Bete Danaghel, Bete Golgotha and Bete Mikael. Dinner and overnight in Lalibella. (B,D)

DAY 6: LALIBELLA

Today we visit the church of Yimrhane Kristos. This exceptional church, a masterpiece of Axumite wood and stone construction is renowned for its interior decoration, its beautiful wooden coffer

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Ethiopia – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All domestic flights within Ethiopia
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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ceiling inlaid with hexagons and medallions with both figurative and geometric motifs. We return to Lalibella. In the afternoon, we visit the remaining rock-hewn churches of Lalibella. Dinner and overnight in Lalibella. (B,D)

DAY 7: LALIBELLA / AXUM

After breakfast transfer to the airport for our flight to Axum. Once the center of a great empire, and the seat of learning for the ancient Ge'ez language and literature, Axum is the prime historical site in the North of Ethiopia. Our city tour includes: the Stelae Park, St. Mary's Church, the Sanctuary Chapel which is the repository of the 'Ark of the Covenant,' the Coronation Yard, Queen of Sheba's palace ruins, Axum Museum with regional art crafts—dating back more than 2,000 years, and the quarry. Dinner and overnight in Axum. (B,D)

DAY 8: AXUM / ADDIS ABABA

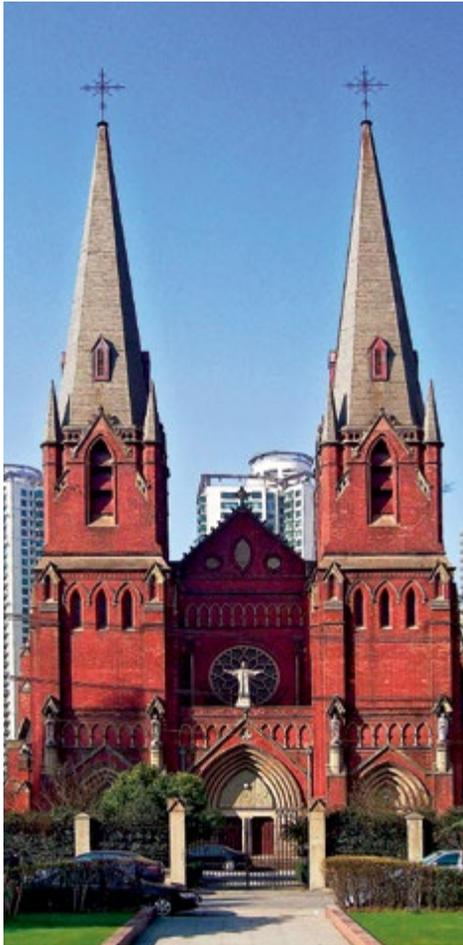
Morning return flight to Addis Ababa. Return to the hotel for a day of leisure. Visit the market to shop, or visit the United Nations Conference Center (on our own). In the evening, enjoy a "farewell dinner", with traditional dances from various ethnic groups from Ethiopia. A traditional coffee ceremony is also included and served. Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: USA

Transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

Christianity in China

14 Days / 12 Nights, Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Wuzhen Watertown



Church in Shanghai

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to China.

DAY 2: BEIJING

Arrive in Beijing international Airport. Meet your Homeric Tour guide and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. (D)

DAY 3: BEIJING

After breakfast, visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the largest ancient construction compound in China. After Lunch, visit the Temple of Heaven where Chinese Emperors prayed and worshipped God. Enjoy Beijing roast duck for dinner in the most famous Beijing restaurant with a 130-year history. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: BEIJING

After breakfast, we visit Ming Tomb, burial site of 13 emperors during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). Then, visit a jade carving factory. After lunch in the local branch of the Friendship Store, you will climb the Great Wall, the only man-made construction visible from outer space. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: BEIJING

There are four major Catholic Churches in Beijing. Today, in the morning, you will visit one of them. If on Sunday, you may attend their mass and have a nice talk with your Chinese brothers and sisters. Afternoon visit to the "Children's Village," an orphanage founded by an American in China, where disabled and abandoned children are well treated and educated. Besides the donation offered by Homeric Tours on behalf of the group, if upon your own wishes, more gifts or donations to the children are welcome. After dinner, enjoy an acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: BEIJING

The Summer Palace is an imperial summer resort in Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Today take an easy walk along the shore line of the lake. After lunch, take a pedicab into the neighborhood of the old city for the "Hutong" tour to visit a local family and have a talk with them about our mutual Christian values. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: BEIJING / XI'AN (PROOF OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY)

Today fly to Xi'an. Begin your tour with the City Wall, the best preserved ancient city wall in China, where you can walk or cycle on top of and take in a grand view of the city. Continue to a Steel Museum. Recently an uncovered piece of steel tells the history and introduction of Christianity into China approximately 1000 years ago. Dumpling dinner is today's delicacy. Then attend the Tang Dynasty (1300 years ago) live show. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: XI'AN

Morning visit to the Neolithic Village of Banpoo which contains relics from the earliest known inhabitants of China. After, visit the Ceramic and Clay factory. Proceed to the Archaeological Museum, home to more than 6,000 life size terracotta warriors and horses excavated from the tomb of the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: XI'AN / SHANGHAI

Fly to Shanghai, known as the oriental Paris. Visit famous Yu gardens, in the middle of an Old Shanghai bazaar, filled with curio shops and souvenirs. After lunch, proceed to the Bund, a waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River. Enjoy your shopping along the famous Nanjing Road, a commercial pedestrian street. Dinner and overnight in Shanghai. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: SHANGHAI

Visit to a local Catholic Church, the Children's Palace and a kindergarten, where children learn to dance, playing piano or opera. Not far from the restaurant for lunch, you will visit the carpet factory, where workers make silk carpets by hand. After lunch, afternoon at leisure, enjoy traditional Shanghai cuisine for dinner. (B,L,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – CHINA – USA
- Domestic air fare (Beijing-Xian, Xian-Shanghai)
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Choice of 4 or 5 star hotels
- 12 Nights of hotel accommodation
- All meals as mentioned (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner as indicated
- 11 Days of sightseeing tours
- Donation, on behalf of your church, to the "Children Village" in Beijing or the Children's Palace in Shanghai
- Certificate of honor
- In depth people-to-people contact with a Shanghainese family for a day
- All transfers
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.

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DAY 11: SHANGHAI / WUZHEN

Visit to Suzhou, famous for its gardens, canals and silk industry. Continue to Wuzhen, known as the oriental Venice, full of canals and traditional Chinese buildings. Dinner and overnight in Wuzhen. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: WUZHEN / SUZHOU

After breakfast, continue on to Suzhou to visit the Garden of Humble Administrators and silk factory and learn the art of embroidery. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: SUZHOU / SHANGHAI

Live like a Shanghainese for the day by going to the local farmer's market with a typical family to buy the day's necessities. Learn how to cook Chinese food and have lunch with the family. Dinner and overnight in Shanghai. (B,L,D)

DAY 14: SHANGHAI / USA

After breakfast, depart for Shanghai International Airport. Enjoy your flight back home with your beautiful memories and the blessing from God. (B)

Women of the Bible

9 Days / 7 Nights, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Mount Tabor, Qaser El Yahud, Church of Nativity, Shepherd's Field, Jerusalem, Bethany, Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, Dominus Flevit, Mount Moriah, Temple Mount, Masada, Dead Sea, Jerusalem



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Israel.

DAY 2: TEL AVIV

After customs control you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private motorcoach to your hotel. Today spend the day adjusting to your new time zone. Dinner and overnight. (D)

***Optional in Tel Aviv:* Fashion Tel Aviv Style – Get a glimpse of what goes on behind the fashion scenes in Israel's fashion market. (1-2 hours)

DAY 3: JAFFA / CAESAREA / MT CARMEL / NAZARETH / GALILEE

After breakfast, head to Jaffa to visit the artist's quarter, Tabitha's House (Acts 9:36) and place of Peter's vision. Continue to Caesarea and view the Roman aqueduct and amphitheater remains. Visit Mt. Carmel, meet a local Druze woman and hear about the status of women in the Druze society. On to Nazareth, the Basilica of the Annunciation, Holy Grotto and the ancient village of Nazareth during the time of Christ, the archeological museum, Saint Joseph's Workshop and the ancient Jewish-Christian purifying bath. Drive via Cana (where Jesus performed his first miracle by turning water into wine) to the Sea of Galilee. Check in to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: MOUNT OF BEATITUDES / TABGHA / CAPERNAUM / CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Morning visit to Mount of Beatitudes, (Matt. 5-7), where Jesus uttered the immortal words of the beatitudes, as written in the Gospel of Matthew. Following the path to Tabgha, here Jesus fed the

multitudes (Feeding of 5000; Mark 6). Stop at Capernaum (Matt. 4:13), where both Jesus and Peter lived. The archeological remains enable us to visualize how Jesus taught in the Capernaum synagogue, healed Peter's mother-in-law; where he was anointed by a sinful woman and healed the demon-possessed Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3). See the ancient synagogue where Jesus preached. Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Drive to Mt. Hermon, the source of the Jordan River at Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas) where Peter made his great confession of faith. Visit the archeological site of Phillip's Castle (home of Salome and Herodius) and the Baniyas Spring, source of the River Jordan. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: MOUNT TABOR / QASER EL YAHUD / CHURCH OF NATIVITY / SHEPHERD'S FIELD / JERUSALEM

After breakfast ascend Mount Tabor, where the Prophetess Deborah judged Israel under the palm tree (Judges 4:4-7) to the Kenite Stream in the Menashe Heights: homeland of Yael the Kenite, the woman who killed Sisera in her tent (Judges 4:17-22). Drive to Qaser El Yahud (traditional baptism site on Jordan River) Continue to Bethlehem to visit the Church of Nativity and the remains of ancient Bethlehem (beneath the Greek Monastery). Continue to Shepherd's Field and see the Cave Chapel, the new archeological excavation of a Byzantine farm. Visit a local olive wood workshop. On to Jerusalem via Rachel's Tomb ("A voice was heard in Ramah... Rachel weeping for her children" Matt. 2:18). Enter Jerusalem and check in to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING JERUSALEM AND ITS WOMEN

Visit the Tomb of the Prophet Samuel and hear the story of Anna and the miraculous birth of Samuel (Samuel I,1). Mt. of Olives: Tomb of the Prophetess Hulda. Continue to Bethany: Martha and Mary's House (Luke 10:38-42), Lazarus' Tomb (John 11). From the Mt. of Olives follow the Palm Sunday Route and descend to Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over the city (Luke. 19:41). Visit the Church of All Nations, the Rock of Agony and Garden of Gethsemane. Continue to Mount Moriah: view the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), the remaining wall of the destroyed Temple. Ascend the Temple Mount (where Jesus spent Tuesday and Wednesday of the Holy Week), visit the mosques of El Aksa and the golden Dome of the Rock (one of the holiest Muslim sites). Visit the Temple Mount Women's Mosque and meet with a local Muslim woman; walk through the Cotton Sellers' Market. Proceed to Mount Zion to visit King David's Tomb, the Room of the Last Supper and

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- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
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the Valley of Gehenom (doorway to the underworld). Visit the Armenian Quarter with its traditional ceramic workshops. Meet with a scholar to discuss and learn about inter-religious tolerance. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 7: MASADA / DEAD SEA

After breakfast, visit Masada to see the restoration of buildings dating back to the fourth and fifth centuries AD. Enjoy a day at a typical resort on the Dead Sea. Treat and pamper yourself at the Modern hotel's SPA facilities. Lunch at the Hotel included. Afterwards visit the "Ahava Cosmetic Factory" located in Kibbutz Mizpe Shalem before returning to Jerusalem. Evening Dinner with Journalist Ms. Linda Gradstein. Overnight in Jerusalem. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: JERUSALEM

Morning visit to Yad Veshem- Holocaust Memorial Museum then to the Israel museum - Shrine of the Book and the Model of the 2nd temple. Visit the modern art exhibition and the Shrine of the Book - where the most ancient biblical texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited. Visit the Jerusalem Market (Shuk Machane Yehuda Enjoy walking through the Shuk. After, visit The Garden Tomb, where we enjoy time of worship and communion. Return to hotel for our farewell dinner. (B,D)

DAY 9: USA

Morning transfer for the airport for our flight home. (B)

India: Footsteps of St. Thomas & Early Christianity

15 Days / 13 Nights, Cochin, Malayattoor, Kodungallur, Kottayam, Kumarakom, Periyar, Madurai, Trichy, Vailankani, Tanjore, Mahabalipuram, Chennai



Mount Mary Church, Bandra, Mumbai

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart today for our overnight flight to India.

DAY 2: COCHIN

Upon arrival in Cochin you will be greeted and escorted by your Homeric Tours representative to your hotel. After relaxing and freshening up, your tour focuses on Cochin, a city still influenced by the medieval presence of Portugal, Holland and England. The tour includes the Jewish City with the Synagogue (built in 1568), the St. Francis Church, Mattancherry Palace (“Dutch Palace”), and the unique Chinese fishing nets near the mouth of the Arabian Sea. After, we visit the Bishop House in Fort Cochin Dom Jos Gomes Ferreira, the 27th Bishop of the Diocese of Kochi. Also we visit the Indo-Portuguese Museum which houses precious artifacts collected from various churches under the Cochin diocese. This evening, attend the colorful Kathakali Dance Drama at a local theatre. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (D)

DAY 3: COCHIN / MALAYATTOOR / COCHIN

After breakfast we take an excursion trip to Malayattoor, famous for the Catholic Church, located on top of the Malayattoor hill and dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle of Jesus. Thousands of pilgrims gather here for the annual festival of ‘Malayattoor Perunnal,’ held during the months of March & April. Sailing in an Arab merchant vessel, St. Thomas is believed to have landed at Kodungallur port in Kerala, in AD 52. It is believed that St. Thomas took the initiative for establishing a Christian community at Malayattoor. After your visit, return to Cochin. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4: THE ARRIVAL OF ST. THOMAS

After breakfast visit Kodungallur and the Mar Thoma Church. This Orthodox Church features the blending of Protestant Reformation ideas with Eastern forms. Continue to St. Thomas Church which is believed to be found by its namesake. Afterwards visit the Muringoor Divine Retreat Center and experience insight into the strong Christian traditions that have grown to more than 30 million believers in India today. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: COCHIN / KOTTAYAM / KUMARAKOM

After breakfast, drive to Kottayam. It is one of the oldest orders of the Catholic Christian Church in India. In the vicinity are the shrines of: St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the founder of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate and of a similar one for women, the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel. Also visit St. Thomas Apostolic seminary Vadavathoor. Transfer to the jetty and enjoy a short cruise through the backwaters and then continue the drive to Kumarakom. Upon arrival check-in and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: KUMARAKOM / PERIYAR WILDLIFE PARK

After breakfast drive to Periyar. Visit with Sister St. Alfonsa in Bharananganam. Bharananganam is a name which is synonymous with St. Alphonsa, the first saint of India. This town is 5 kilometers away from Palai, which has become an important pilgrim center in Kerala. Later drive to Periyar, and its National Park. Rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight accommodations in Periyar. (B,D)



Detail of Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, India

DAY 7: PERIYAR

After breakfast visit a spice site and ascent into the gorgeous Western Ghats of India, one of India's finest Wildlife Parks. We visit the Elephant Camp where we will have the chance to feed and bathe them, plus enjoy a ride through the camp. Afterwards we will visit a Spice Plantation before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 8: PERIYAR / MADURAI'S TEMPLES

After breakfast, depart the spice lands to Tamil Nadu. Descend the mountain pass and continue to a city that has been a cultural and learning center in one of India's oldest cities. The spectacular Sri Meenakshi Temple is an example of the baroque style of a Dravidian structure. Indians insist there's nothing like it, with its dawn to dusk celebrations. After an early dinner, drive by rickshaw to Meenakshi Temple to watch the night shows of Lord Shiva, temple musicians, singers and priests. Return to the hotel for overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 9: MADURAI / TRICHY

After breakfast drive to Trichy. Here one encounters the Ashram concept. The Ashram is a gift from India to the world, especially to U.S. Methodists through their legendary missionary Dr. E. (Eli) Stanley Jones. Jones became a personal friend to Mahatma Gandhi (also espoused in the ashram concept). Jones wrote "The Christ of the Indian Road" which became a best seller, and today has influenced the course of missionary thinking. It was Jones who brought the concept of "contemplative meditation" from the Indians to America. It was a deeper pursuit into meditation for Christians. The Ashram of Bede Griffiths, a Catholic priest who preaches the gospel and philosophy through the Indian Way of life and style, is the destination today. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10: TRICHY / TANJORE VIA VAILANKANI

After breakfast visit Srirangam, then drive to Vailankani, a small seaside town on the Coromandal Coast. Here Roman Catholics revere the story of a special miracle. A small Hindu boy carrying milk was stopped by a lady asking for milk. The boy gave it and continues to his customer, apologized for being late and having less milk. Checking, they discovered the milk was in full quantity. The boy returned to the tank under the Banyan tree. Today it is called "Matha Kulam," or Our Lady's Tank. A feast was established which today lasts for 9 days and draws one and half million people. The shrine was elevated to a Basilica on Nov. 3, 1962 by Pope John XXIII. Later drive to Tanjore, for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 11: TANJORE CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGES

After breakfast visit Tanjore, one of the most famous centers for Christian pilgrimages. The late Pope John Paul IV had chosen, from 24 worldwide shrines, as the most important shrine of Mariam. The local Danish Schwarz Church is one of the oldest in India. Visit the Bronze Museum, the Sarasvati Hall Library (a great collection of manuscripts), and see the most magnificent Indian temple, Brihadisvara Temple. Its main temple is Chola, 14 stories high (the tallest in India) and is topped with an 80 ton granite stone. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 12: TANJORE / MAHALAPURAM

After breakfast drive to Mahabalipuram. Also known as Mamallapuram, it is a 7th century coastal town located about 60 km from Chennai. Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO world heritage site, which has various historical monuments dating back to period between 7th to 9th centuries. It is home to various rocks cut into monuments that stand as an example of the Dravidian architecture. Mahabalipuram is a perfect treat for tourists with its long stretches of sea coast and some of the

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- 13 Nights of hotel accommodation
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amazing carved granite structures with Dravidian architecture. Dinner and overnight accommodations at the Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 13: MAHALAPURAM

After breakfast visit the historical sea side resort of Mahabalipuram: "City of Seven Pagodas." The ancient Pallava port of Mamallapuram and its 7th century rock hewn monuments, magnificent rock temples and carvings transport you to back in time. Next proceed to the Shore Temple built in sandstone in the 7th century by the sea and surrounded by gardens designed according to ancient descriptions of the original plans. Also visit Bhagiratha's Penance. Rest of the day is free on the beach. Return for dinner and overnight at your Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 14: MAHALAPURAM / CHENNAI

After breakfast drive to India's 4th largest city, Chennai, one of its oldest ancient cities and sometimes dubbed the "Hollywood of India." Twenty years after his arrival at Kerala, it was here in 72 AD that St. Thomas was murdered after returning from a short trip to China. You will visit sites that commemorate his presence and death, such as the Little Mount (the place where the mortally wounded St. Thomas sought refuge), St. Thomas Mount (where Thomas was speared), St. Thomas Cathedral (standing over the place identified as his burial site) which features a beautiful stained glass window that depicts the story of Thomas. Optional visit to St. Mary's Church, the oldest surviving English church in Chennai. Visit the Cathedral of St. Thomas (relics of St. Thomas are reportedly kept here). Later check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: CHENNAI / USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

North African Christian Heritage Tour

10 Days / 8 Nights, Tunis, El Djem, Sousse, Sbeitla, Haidra, Le Kef, Souk Ahras, Guelma (Algeria), Annaba, Tabarka, Bulla Regia, Dougga

The Maghreb (North Africa) preserves a vast treasure of early Christianity. From the catacombs of Sousse to Augustine's baptistry in ancient Hippo, Numidia (Algeria) and Africa (Tunisia) are rich with archaeological sites, artifacts and historic contributions to the Christian faith. Many are surprised at how early North African churches, bishoprics, and councils played such a powerful role in the forging of orthodoxy and ecumenical consensus in the early church. Ecclesiastic figures such as Augustine, Tertullian, Cyprian and Perpetua of Carthage are among the saints of old who have left us literary riches and memoirs that are ripe for rediscovery.



Christian Church in Tunis

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Overnight flight to Tunisia. Entry visas for Tunisia are not required for American citizens; however be sure to possess your Algerian visa.

DAY 2: TUNIS, TUNISIA

Upon arrival at the Tunis-Carthage International Airport, you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private air-condition motorcoach to your hotel. Pending arrival time, lunch will be included. Tour the Bardo Museum, with its mosaics, and artifacts of early Christian North African churches. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (L,D)

DAY 3: TUNIS EL DJEM / SOUSSE

After breakfast, tour ancient Carthage, once the venue of numerous early church councils including the Council of 397 that issued a list of books in the

Biblical canon. 600 years of bishops maintained their bishoprics in Carthage, including the most famous; Agrippinus (c. 197), Cyprian (249–258) and Eugenius (481–505). After lunch, visit the Roman Coliseum in El Djem, visit its museum and its collection of mosaics. Continue onto Sousse known as the “Pearl of the Sahel.” Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: SOUSSE / SBEITLA

Tour the Sousse Archaeological Museum and the catacombs, once served as hiding places for Christians. Onto Kairouan, lunch then brief visit to Kairouan. Continue to Sufetula's archaeological park in Sbeitla with its three temples of Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, and the mosaic-tiled baptistry of the church of Vitalis. Three additional churches and a chapel are located among the ruins. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: SBEITLA / HAIDRA / LE KEF

Morning tour of Haidra once called Roman Ammaedara, and now home to several mausoleums, underground baths, the triumphal arch of Septimius Severus and the Byzantine Basilica of Melleus. Then lunch en route to Sicca Veneria, known today as Le Kef. Once the seat of a Christian bishopric, later monasteries were established in the 2nd century. Check-in to your hotel, then tour Le Kef with its restored three-aisled early Christian church dedicated to St. Peter. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: LE KEF / SOUK AHRAS / GUELMA (ALGERIA)

Depart for Algeria. First stop is Souk Ahras, birthplace of Augustine (354 AD), his mother Monica and location of his monastery (388 AD). Visit several monuments and continue to Guelma, home to Augustine's friend, and biographer Possidius as well as the titular see of Calama. A restored Roman theatre is among the sites to view. Check into your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: GUELMA / ANNABA

Visit the ancient city of Hippo, now known as Annaba. Here, Augustine was ordained as a priest and served as bishop from 396 until his death in 430. Morning tour of the cathedral and lunch.

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Tunisia – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
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- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
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Explore the archaeological park and adjacent Musee d'Hippone, Augustine's “Basilica of Peace” as well as the baptistry. Afternoon check-in. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: ANNABA / TABARKA (TUNISIA)

After breakfast, return to Tunisia. Continue to Tabarka known as Thabraca in ancient times. Visit ruins of an ancient church and Christian cemetery with grave inscriptions set in mosaic patterns, considered one of the largest tomb mosaics anywhere. Among the bishops of Thabraca were Victoricus, who attended the Council of Carthage (256) and Rusticianus, at the conference of Carthage in 411. Check-in to your hotel and explore the coastal town. Lunch on your own. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: TABARKA / BULLA REGIA / DOUGGA / TUNIS

Visit the Roman colony of Bulla Regia. View the ruins of a public basilica later transformed into a church complete with a cruciform baptistry. The region is still maintained as a titular see of the Catholic Church called Bullensium Regiorum. Lunch en route to the archaeological park of Dougga, classified as a World Heritage Site. Continue to Tunis, dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: USA

After breakfast transfer to airport for your flight home. (B)

Early North African Christian Roots

11 Days / 9 Nights, Algiers, Tipaza, Djemila, Setif, Timgad, Constantine, Guelma, Madarous, Souk Ahras, Annaba, Tunisia Border, Tabarka, Bulla Regia, Dougga, Sousse, El Jem, Hammamet, Carthage

Walk in the footsteps of St. Augustine. Visit North Africa's largest basilica. Experience the world's best-preserved coliseum in El Jem, marvel at the numerous baptisteries with its world class museums.



Roman archeological ruins, Dougga

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Algiers.

DAY 2: ALGIERS

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private air-conditioned motorcoach to your hotel. Afternoon visit to the Kasbah. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: ALGIERS / TIPAZA / ALGIERS

Breakfast then depart for the Roman archeological sites of Tipaza and its museum with the largest basilica in North Africa and the Basilica of St. Salsa, who was a local martyr in the 4th century. After lunch depart for Tombeau de la Chrétienne (royal mausoleum of Mauritania). Afternoon visit to the Museum of Antiquities with its numerous Christian mosaics. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: ALGIERS / DJEMILA / SETIF

Drive through the winding road to the Kabylie mountain range and then on to Djemila. Here we will visit the two basilicas and a covered baptistery, including the museum. Onto Setif to visit the National Museum of Archaeology, host to the remarkable mosaic Procession of Bacchus. Dinner at your hotel with traditional Algerian music and cuisine. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: DJEMILA / TIMGAD / CONSTANTINE

We travel south to Timgad to discover the library, temples, amphitheater, and arch of Trajan. The city was an important center of Christianity in the 3rd and 4th centuries and the site contains basilicas and baptisteries. Stop for lunch. We then travel north to Constantine. Upon arrival visit the museum of Cirta, which holds a number of early Christian artifacts. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: CONSTANTINE / GUELMA / MADAROUS / SOUK AHRAS / ANNABA

Morning departure to Guelma to visit its large theatre and museum. Guelma was where Possidius, Augustine's friend and Bishop of Guelma, lived during the 5th century. Continue to Madarous, where Augustine studied and visit the Christian basilica. Continue onto Souk Ahras (Thagaste), birthplace of both St. Augustine and his mother St. Monica. Onto Annaba where we can enjoy the views from the lighthouse at Cape De Garde. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: ANNABA / TUNISIA BORDER / TABARKA

Morning visit to the archeological site of Hippo Regius. View the Basilica of Peace where Augustine was bishop from AD 395-430. Tour the museum, and the Cathedral of St. Augustine, renovated in 2012. A relic of St. Augustine's forearm is enclosed in a large statue of Augustine. Continue to the Algeria/Tunisia border. Travel to the coastal town or Tabarka. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,L,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Algiers & Tunisia – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- 9 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.

**Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 8: BULLA REGIA / DOUGGA / SOUSSE

Morning visit to Bulla Regia. View its basilica and theatre that Augustine spoke out against during his sermons, and explore the unique underground villas. Onto Dougga for lunch and visit the best preserved Roman Archeological site in Tunisia, recognized by UNESCO World Heritage. Continue to the coastal town of Sousse. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: SOUSSE / EL JEM / HAMMAMET

Morning visit to the Sousse catacombs, and visit the archeological museum, with its dedicated room to the early church and a Byzantine baptistery. Continue to El Jem coliseum and museum with seating for 30,000 spectators in the Roman world. Continue to the coastal town of Hammamet for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: HAMMAMET / CARTHAGE

Morning drive to Carthage to visit the Roman Amphitheater (where Felicity and her companions were martyred in March 207AD), the Roman baths, and early churches and the Carthage Museum. Lunch in picturesque Sidi Bou Said. Proceed to Tunis to visit the Bardo Museum. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: USA

After breakfast depart to the airport for your flight home. (B)



Introduction to Roman Catholicism and Homeric Tours' Catholic Faith Tours

Sola Gratia (Grace alone)

Salvation is the free gift of God to man. It is obtained by God's Grace alone and not through any merit on the part of the Christian. (GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense)

"For by grace you are saved through faith: and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God. Not of works that no man may glory." - Ephesians 2:8-9

The word 'Catholic' comes from the Greek phrase καθολου (kath'holou), meaning 'concerning the whole.' The word 'Catholic' can also be understood in English to mean 'universal.'

In Catholic doctrine, Salvation is obtained by God's Grace through faith; faith which is active, not passive. Salvation is through the grace of God which is "infused" into us. This grace is freely given, but men and women are responsible for cooperating with it. Primarily, this is done through participation in the Sacraments, which are seen as channels of grace. This grace of salvation (known as sanctifying grace) can be lost through committing mortal sin, but regained through the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance, which involves confession, repentance and forgiveness.

"Not everyone that saith to me, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven."
- Matthew 7:21.

As with Grace, the Catholic view is that good works accompanied by Catholic faith, form the basis for justification ***"For even as the body without the spirit is dead: so also faith without works is dead."*** - James 2:26

Catholicism accepts Christ's sole mediatorship between God and Man, but it argues that this does not exclude secondary mediatorships that are subordinated to Christ. On this basis, the saints (including Mary) can act as mediators. Mediatorship can also take the form of that exercised by the priesthood. For example, a validly ordained Priest can celebrate the Mass, which, as a Sacrament acts as a vehicle for the dispensation of Grace.

Like Protestants, Roman Catholics affirm the doctrine of the priesthood of all Believers, on the basis of 1 Peter 2:9: ***"But you are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people: that you may declare his virtues, who have called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."***
- 1 Peter 2:9

However, the Catholic view is that there also exists a special or "ministerial" priesthood, which has its roots in the Biblical priesthood outlined in the Old Testament. Thus ordained priests are able to offer sacrifices to God (especially the Sacrifice of the Mass) and absolve people of sins (through the Sacrament of Reconciliation).

"That I should be the minister of Christ Jesus among the Gentiles: sanctifying the gospel of God, that the oblation of the Gentiles may be made acceptable and sanctified in the Holy Ghost." - Romans 15:16

The Pope as the visible head of the Church on earth, and the successor of Peter, acts with the authority given to him directly by Christ in Matthew 16:18. Scripture and Tradition together form the fidei depositum - the sacred deposit of faith.

Shrines of Italy

10 Days / 8 Nights, Rome, Siena, Assisi (St. Francis), Loreto (Holy House), Lancia (Eucharistic Miracle), San Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio), Monte Sant'Angel (St. Michael), Monte Cassino



Vatican City

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA / ITALY

Depart for Italy on your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2: ARRIVE ROME

Upon arrival in Rome, you will be met by your Homeric Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight in your hotel. (D)

DAY 3: ROME (PAPAL AUDIENCE AND VATICAN MUSEUM TOUR)

After breakfast we will explore the spiritual capital for all Catholics around the world. Today attend a papal audience pending the papal schedule, followed by a visit to the Vatican Museums. We will cover the Tapestry Gallery, the Raphael Rooms and the overwhelming Sistine Chapel with the restored mural of the Last Judgment. Later, enter the largest church in Christendom, St Peter's Basilica, built on the site of St. Peter's tomb. We will also visit the tomb of Pope John Paul II located at the Vatican. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: ROME (FULL DAY TOURING OF CHRISTIAN ROME)

Following breakfast, we depart for full day of highlighting Christian Rome which includes a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the most important and the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady, which contains relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. Continue to the Basilica of St. John the Lateran, the Pope's Cathedral church where relics of both Peter and Paul remain under the main altar. See the Holy Staircase which is believed to be from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem and brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. Time permitting, climb the steps on your knees in memory of Christ's Passion, visit St Paul Outside the Walls, and celebrate Mass. Continue on the Appian Way, the oldest road from Roman times. Visit the famous Domino Quo Vadis Chapel and the catacombs of St. Callixtus where the early Christians hid to escape persecution. Conclude by visiting the Trevi Fountain. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: ROME / MONTE CASSINO / SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Following breakfast, head south crossing through the Roman countryside with its villas and vineyards. During our drive, our tour escort will explain the spiritual, historical and cultural overview of Italy, which will help to orient you to this beautiful country and prepare you for all that you will experience in the days to follow. We stop at Monte Cassino, a beautiful town founded by Saint Benedict in 529. Enjoy lunch and then continue through the countryside heading east to Padre Pio's town, San Giovanni Rotondo, our base for the following two nights. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / MONTE SANT' ANGELO

After celebrating Mass at the tomb of Padre Pio, tour the sanctuary to see the old church and the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918. See the confessional where Padre Pio spent innumerable hours with multitudes of pilgrims, view the Gargano Peninsula and the Grotto of Michael the Archangel. Six different Popes, St Francis and at least four other saints have knelt in prayer at this grotto, seeking the protection of St Michael. Afterwards enjoy the panoramic view of the ocean and the surrounding countryside. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / LANCIANO / LORETO / ASSISI

After breakfast, we make our way to Lancia to visit the Church of St. Longinus where you see the Eucharistic Miracle and celebrate Mass. Continue toward the Adriatic coast to the Marian shrine of Loreto to visit the Holy House of Nazareth and the beautiful Madonna of Loreto. More than 50 popes have made a pilgrimage to the house transported by angels to this hill in central Italy in 1294. Tradition has it that this is the house in which Mary first prayed the Magnificat, in which Jesus grew to manhood, and in which the Holy Family lived. We continue to Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, and the founder of the Franciscan Order. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – ITALY – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Wine with dinner daily
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All entrance fees including the Vatican City and the Vatican Museum
- Daily mass and spiritual activities
- All transfers
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

*The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.
* Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 8: ASSISI

After breakfast, we begin our full day tour at the home of the Saint that inspired our Holy Father. Pope Francis chose his name in admiration of the Saint. Visit the tomb of St. Francis and explore the 13th-century Basilica that contains the saint's possessions plus a series of frescoes depicting his life. Kneel before the crucifix from which Jesus spoke to St. Francis, asking him to rebuild His church. It was in St. Mary of the Angels Basilica where St Francis spent most of his life. Visit the Chapel, Porciuncola, the rose bush, and the cave where the saint retired for prayer. Stroll the medieval streets of the this little town. Visit the church and tombs of St. Clare to view the Saint's uncorrupt body. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: ASSISI / SIENA / ASSISI

After breakfast we will travel south to Siena, the birthplace of Saints Catherine (Doctor of the Church, and one of the two patron Saints of Italy, with St. Francis of Assisi) and Bernardine (known as the "Apostle of Italy" for his efforts to revive the Catholic faith in the 15th century). Siena is one of Italy's lovely medieval cities. Stroll the Piazza Del Campo, visit the Cathedral and the Basilica of St. Francis, continue on to view the uncorrupt head of St. Catherine at the Basilica of St. Dominic (Her body is preserved in Rome in the Basilica St. Maria sopra Minerva). Travel back to Assisi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: ASSISI / ROME / USA

Following breakfast, we will depart for Rome Airport for our return flight home. (B)

Rome, Assisi, Sienna, Florence & Milan Tour

12 Days / 10 Nights, Rome, Monte Cassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'angelo, Lanciaio, Loreto, Cascia, Assisi Orvieto, Siena, Florence, Milan



Town of Assisi

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Italy.

DAY 2: ROME

Upon arrival at the airport meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private motorcoach to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner and overnight in hotel. (D)

DAY 3: ROME

After breakfast, begin a full-day guided city tour of Ancient and Modern Rome: visit St. Peter's Basilica, St Peter's Square and the Vatican Museums (with Sistine Chapel), the Forum, the Coliseum, and the principal Roman Squares. Return to the Hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: ROME / MONTE CASSINO / SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

After breakfast, we continue our journey to San Giovanni Rotondo with a stop in Monte Cassino, to visit the Abbey founded by St. Benedict in 529. Arrival in San Giovanni Rotondo for dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / MONTE SANT'ANGELO / SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Visit the places associated with Saint Pio. Later, visit the Grotto of Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant'Angelo. Many different Popes have knelt in prayer here seeking the protection of St. Michael. Return to San Giovanni for dinner overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / LANCIANO / LORETO

Free time in the morning before departing for Lanciano, where we will visit the Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle. On to Loreto for dinner and overnight accommodation. (B,D)

DAY 7: LORETO / CASCIA / ASSISI

After visiting the Sanctuary of the Holy House, depart towards Assisi with a stop in Cascia to visit the Basilica of St. Rita. Arrive Assisi and accommodation in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 8: ASSISI

Our visit of this enchanting medieval town will include the Basilica of Santa Maria and the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare. Afternoon at leisure for personal activities. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

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- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 10 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 9 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
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** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 9: ASSISI / ORVIETO / SIENA

Transfer to Orvieto for free time to visit its Cathedral and walk along the narrow streets, considered the most beautiful in Italy with its medieval architecture. On to Siena for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: SIENA

After breakfast, enjoy a half day guided tour of Siena, including the Cathedral, Basilica of St. Domenico where the remains of St. Catherine are kept and Piazza del Campo, where the "Palio" is held every year. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: SIENA / FLORENCE / MILAN

After breakfast, depart for Florence for a half-day panoramic city tour, including the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Piazza Della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio. This afternoon, depart for Milan. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: USA

After breakfast, transfer to the Airport for your flight home. (B)

Catholic Italy

9 Days / 7 Nights, Rome, Naples, Florence, Siena, Venice



St Peter's Basilica, Rome

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for Italy on your overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

DAY 2: ROME

Arrive in Rome where you will be met by a Homeric Tours representative and transferred to the city for a half-day tour, including such sites as the Coliseum, the Imperial Forums, the Arch of Constantine and the Roman Forum. Free time to relax and freshen up for dinner at the hotel. (D)

DAY 3: ROME

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a half-day tour visiting the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, with its ceiling painted by Michelangelo, including the famous 'The Last Judgment' and also visiting St. Peter's Basilica. Afternoon at leisure for individual or group activities. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4: ROME

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full-day at leisure to explore this unique and beautiful city. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: ROME / NAPLES

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for Naples for a half-day city tour including St. Severo Chapel. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: NAPLES / FLORENCE (MONTECATINI TERME)

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart Naples for Florence. Upon arrival, enjoy a panoramic half-day city tour including the Duomo, Baptistery, Piazza della Signoria and Santa Croce Basilica. Rest of the afternoon at leisure to shop for good deals on leather and gold. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in the nearby town of Montecatini Terme. (B,D)

DAY 7: FLORENCE AREA / SIENA / FLORENCE (MONTECATINI TERME)

Breakfast at the hotel and then depart for Siena to view the architectural wonders of this beautiful town, especially its cathedral and the Piazza del Campo. Time at leisure before returning to your hotel in Montecatini Terme for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 8: FLORENCE (MONTECATINI TERME) / VENICE (MESTRE)

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for Venice for a panoramic half-day city tour. Afternoon at leisure for personal activities. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in nearby Mestre. (B,D)

DAY 9: VENICE / USA

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA –ROME and VENICE– USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group

**Ask about our church donation program*

Italy & Medjugorje

14 Days / 12 Nights, Milan, Padua, Venice, Siena, Orvieto, Assisi, Cascia, Loreto, Ancona, Split (Croatia), Medjugorje, Ancona, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Cassino, Rome



Piazza del Campo, Siena, Italy

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight. Breakfast and dinner served on board.

DAY 2: MILAN / PADUA

Upon arrival in Milan you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and begin your city tour featuring the Duomo square, the Scala Theatre and the elegant street Corso Vittorio Emanuele. Continue to Padua for dinner and overnight accommodations. (D)

DAY 3: PADUA / VENICE / PADUA

After breakfast, visit the center of Padua and the Basilica of St. Anthony, which contains the mortal remains of the Saint. Then on to Venice for a half-day panoramic city tour including St. Mark's Square, St. Mark's Basilica and the Bridge of Sighs. Return to Padua for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: PADUA / SIENA / ORVIETO

Depart for Siena. Visit includes the Cathedral, the Basilica of St. Domenico where the remains of St. Catherine are kept and Piazza del Campo, where the "Palio" is held every year. Continue to Orvieto to visit its Cathedral and walk along the narrow streets with its medieval architecture. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: ORVIETO / ASSISI / CASCIA

After breakfast, depart for Assisi for a city tour of this medieval town including the Basilica of Santa Maria and the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare. Continue to Cascia for dinner and overnight accommodation. (B,D)

DAY 6: CASCIA / LORETO / ANCONA / SPLIT (CROATIA)

Breakfast. After visiting the Basilica of St. Rita, we head to Loreto to see the Sanctuary of the Holy House. Continue to Ancona, where you will embark on your overnight ferry to Croatia. Dinner and overnight on board. (B,D)

DAY 7: SPLIT / MEDJUGORJE

Disembark in Split pier and transfer by private motorcoach to Medjugorje. Accommodation in hotel. Beginning of religious activities. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: MEDJUGORJE

Full day for religious activities. Climb Apparition Hill, where on June 24th, 1981 Our Lady with a baby in her arms appeared to 6 young children delivering her messages for all. Ascend Mount Krizevac (Cross Mountain) and meet the Visionaries (if available). Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: MEDJUGORJE / SPLIT / ANCONA

After breakfast, morning at leisure. Transfer to Split to embark on the overnight ferry back to Ancona. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Italy – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival
- English-speaking Homeric Tour manager throughout
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 12 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Half board daily in hotel
- 12 Days of sightseeing tours
- City tours with English-speaking local guides according to the program
- Vaporetto in Venice Tronchetto/San Marco/Tronchetto
- R/T ticket of the ferry boat Ancona/Split/Ancona
- Port taxes
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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Ask about our church donation program

DAY 10: ANCONA / SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Disembark in Ancona and transfer to San Giovanni Rotondo, hometown of St. Padre Pio. Upon arrival, visit the places significant to the life of the Saint. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / MONTE CASSINO / ROME

After breakfast and some time at leisure in San Giovanni Rotondo, we continue our journey to Rome with a stop in Monte Cassino where we will visit the Abbey founded by St. Benedict in 529. Arrive Rome and accommodation in hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: ROME

After breakfast, enjoy a guided tour of the "Eternal City." Visits include the major Basilicas in Rome (the Basilica of St. Mary Major and St. John in Lateran plus the Holy Stairs), and the Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls and the Catacombs, where early Christians were buried. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: ROME

After breakfast visit with a local guide of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums (including the Sistine Chapel). Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 14: ROME / HOME

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Poland: Footsteps of (Pope) St. John Paul II & St. Faustina

9 Days / 7 Nights, Warsaw, Swinice Warckie, Niepokalanow, Czestochowa, Wadowice, Krakow, Auschwitz, Lagiewniki (Divine Mercy)



Statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in front of the Jasna Gora Monastery, Czestochowa

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA / WARSAW

Board your overnight flight to Warsaw.

DAY 2: WARSAW

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative. We begin with Mass at St. James Church, where St. Faustina went when she arrived in Warsaw. Dinner and overnight accommodation. (B,D)

DAY 3: WARSAW

After breakfast, we will visit to the landmarks of Warsaw: Old Town, Market Square, the Barbican, the Warsaw Ghetto monument, Lazienki Park, the Chopin statue, and the Royal Castle. Visit and celebrate Mass at 39 Zytunia Street where Faustina entered the convent. Dinner and show at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 4: WARSAW / SWINICE WARCKIE / NIEPOKALANOW / CZESTOCHOWA

Travel to Swinice Warckie to visit the parish church St. Casimir where St. Faustina was baptized. Continue to Niepokalanow to see the Franciscan Monastery founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. Arrive in Czestochowa, home of the greatest shrine in Poland - Our Lady of Czestochowa. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: CZESTOCHOWA / WADOWICE / ZAKOPANE

Morning Mass at Jasna Gora Monastery, location of the Black Madonna Picture and where Pope John Paul II frequented visits throughout his life. View priceless treasures, including the Miraculous Icon. Continue to Zakopane, with a stop to Wadowice,

birthplace of Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) to see the church he was baptized in and attended as a child. We arrive in the resort village of Zakopane, with breathtaking views. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: ZAKOPANE / KRAKOW

Morning walk on John Paul II's favorite trail. Visit the Hermitage of Brother Albert, founder of the Albertine Order, before walking to the colorful Krupowki Street for shopping in the local bazaar. We stop at the Wieliczka Salt Mines on the way to Krakow. Arrive in Krakow for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: KRAKOW / AUSCHWITZ / KRAKOW

Explore Krakow's Market Square and hear the silver trumpet from St. Mary's Tower. See the square's historic buildings such as the Town Hall Tower, the Cloth Hall and the burgher's houses. Tour the Cathedral, Coronation Chapel and Royal Chambers. Visit the Cathedral and pray at the Wit Stwosz altar. Afternoon visit to Auschwitz, Nazi concentration camp. See the cell that imprisoned St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Martyrdom Museum. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: KRAKOW / DIVINE MERCY / LAGIEWNIKI / KRAKOW

Excursion to Lagiewniki, capital of the Divine Mercy, which Christ himself passed to our generation through St. Faustina. The Sanctuary houses working images of Jesus. See St. Faustina's convent chapel and her Tomb. Visit the Shrine of Divinity dedicated by Pope John Paul II in 2002. Celebrate Mass at the Shrine before visiting the new center "Have no Fear," where we pray by the relic of St. John Paul II. Return for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: KRAKOW / USA

Breakfast then depart for the airport for your return flight home. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: ROME (3 NIGHTS)

DAY 9: KRAKOW / ROME

Arrival into Rome. Begin with a visit to the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. Afternoon tour of the city including the Castel Sant' Angelo, Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, the famous Coliseum and Forum. Onto your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: ROME

Visit the Basilica of St. Paul beyond the walls, built over the tomb of St. Paul and the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, best known for Michelangelo's statue of Moses. Admire the Basilica of St. John Lateran - the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Warsaw and Krakow – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group

** Ask about our church donation program*

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TOUR FEATURES:

- One-way air Poland – Rome
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 3 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 3 Days of sightseeing
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

DAY 11: ROME

Walk along the Via del Corso, by ancient palaces, the Spanish Square, which connects with the Trinity del Monti Church and the Trevi Fountain. Continue to Barberini Square with its Triton Fountain. Evening farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 12: ROME / USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Christian Poland, Hungary, Croatia & Italy

15 Days / 13 Nights, Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Budapest, Zagreb, Medjugorje, Split, Ancona, Rome



Medjugorje Church

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart this evening for your overnight flight.

DAY 2: WARSAW

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (D)

DAY 3: WARSAW

After breakfast, visit the city's landmarks such as the Gothic Cathedral of St. John and the Barbican Gate; pass through the Square (Rynek) of the Old City and see the Church of the Holy Cross where the heart of Frederic Chopin is kept. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4: WARSAW / CZESTOCHOWA

Depart for Czestochowa for religious activities in the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna "Jasna Gora." Visit the surrounding walls and the museum dedicated to the history of the Monastery. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: CZESTOCHOWA / KRAKOW

Morning guided tour of Krakow, see Wawel Castle, the Cathedral, the Church of St. Mary, the old city and the Jewish quarter. Pass by the Jagiellonian University, where astronomer Copernicus studied. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: KRAKOW / AUSCHWITZ / WADOWICE / KRAKOW

Transfer to the Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau. Nowadays Auschwitz is an integral part of UNESCO World Heritage. Continue to Wadowice, the hometown of Pope John Paul II. Visit the house where he was born on May 18th, 1920, and the parish where he was baptized. Dinner and overnight in Krakow. (B,D)

DAY 7: KRAKOW / BUDAPEST

After breakfast board our motorcoach and depart for Hungary. Arrive in Budapest, the capital city, where we spend the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 8: BUDAPEST

Morning departure visiting Buda and Pest divided in two by the Danube River. Visit Buda: the historic Castle Hill, the Fishermen's Bastion, Mount Gellert, Margaret Island, Matthias Coronation Church and Buda Castle. In Pest, see the National Parliament and the Heroes' Square, with sculptures depicting the different phases of Hungarian history. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: BUDAPEST / ZAGREB

After breakfast, depart for Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. Upon arrival, we will take a short guided visit of the historic centre. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

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- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 13 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- One-way ferry ticket with breakfast and dinner on board
- Private headset for visits in Rome
- Ferry port taxes
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per perso
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DAY 10: ZAGREB / MEDJUGORJE

After breakfast, transfer to Medjugorje by coach. Beginning of religious activities. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 11: MEDJUGORJE

Today we climb Podbrdo or Apparition Hill, where on June 24th, 1981 Our Lady appeared to 6 young parishioners. Ascend Mount Krizevac (Cross Mountain) and meet the Visionaries (if available). Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 12: MEDJUGORJE / SPLIT / ANCONA (FERRY)

After breakfast, morning at leisure. Transfer to Split to embark on the overnight ferry to Ancona. Dinner and overnight on board. (B,D)

DAY 13: ANCONA / ROME

Disembark in Ancona and transfer to Rome, the "Eternal City." Arrival and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in hotel. (B,D)

DAY 14: ROME

After breakfast enjoy a full-day guided city tour of Ancient and Modern Rome: visit St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square and the Vatican Museums (with Sistine Chapel), the Forum, the Coliseum, and the principal Roman Squares. Return to the hotel for overnight. Dinner and accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 15: ROME / HOME

Breakfast and transfer to the Airport. Overnight in hotel. (B)

Central Europe's Catholic Heritage Tour

11 Days / 9 Nights, Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Slovakia, Budapest, Vienna, Prague



Market Square, Warsaw, Poland

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Board your overnight transatlantic flight. Dinner and breakfast will be served on flight.

DAY 2: WARSAW

Arrive in Warsaw in time for a short panoramic tour. Rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: WARSAW

Begin your tour by visiting the medieval Stare Miasto (Old Quarter) with its market square and 14th-century Cathedral of St. John and celebrate mass. Stop at the “wedding cake” Palace of Culture and Science, neoclassical Lazienki Palace, and the remnants of the Jewish ghetto. Afternoon at leisure. After dinner we will gather for an introductory biography of Pope John Paul II's life in Poland to lay a foundation for the many sites we will visit during our stay. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: WARSAW / CZĘSTOCHOWA / KRAKOW

This morning, visit Jasna Gora the monastery near Czestochowa, and admire its Black Madonna which is venerated as the “Queen of Poland” and has become the country's national symbol. Next, stop in Auschwitz to visit what is left of the concentration camp, a chilling reminder of the Holocaust. Evening arrival in Krakow. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: KRAKOW

Start the day with sightseeing in ancient Krakow, for centuries the residence of Polish kings. See

the Market Square, the 14th-century Jagiellonian University, St. Mary's Church, (celebrate mass) and Wawel Royal Castle. In the afternoon depart to Wadowice to see John Paul II family home and the church where he was baptized. Small exhibition of the object related with the Holy Father can be seen in the chapel by the church. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: KRAKOW / SLOVAKIA / BUDAPEST

After breakfast enjoy a scenic day taking you right through the heart of mountainous and densely wooded Slovakia, where brown bears still roam free. Approach Budapest soon after arriving in the wide open valley of the Danube River. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: BUDAPEST

Your guided tour takes you through Eastern Europe's most cosmopolitan city. See elegant Andrassy Avenue, the Thermal Baths, and the world's second-largest Jewish synagogue. From the lacy lookout towers of Fishermen's Bastion, enjoy a panoramic view of the sprawling city. Then, visit the 13th-century Matthias Coronation Church and Heroes' Square. Afternoon at leisure. Tonight, enjoy a delectable Hungarian specialty dinner. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: BUDAPEST / VIENNA

After breakfast, drive through the Hungarian plains to Vienna, once the center of the mighty Hapsburg Empire. Meet your Local Guide and start your sightseeing with vistas of Prater Park and the

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United Nations City on the banks of the Danube River. Then, drive along Ring Boulevard, pass the State Opera House, the Jewish quarter, and stop at the Hofburg Palace, winter residence of the Austrian Imperial family. Marvel at the impressive courtyards and famous Heldenplatz, and visit the awesome St. Stephen's Cathedral. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: VIENNA / PRAGUE

After breakfast an optional excursion to historic Schönbrunn Palace is available. After, the group will cross the Czech border and enter Moravia. We will stop at Austerlitz, place of Napoleon's “Battle of the Three Emperors” and then drive through the rich farmlands of Moravia and Bohemia to Prague. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: PRAGUE

After breakfast, begin a morning sightseeing featuring the Hradcany Castle Grounds, St. Vitus Cathedral and the Old town with the Astronomical clock, once the envy of all of Europe. In the afternoon, celebrate Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, also known as Holy Infant Jesus sanctuary. Farewell dinner in one of Prague's fine restaurants. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: PRAGUE / USA

After breakfast, depart for the airport for your flight home. (B)

Marian Shrines: Portugal, Spain & France

17 Days / 15 Nights, *Lisbon, Santarem (Eucharistic Miracle), Fatima, Salamanca, Alba de Tormes, Avila, Burgos, Loyola (St. Ignatius), Lourdes, Toulouse, Rocamadour, Paray Le Monial, Taize, Nevers, Chartres, Le Mont Saint Michel, Lisieux, Paris*



Dome of the Rosary Basilica surmounted with the gilded crown and the cross, Lourdes

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA / LISBON

Depart on your overnight transatlantic flight to Portugal.

DAY 2: LISBON

Arrival in Lisbon where you will be met by your Homeric Tours representative and begin your city tour. Visits include the Cathedral, St Jeronimo's Monastery, Saint Anthony's Church (the patron saint of lost objects), Belem Quarter, the Belem Tower, 25 April Bridge, and Discoveries Monument. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: LISBON / SANTAREM / FATIMA

After breakfast, depart for Santarem, one of the oldest cities in the world. Walk its narrow streets to the Church of St. Stephen, containing the oldest recorded Eucharistic miracle. This miracle has been on display since 1269 A.D. Celebrate Mass at this holy site. Continue to Fatima, where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children. Dinner and overnight in Santarem. (B,D)

DAY 4: FATIMA

After breakfast, begin by celebrating Mass at the Little Chapel of the Apparitions. After Mass we begin your tour of Fatima to see the Basilica, the site of Francesco and Jacinta's graves, the Hamlet

of Aljustrel, where the children lived, and Valinhos, the site of Our Lady's appearance after the children's return from prison. Experience Jesus' love as you walk and follow the Stations of the Cross along the Via Sacra (The Sacred Way) culminating in the Chapel of Calvary, which overlooks all of Fatima. Drink water from the miraculous well. Attend the blessing of the sick and participate in nightly candlelight processions requested by Our Lady. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: FATIMA / SALAMANCA

We depart for Salamanca, Spain after breakfast. Visits include the grand Plaza Mayor, the hub of Salmantine life; the vast Baroque church of La Clerencia; the Casa de las Conchas (House of Shells), named after the rows of carved scallop shells, symbol of the pilgrimage to Santiago which decorate its façade; the University, the cathedrals, the Roman Bridge, San Marcos and San Martin churches. After dinner in a local restaurant, we head to our hotel for overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: SALAMANCA / ALBA DE TORMES / ÁVILA / BURGOS

After breakfast, depart for Alba de Tormes. Celebrate Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, where Saint Teresa died and is buried. In the little museum of the Carmelite Monastery we view the incorrupt heart and left arm of St. Teresa. Continue

to Ávila. The preserved eleventh-century walls surround the old town where the mystic writer Santa Teresa was born and whose shrines are a must see for all pilgrims. Santa Teresa was the first woman to be named a Doctor of the Church, to whom the city is dedicated. The tour of Ávila includes the Cathedral and San Vicente church. Visit the Incarnation Convent, where St. Teresa became a nun, and the museum's dedication to her life. Visit La Santa Monastery, built on the site where she was born, and San José Convent, the first monastery founded by the Saint. We then depart for Burgos, the historic capital of Old Castile. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: BURGOS / LOYOLA / LOURDES

After breakfast, depart for Loyola, the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. See the 17th-century Basilica dedicated to St. Ignatius. Also visit his family home located behind the sanctuary. Time for prayer at the most venerated room where Ignatius, at age 30, was brought following his serious wounding at the Battle of Pamplona. Afterward travel through the Pyrenees Mountains. Nestled in the mountains stands Lourdes, the birthplace of St. Bernadette to whom Our Lady appeared in 1858 near the Grotto of Massabielle. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Fatima, Portugal

DAY 8-9: LOURDES

During your trip, attend Mass at the Grotto, watch a video presentation telling the story of Lourdes, and walk in the footsteps of St. Bernadette. See Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born, and the “Cachot,” an abandoned prison where Bernadette’s impoverished family lived. Join your prayers with other pilgrims as you pray for the sick, drink water from the miraculous spring or submerge yourself in the healing baths. Experience Jesus’s love as you walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto. Kneel in the chapel built on the very rock of the Grotto, in obedience to the request of the “Immaculate Conception.” Evenings are free for optional Blessed Sacrament Procession before dinner. Your role in the universal church will have new meaning as you join the candlelight procession and group rosary. (Candle light procession and group rosary April through October only). (B,D)

DAY 10: LOURDES / TOULOUSE / ROCAMADOUR

After an early breakfast, we travel to Toulouse, a town full of religious and historical treasures. The Basilica of St. Sermin, one of the finest Romanesque churches in France. St. Thomas Aquinas is buried in the Eglise des Jacobins. After the tour, continue to Rocamadour, home of an early Christian hermit named, Zaccheus of Jericho, who died in 70 A.D. and had conversed with Jesus himself. Zaccheus was the husband of St. Veronica, who wiped the face of Jesus as he climbed to Calvary. Visit one of its most important sites: the Shrine of Our Lady of Rocamadour. A complex of religious structures centered on a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary and the tomb of an ancient saint. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: ROCAMADOUR / PARAY LE MONIAL

After breakfast, continue onto Paray-le-Monial, to visit the Chapel of the Visitation where Jesus exposed His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque during a number of apparitions and to the Reliquary of St. Margaret containing her relics, located underneath a wax figure of the saint. You

will have the remainder of the day free to spend at your own leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: PARAY LE MONIAL / TAIZE / PARAY LE MONIAL

Today depart for Taize, one of the world’s most important sites of Pilgrimage, which is visited by over 100,000 young people from across the world every year. The Taize Community was founded by Frere Roger in 1940 when he pondered what it really meant to live a life according to the Scriptures. He then began a quest for a different expression of the Catholic life. In 1940, he purchased a small house that would eventually become the Taize Community to which people travel each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. The community is currently led by Brother Alois, a German-born Catholic, who had been appointed by Brother Roger before his death in August 16, 2005. Return to Paray Le Monial for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: PARAY LE MONIAL / NEVERS / CHARTRES / LE MONT SAINT MICHEL

Breakfast, then depart for Nevers. After taking the veil in 1867, St. Bernadette lived for 12 years as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. View St. Bernadette’s incorrupt body at the convent of St. Gildard, miraculously preserved since her death in 1879. Continue on to Chartres to visit the famous Cathedral Notre Dame de Chartres, one of the greatest achievements in history of architecture. Proceed to Le Mont Saint Michel in time for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 14: LE MONT SAINT MICHEL

After breakfast, tour Le Mont Saint Michel, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979. It was here, Aubert, Bishop of d’Avranches, founded a sanctuary on Mont-Tombe, after three successive appearances by the Archangel Michael. Consecrated in 709, the church has attracted pilgrims from all over. It was turned into a prison from the time of the French Revolution up until the time of the Second Empire, and became the responsibility of the Historical Monuments

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- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotel
- 15 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Wine with dinner
- 14 Days of sightseeing tours
- Daily mass and spiritual activities
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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Department in 1874. Since 1969 the Abbey has been home to a monastic community, ensuring the continuation of a spiritual presence. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: LE MONT SAINT MICHEL / LISIEUX / PARIS

After breakfast, depart for Lisieux, enjoy a tour of the home of St. Therese whom Pope Pius X called “the greatest saint of modern times.” Her love for God and service to humanity becomes evident as you visit the Basilica of St. Therese, one of the largest and magnificent religious structures built in the 20th-century. Mass will be celebrated while in Lisieux. Visit to Les Buissonnets, St. Therese’s family home. There on display are relics, clothing, and personal objects belonging to the “little flower.” Before leaving, tour the ancient Cathedral of St. Peter and the Carmelite Convent. We continue on to Paris dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 16: PARIS

After breakfast depart for Paris. Begin with holy Mass at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal. View the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Labouret whose guardian angel led her to the chapel where the Blessed Virgin displayed a vision of the miraculous medal and later the green scapular. The Virgin promised bountiful graces for all who wore these. Next depart for your sightseeing tour which includes the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, L’Arc de Triomphe, and Champs Elysees. Enjoy other sights on this mostly panoramic tour. Dinner at a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 17: PARIS / USA

After breakfast, transfer to Paris Airport for your return flight home. (B)

Santiago de Compostela, Fatima & Lourdes

12 Days / 10 Nights, Santiago de Compostela (St. James), Lisbon (St. Anthony), Santarem (Eucharistic Miracle), Fatima, Alba de Tormes, Salamanca, Avila (St. Teresa), Burgos, Loyola (St. Ignatius), Lourdes (St. Bernadette)



Sanctuary of Fatima, Portugal

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart USA for your overnight flight to Spain. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 2: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Upon arrival you will be met by your Homeric Tours Representative to be transferred to your hotel. Free time before dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

After breakfast, visit the Cathedral of St. James: climb the stairs behind the high altar to visit the crypt where the relics of St. James are preserved, touch the central pillar (Portico de La Gloria), view the 'botafumeiro' and admire the wealth of medieval art inside the Cathedral before visiting the cloister museum. Enjoy a stroll on your own through the beautiful streets of Santiago de Compostela, the city of the apostle. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / LISBON

Today we depart for Lisbon and enjoy an afternoon tour of Lisbon. This will include a visit to the Cathedral, St. Jerome's Monastery, Saint Anthony's Church, Belem Quarter, Belem Tower, 25 April Bridge and Discoveries Monument. Our coach will also take us through the Basilica of the Star, Rossio Square, Commerce square and Marquee of Pomba Square. Dinner and overnight in Lisbon. (B,D)

DAY 5: LISBON / SANTAREM / FATIMA

In the morning, we depart Lisbon for Santarem, one of the oldest cities in the world. Walk through its narrow streets to the Church of St. Stephen,

containing the oldest recorded Eucharistic miracle. This miracle has been on display since 1269. We then continue on to Fatima, the location where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children and exhorted mankind to pray for world peace. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: FATIMA

Six times, from May 13 to Oct 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in the diocese of Leiria. A new church has been constructed, just as beautiful, an older church was constructed here in 1928, and millions of pilgrims visit each year. Fatima is one of the most visited holy places for Catholics from around the world. The atmosphere of intense spirituality and the importance of Fatima have been attested to by the visits of two Popes: Paul VI and John Paul II. Touring Fatima, see the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, Basilica, and the site of Frances. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: FATIMA / ALBA DE TORMES / SALAMANCA

After breakfast depart for Salamanca. On the way stop in Alba de Tormes, where St. Teresa of Avila is buried. Arrive in Salamanca with free time for exploration before dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: SALAMANCA / AVILA / BURGOS

Today experience the spiritual atmosphere that has changed very little since the days of St. Teresa of Jesus, to whom the city is dedicated. St. Teresa the great mystic, was the first woman to be named a Doctor of the Church. In Avila, visit the Cathedral that contains many of St. Teresa's relics; The crypt of the Convento de La Santa, built on the site of the house where she was born, is home to the most comprehensive museum dedicated to her life, and La Encarnacion Convent, the first convent she founded. Afternoon departure to the city of Burgos, the historic capital of Old Castile. After dinner explore Burgos (on your own), and admire the magnificent limestone Cathedral. Dinner and overnight in Burgos. (B,D)

DAY 9: BURGOS / LOYOLA / LOURDES

Today we travel from Burgos, for Lourdes, France. En route we will stop in Loyola, the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Here, we will see the 17th Century Basilica dedicated to St. Ignatius. Behind the sanctuary visit the family home of St. Ignatius. Continue our motoring through the Pyrenees Mountains into Lourdes. Here, standing between the spectacular mountain-river, stands Lourdes, the birthplace of St. Bernadette to whom Our Lady appeared in 1858 near the Grotto of Massabielle. Settle into your hotel and explore before dinner, followed by

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a candlelight procession (every evening from Apr through Oct) before retiring for the evening. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10-11: LOURDES

After breakfast, a tour of Lourdes will include the sanctuary; the Basilica of St. Pius X, the world's largest underground church; and the baths where hundreds of miraculous cures have taken place. Enjoy a video presentation telling the story of Lourdes, and walk in the footsteps of St. Bernadette. See Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born, and the "Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. Join your prayers with pilgrims from around the world as you pray for the sick, drink water from the miraculous spring, pray at the Grotto and submerge yourself in the healing baths. Experience Christ's love as you walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto. Kneel in the chapel built on the very rock of the Grotto in obedience to the request of the "Immaculate Conception." Attend the blessing of the sick and participate in nightly candlelight processions requested by Our Lady, and take time for private devotions. Each evening dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 12: LOURDES / USA

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Shrines of Spain

9 Days / 7 Nights, Barcelona, Montserrat, Manresa, Zaragoza, Toledo, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela



Basilica Cathedral of Our Lady of the Pillar, Zaragoza

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Board your overnight flight to Spain.

DAY 2: BARCELONA

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative. Transfer to your hotel. Free time before Mass. Dinner and overnight in Barcelona. (D)

DAY 3: BARCELONA

Morning tour of Barcelona including: panoramic views of the Harbor area, Montjuic, Plaza de España, and Plaza de Catalunya. Walk through the Gothic Quarter, visit the cathedral and view Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, a beautiful, unfinished Roman Catholic basilica. Afternoon at leisure to explore the colorful markets of Las Ramblas. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: EXCURSION TO MONTSERRAT & MANRESA

Depart for Montserrat, home to the Benedictine Monastery. Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, the statue of the Black Virgin carved by St. Luke around 50 AD and brought to Spain. The story behind the statue is yet another affirmation

of our Lady. In the 11th century, the abbot-bishop Oliba founded a monastery on the mountain of Montserrat next to one of the chapels, where the Benedictine Abbey is still preserved. Return to Barcelona for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: BARCELONA / ZARAGOZA / MADRID

After breakfast depart towards Zaragoza to visit Basilica La Pilar, built in the place where our Lady appeared to Saint James. We will also visit the Cathedral of Zaragoza and do a walking tour of the city. Later continue our journey to Madrid for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: MADRID & TOLEDO

Tour Madrid including the Royal Palace and Plaza Mayor. Depart for Toledo known as the City of the Three Religions. The city surrounded by walls hides great treasures: it's Cathedral, the church of Santo Tomé, the Tránsito Synagogue, Santa María La Blanca Synagogue, the church of San Juan de los Reyes, Puerta de Bisagras, Puerta del Cambrón, Puerta del Sol and so on. Dinner and overnight in Madrid. (B,D)

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- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
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DAY 7: MADRID / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Depart for Santiago de Compostela. Stop in Villafranca del Bierzo to visit the Collegiate Church of Santa María and the churches of Santiago and San Nicolas. Enter Galicia by Lugo. Stop in Cebreiro and view a group of “pallozas” and a beautiful Pre-Romanesque temple from the 9-10 century, containing a Chalice, the Paten of “Santo Milagro” and a precious Romanesque carving of Santa Maria la Real. Continue to Santiago de Compostela for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Join the walking pilgrims at the Monte del Gozo Walk the last couple of miles of El Camino arriving at the Cathedral and attend the International Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral of St. James. Go Visit the crypt where the relics of St. James are preserved. This afternoon, visit the city of Santiago, to see Obradoiro Square, Fonseca Palace, Gelmirez Palace, Franco Street, etc. Dinner and overnight in Santiago de Compostela. (B,D)

DAY 9: SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / USA

After breakfast we depart for our return flight home to the USA. (B)

Spain: In the Footsteps of Ignatius of Loyola & Francis Xavier

11 Days / 9 Nights, Madrid, Burgos, San Sebastian, Loyola, Aranzazu, Pamplona, Xavier, Huesca, Zaragoza, Barcelona



The Sanctuary of Loyola

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart to Madrid, Spain, Complimentary meals and beverages are served in-flight.

DAY 2: MADRID

Arrive in Madrid and meet your Homeric Tours representative. We proceed by our private motorcoach to our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner included at the hotel. (D)

DAY 3: MADRID: (CITY TOUR)

After breakfast we begin our city tour. Visits include the Royal Palace and the Prado Museum. Lunch at a local restaurant is included. After completing our tour we return to our hotel. Those wishing are free to browse at the Plaza Mayor or Plaza del Sol, a prime shopping area or a stroll in the famous park – Parco de Buen Retiro. Dinner at our hotel is included. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: MADRID / BURGOS / SAN SEBASTIAN

Today we depart Madrid to Burgos. El Cid, Spain's most famous national hero, was born just north of this charming city. He is buried in the Cathedral of Burgos, the third largest church of Spain and one of the country's most striking beautiful Spanish gothic style. After we make our way to San Sebastian for dinner and the evening. (B,D)

DAY 5: SAN SEBASTIAN / LOYOLA / ARANZAZU

Breakfast then head south to the area of Azpeitia. Here in 1491 Inigo Lopez de Loyola Oñaz was born in the Castle of Loyola, better known as Ignatius of Loyola. We visit his former house and

the museum with a stop at Aranzazu, a shrine to Our Lady at the time of Ignatius and where we know Ignatius prayed for strength to overcome the temptations which he had formerly yielded. Lunch in Loyola is included. Return to San Sebastian for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: SAN SEBASTIAN / PAMPLONA / XAVIER / HUESCA

After breakfast we motorcoach to Huesca. First stop is Pamplona, the site where Ignatius received a wound that was to change his life. This event was the starting point for his conversion to Christ. Continue to Xavier Castle, (a castillo strategically positioned between Navarra and Aragon) recalling the life of St. Francis Xavier. Dinner and overnight accommodations in Huesca. (B,D)

DAY 7: HUESCA / ZARAGOZA

Depart Huesca after breakfast for Zaragoza a lively city with a vast 17th-century basilica dedicated to Spain's patron saint, the Virgin of the Pillar, (also the fortress Aljaferia), parts of which date back to the 9th century. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: ZARAGOZA / BARCELONA

Morning visit to Zaragoza and continue to Barcelona, once home to the Olympics. We proceed to our hotel for check-in. Afterwards enjoying dinner at a local seaside restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 9: BARCELONA: EXCURSION TO MONTSERRAT & MANRESA

After breakfast, depart for Montserrat, home to the dramatically set Benedictine monastery. This

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – SPAIN – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Lunches as indicated
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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Ask about our church donation program

Marian shrine has attracted pilgrims for over 700 years, much as it did Ignatius in March of 1522. We pause here to visit the Black Madonna of Montserrat, before whom Ignatius put his sword and exchanged his clothes for those of a beggar. We make our way to Manresa, a place of profound conversion for Ignatius. Here, in a cave on the banks of the Cardoner River, Ignatius received a vision that provided him with deep insights into the spiritual life and altered the course of his own life. From the initial insights he received here, Ignatius went on to pen the "Spiritual Exercises." Ignatius remained in Manresa for about a year and a half. We enjoy an audiovisual presentation and tour of the museum at Manresa, and then celebrate Eucharist in the nearby cave. We return to Barcelona for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: BARCELONA: (CITY TOUR)

We begin with Mass at the Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar, where Ignatius would often beg for alms. We then continue by coach to the major sites of Barcelona including Gaudi's Basilica of the Sagrada Familia (Holy Family). Afterwards, stroll in the gothic quarter of the city and shop. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 11: USA

Transfer to airport for our return flight home. (B)

Marian Shrines of Croatia & Slovenia

13 Days / 11 Nights, Dubrovnik, Medjugorje, Split, Plitvice Lakes, Opatija, Postojna, Bled, Marija Bistrica, Ljubljana, Zagreb



Architectural church detail, Croatia

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Dubrovnik.

DAY 2: DUBROVNIK

Upon arrival meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. Afternoon at leisure to walk to the Old Town aka "Pearl of the Adriatic." Welcome dinner in a typical Dalmatian restaurant with local food and wine. (D)

DAY 3: DUBROVNIK / MEDJUGORJE

After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour of "Old Dubrovnik;" including St. Blaze church, the Rector's Palace, Bell Tower clock, Orlando's Column, Sponza Palace, Dominican Monastery and Franciscan Monastery with its Pharmacy. Lunch, on your own. After lunch, depart for Medjugorje along the Adriatic coast. A warm welcome from your host family awaits you. Attend the evening program at St. James Church. Dinner and overnight in Medjugorje. (B,D)

DAY 4 & 5: MEDJUGORJE

After English Mass, visit Apparition Hill and climb Holy Cross Mountain. If possible, meet with the visionaries and Father Jozo. Attend evening recitation of the Rosary and Healing service at St. James Church. Free time for lunch and shopping. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: MEDJUGORJE / SPLIT

Depart for Split with stops to the Shrine in Veprice and Makarska before arriving at Our Lady of Sinj, one of Croatia's oldest spiritual centers and home

of the miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary.

Arrival in Split. Enjoy a city tour featuring the historic inner city, built around Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Visit its Roman heritage, the Renaissance and Gothic structures, Jupiter's Temple, the Peristyle and the Cathedral. Dinner at a local "Konoba." (B,D)

DAY 7: SPLIT / TROGIR / ZADAR / PLITVICE LAKES

Depart for Trogir, the center of artistic activities. Then on to Zadar, the oldest Slavic city on the Adriatic. Your orientation tour includes; the ruins of the Roman Forum, the Cathedral and St. Donat Church. Continue on to Plitvice Lakes National Park. Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: PLITVICE LAKES / OUR LADY OF TRSAT / OPATIJA

Enjoy Plitvice National Park listed in UNESCO's World Heritage list. After lunch depart for Opatija, once favored by European royalty. Stop for Holy Mass at Our Lady of Trsat, built to commemorate the transfer of the Holy House of Nazareth from Jerusalem to Loreto. Arrive at Opatija for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: OPATIJA

Day at leisure or take an optional excursion to the city of Venice. Overnight Opatija. (B,D)

DAY 10: OPATIJA / POSTOJNA / BLEED

Leisurely morning before crossing the border to Slovenia to visit Postojna, home of one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour the fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. The Slovenes

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – DUBROVNIK and ZAGREB – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels (except Medjugorje)
- 11 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner as indicated
- 9 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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** Ask about our church donation program*

owe their devotion to the Blessed Mother to the disciples of Cyril and Methodius. Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor in Brezje. View the painting of Our Lady of Brezje, the Patron Saint of Slovenia. Then onto Bled, situated in the Julian Alps. Dinner and overnight Bled. (B,D)

DAY 11: BLEED / LJUBLJANA

Visit Bled Castle and continue to Ptujška Gora, the national sanctuary of the Slovenes to celebrate Holy Mass. Balance of the day at leisure. Optional excursion to the old church with its collection of religious art located on a small island in the middle of the lake. Tour Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia and visit the open-air market, City Hall, Robba's Fountain, the Three Bridges and the Parliament. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: MARIJA BISTRICA / ZAGREB

Depart for Marija Bistrica, the sanctuary of Mother of God, Queen of Croatia, crowned with Papal crowns to celebrate Holy Mass. It's at the national Croatian Shrine where we will pray the Stations of the Cross. Continue to Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia and if time permitting, free brief tour of the historic Upper Town to see St. Mark's Church, St. Catherine's Church, the Cathedral, the Parliament and the Government Palace. Dinner and overnight Zagreb. (B,D)

DAY 13: USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your departure flight home. (B)

Ireland: Steps of St. Patrick

10 Days / 8 Nights, Wicklow, Glendalough, Tipperary, Rock of Cashel, Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, Shannon, Cliffs of Moher, Corcomroe Abbey, Galway, Corrib Lake, Clonmacnoise, Knock, Dublin



The mountains of Wicklow, Ireland

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA / DUBLIN

Depart from your hometown for an overnight flight to Ireland. Meals are served on board.

DAY 2: DUBLIN

Upon arrival in Dublin you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours guide and driver. Begin our panoramic city tour, where we pass by the General Post Office on the city's main streets, O'Connell Street, Custom House, and the Phoenix Park, the largest city park in Europe. On the other side of the river are Georgian squares characterized by colorful doors, Grafton Street and Trinity College the oldest university in Ireland founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I. If time permits, we will visit the ancient library containing over 20,000 manuscripts, among them the Book of Kells, a manuscript from the 9th-century written by the monks at St. Colombo's monastery on the island of Iona. Also visit St. Patrick's Anglican Cathedral, built in 1213. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 3: WICKLOW / GLENDALOUGH / TIPPERARY

This morning we will travel through the mountains of Wicklow, known as the "Garden of Ireland" and arrive at Glendalough, an ancient monastic city, established in the 6th-century by St. Kevin, a hermit priest often compared to St. Francis of Assisi. Glendalough was a very important center of learning, as well as a pilgrimage destination. A guided tour of the site includes a Round Tower, the ruins of the Cathedral and "St. Kevin's Kitchen" surrounded by an old cemetery. We continue to

Baltinglass where the ruins of a Cistercian Abbey are found. Then we pass by Castledermot to view the remnants of a Franciscan Abbey, before arriving in Tipperary for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: ROCK OF CASHEL / KERRY

Today we will visit the "Rock of Cashel," and the "Golden Vale," which are religious buildings dating back to the 12th-century. The Cathedral, the Round Tower and Cormac Chapel, which is the first Irish Romanesque church, testify to the importance of the site. In the afternoon continue to Kerry. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: KERRY / DINGLE PENINSULA

After breakfast, head towards the Dingle Peninsula, the most northern of the Kerry peninsulas. Travel from Inch, the last part of the country where Gaelic language is spoken, to the Eagle Mount and the cliffs of Sleat Head. In Early Christian Ireland, monks were looking for isolated places such as Gallarus Oratory, dated from the 9th-century, and well preserved. Next stop is Kilmalkedar Church, built in the 12th-century, once part of a complex of religious buildings in Romanesque style. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: SHANNON / CLIFFS OF MOHER / GALWAY

Enjoy an Irish breakfast and then travel north through Listowel to embark on the ferry at Killimer and cross the Shannon estuary. County Clare is a beautiful landscape, with a Victorian seaside resort and where we visit the Cliffs of Moher. We continue on to Galway, which has kept its medieval charm with its colorful streets and authentic pubs. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – DUBLIN – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
- Daily mass and spiritual activities
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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DAY 7: GALWAY / CORRIB LAKE / CLONMACNOISE

After breakfast enjoy a cruise on Corrib Lake, which is the best way to see Galway and its surroundings. A visit to Clonmacnoise, Ireland's important monastic site, which overlooks the River Shannon is included. Founded by St. Ciaran in the 6th century, the site consists of a walled field containing numerous early churches, high crosses, round towers and graves. Overnight and dinner is in Galway. (B,D)

DAY 8: KNOCK

Today visit Knock and one of the world's leading Marian shrines, where on August 21, 1879 fifteen women, men and children, witnessed an Apparition of Mary. We will visit the Basilica, the largest church in Ireland. Afternoon at leisure. Mass and private prayer time at the shrine. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: KNOCK / DUBLIN

After breakfast depart Knock for Dublin. Afternoon arrival. Visit the National Museum with its collection of golden prehistoric jewelry which is without a doubt the most beautiful in Europe. Of great interest is the Celtic finery as well as numerous early Christian ornaments and relics. Free time in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: DUBLIN / USA

After breakfast, then transfer to Dublin Airport for your departure flight home. (B)

England: Footsteps of St. Thomas More

9 Days / 7 Nights, London: Windsor Castle, Runnymede, Hampton Court, Lambeth Palace, Chelsea, Crosby Hall, Tower of London, Oxford, Canterbury, Houses of Parliament, Westminster, National Portrait Gallery



Windsor Castle, London

Sir Thomas More, known to Roman Catholics as Saint Thomas More since 1935, was an English lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman, and noted Renaissance humanist.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

We depart USA en route to London, with complimentary meals and beverages served aloft.

DAY 2: LONDON

Upon arrival in London, meet your Homeric Tours representative who will escort you throughout your tour. Enjoy a panoramic city tour en route to our hotel. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (D)

DAY 3: LONDON

After breakfast, we visit Milk Street, a prosperous residential area, where Thomas More was born on February 7, 1478. St. Lawrence Jewry was the family parish church and where Thomas lectured on Augustine's City of God. Tour the Guildhall where the crypt has a fine stained glass window of More. While studying law at Charterhouse, More attached himself to the strict Carthusian Monastery to receive spiritual guidance. Visit Lincoln's Inn, More's law school. We then visit St. Paul's Cathedral, to see Blackfriars, where, in 1523, Thomas More in his opening address argued for "Freedom of Speech," the first such argument ever recorded. Thomas More was a major influence on Shakespeare. This evening, attend a Shakespeare play followed by dinner at a London restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 4: LONDON: WINDSOR CASTLE / RUNNYMEDE & HAMPTON COURT

After breakfast, we visit Windsor Castle, built by William the Conqueror, who invaded England in 1066. It was here that Thomas More served at Henry VIII's court. Henry VIII completed St. George's Chapel in 1528 and was later buried there. King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215 at the large meadow ("mede") close to

Windsor Castle, We return to London for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: LAMBETH PALACE / CHELSEA / CROSBY HALL / TOWER OF LONDON

Morning visit to Lambeth Palace where Thomas More served the Archbishop and Lord Chancellor Morton. It is also where he was interrogated prior to his imprisonment at the Tower of London. Thomas More attended Chelsea Old Church and rebuilt the side chapel in 1528. The Chelsea Old Library owns two important Thomas More works of art. Continue to the Tower of London where Thomas More was imprisoned in the Bell Tower for being found guilty of treason and beheaded on Tower Hill. His final words were, "The King's good servant, but God's First." Thomas More is buried in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula. We visit Tower Hill, the site of Thomas More's execution, marked by a plaque. Last stop is All Hallows Church where More made many pilgrimages on foot to visit the famous Marian Shrine. (B,D)

DAY 6: LONDON: EXCURSION TO OXFORD

After breakfast, we board our motorcoach and travel to Oxford where Thomas More studied for two years. He was sent to Oxford by Archbishop and Lord Chancellor Morton and attended Canterbury College, now known as Christ College. Thomas More also served as high Steward of Oxford in 1518 and wrote a letter defending Greek studies at Oxford. After our visit at Oxford and some free time to explore on our own, we return to London for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: LONDON: EXCURSION TO CANTERBURY

Morning drive through the Kentish countryside to Canterbury, the most important ancient city in England and traditional home of the Archbishop of

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – ENGLAND – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
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Canterbury. In 1170 Thomas Beckett was murdered in his own Canterbury Cathedral by the Knights of Henry II. He was canonized shortly after and for centuries pilgrims have flocked to his shrine. The shrine of Thomas Becket was destroyed by Henry VII. Visit where Thomas More's eldest daughter Meg and her husband William Roper lived, opposite St. Dunstan's Church. The Roper family vault is where Thomas More's head is buried. Return to London for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: LONDON: HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT / WESTMINSTER / NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

This morning we will see the Houses of Parliament and see More's coat of arms in the House of Commons. We visit the impressive Westminster Abbey. Thomas More served in parliament in 1504, which met in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey. We will also visit Westminster Hall where both More and his father practiced law. Visit the plaque which marks the spot where Thomas More was tried for treason on July 1, 1535. We will also visit Westminster Cathedral, the Catholic Cathedral of London. At the National Portrait Gallery see magnificent portraits of the More family, Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, and more. Afternoon at leisure to explore. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 9: RETURN USA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

Holland, Germany & Belgium

10 Days / 8 Nights, Amsterdam, Maastricht, Luik, Brussels, Bruges, Amsterdam



St. Quintinus Cathedral, Hasselt, Belgium

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – AMSTERDAM – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 8 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner included as indicated
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
- Canal boat ride included
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

This evening we depart for our overnight flight.

DAY 2: AMSTERDAM

Arrival to Amsterdam Airport. Welcome and assistance by your tour escort. Transfer to Amsterdam. Upon arrival in the city, enjoy an orientation tour before checking in to your hotel. In the afternoon you will enjoy a boat ride through the canals. While sailing through the old center of the city you see warehouses dating back to the 16th and 17th century, arched bridges and houseboats. Welcome dinner and overnight accommodation. (D)

DAY 3: AMSTERDAM

After breakfast we celebrate Mass at the address where Ida Peerdeman lived. Ida Peerdeman received many messages from Mary, the "Lady of all Nations," beginning in 1945. After mass visit the grave of Ida Peerdeman in Amsterdam-West. We then visit the church of Our Lady in the Begijnhof, dedicated to St. John and Saint Ursula. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Optional Excursion: Excursion to Haarlem, to visit the Corrie ten Boom Museum dedicated to Corrie ten Boom, a woman who survived the Ravensbrück concentration camp. She was placed in the camp because her family had Jews hiding in their house during the occupation. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: KEVELEAR / MAASTRICHT

After breakfast depart to Kevelear, just across the German border. Visit the Shrine of Mary. Continue to Steyl for a visit of the Upper and Lower Church of the Society of God's Word and the Mission Museum. Mass may be organized in either Kevelear or Steyl. Proceed to Maastricht in southern Holland. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: MAASTRICHT / LUIK

After breakfast, tour Maastricht to see its main sights. If possible celebrate Mass at the St. Servatius Church. Continue to Banneux, where 8 apparitions took place in 1933. Visit the Notre Dame, the Lady of Banneux, the various chapels and the Stations of the Cross. Onto Luik for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: LUIK / BRUSSELS

After breakfast depart to Hasselt to visit the St. Quintinus Cathedral where a miracle took place in 1317, celebrate Mass. Continue to Louvain for a visit to the St. Antonius Chapel and the tomb of father Damian, whose beatification took place in 1994. Onto Brussels for an afternoon city orientation tour. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: BRUSSELS / BRUGES

After breakfast visit the site of the Eucharistic Miracle and possible mass here. Continue to Gent for a city tour including a visit to the famous Adoration of the Lamb by the brothers Van Eyck. Onto Bruges for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: BRUGES

Enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Bruges, including a visit to the Holy Blood Chapel, Church of Our Lady and the Beguinage. Celebrate mass in one of the many old and picturesque churches of Bruges. Optional visit to a beer brewery at a monastery. Since the middle ages monks are known for producing excellent beer. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: AMSTERDAM

After breakfast we depart to Amsterdam. Afternoon at leisure for optional visits to the Anne Frank house, a houseboat, the Flower market or the hidden Church. Perhaps an excursion from Bruges to Amsterdam, in Kinderdijk, to view the 19 windmills all in a row. Visit Delft, admire the beautiful Market with medieval town hall and New Church where the members of the Dutch Royal family are buried. Visit the 'Porceleyn Flesch' factory, producing Delft Blue porcelain. A farewell dinner at a typical local restaurant is included. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: USA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our return flight. (B)

Guadalupe, Mexico City & Riviera Maya

10 Days / 9 Nights, Guadalupe, Mexico City, Coyoacan, Tlaxcala, Ocotlan, Cholula, Puebla, Riviera Maya

The Shrine at Guadalupe is considered the holiest place in the Western Hemisphere. The Basilica commemorates Mary's appearance to a humble Indian who honored her request that a Shrine be built in her honor.



Metropolitan Cathedral, Mexico City

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA / MEXICO CITY

Depart for our flight to Mexico City. Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours English speaking representative and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 2: GUADALUPE

After breakfast, visit the baptismal place of Juan Diego. Our destination is the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Celebrate Mass in the modern Basilica dedicated in 1976. Kneel before the altar displaying the astounding Tilma, the sackcloth bearing the image of the Holy Virgin. Continue to San Juan Teotihuacan, a UNESCO's world Heritage site before lunch nearby. This afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the Archaeological zone, visiting the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, the Temple of Quetzalcoatl and local arts and crafts markets. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 3: MEXICO CITY

After breakfast transfer to La Votiva Church to celebrate Mass. Continue to the Museum housing artifacts from Mexico's pre-Columbian civilization and enjoy lunch at the Museum's Restaurant. Onto Mexico City to visit the Zocalo, the National Palace and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Continue to the

Plaza of Santo Domingo. Housed there are the first rosary shrine in Mexico, Our Lady of the Rosary, and a second shrine, Our Lady of Covadonga (the headquarters of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary founded in 1538). Back thru Polanco and Lomas to visit the Church of our Lady of Covadonga in Palmas Boulevard. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: EXCURSION TO TLAXCALA, OCOTLAN & PUEBLA

Today we head to Tlaxcala and the Shrine of San Miguel Del Milagro. Upon arrival celebrate Holy Mass at the site where St. Michael the Archangel appeared to Diego Lazaro in 1631. Travel to Ocotlan to visit the church and view the miraculous image of Our Lady burnt into a tree trunk after she appeared to Juan Diego Bernardino in 1541. Stop in Puebla and visit the Cathedral and the Rosary Chapel Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: COYOACAN / UNIVERSITY CITY

After breakfast, we return to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to attend Mass and enjoy free time for prayer and reflection at the shrine. We then drive south to San Angel to celebrate Mass at San Jacinto Church. Next, we visit the Church of El Carmen and the Church of Santa Catarina in suburban Coyoacan. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: from most USA to Mexico City
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Buffet breakfast daily at your hotels
- Lunch on four days in local restaurants
- Dinner daily at your hotels or local restaurants
- All meals, snacks and beverages in Riviera Maya
- 4 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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DAY 6: USA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport our flight home. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS

DAY 6-9: MEXICO CITY / CANCUN / RIVIERA MAYA

Transfer to airport for a short flight to Cancun Airport. Upon arrival in Cancun you will be transferred to your hotel on the Riviera Maya. Four relaxing days of rest and recreation at your beachfront resort. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are included. Unlimited premium alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are also included. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: USA

After breakfast you will transfer to Cancun Airport for your return flights home to the USA. (B)

Argentina: Footsteps of Pope Francis

11 Days / 9 Nights, Buenos Aires, Flores, Santa Susana (or Rosario), Tigre, Colonia (Uruguay) / Lujan

About His Holiness Pope Francis:

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, became known as Pope Francis on March 13, 2013, chosen in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. A humble man, who over the course of his life denied himself the luxuries that many around him enjoyed. He showed his humility in so many ways to the faithful of Argentina. "Before I bless you, I ask that you would pray to the Lord to bless me" would be his request to the people of Argentina.



Ruins of San Ignacio, Argentina

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART FOR ARGENTINA

Departure for your overnight flight to Argentina.

DAY 2: ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES (CITY TOUR)

Arrival at Buenos Aires airport and meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. After, begin your city tour with a visit of the symbol of the city, the Obelisk monument built in 1936 in commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the city. Enjoy the Spanish-inspired squares such as: Plaza de Mayo, Plaza San Martin, and Plaza Congreso. Visit the historic neighborhoods like San Telmo and La Boca and Lezama and Tres de Febrero Parks. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 3: BUENOS AIRES / FLORES (THE EARLY LIFE OF POPE FRANCIS)

After breakfast, onto Flores, the birthplace of Pope Francis. Continue to Our Lady of Mercy Church where he was baptized, and the adjoining school, St. Joseph's, where he received his first communion and attended primary school. Celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel for Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: BUENOS AIRES / SANTA SUSANA (SAN NICOLAS OF ROSARIO)

Today we head to the city of Rosario. Visit San Nicolas, a famous Marian site. Here an ordinary

housewife, who had neither formal education nor knowledge of the Bible or theology, was visited by the Blessed Mother daily for over 6 years. She also received 68 messages from Jesus Christ. Numerous healings have been documented at this site. A guided tour of the site and partake in the celebration of Mass. After dinner, return to Buenos Aires. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: BUENOS AIRES (THE THEOLOGIAN YEARS)

After breakfast, we head to Maximo of San Miguel College where Pope Francis studied and later taught philosophy and theology. As a rector, he sheltered those who were "on the run" from the military dictatorship. We make our way to the Seminary Chapel, also the former living quarters of Pope Francis. Meet Mario, a Jesuit Brother and close friend of Pope Francis. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: BUENOS AIRES / TIGRE (PARANA DELTA BY WATER)

Following breakfast, enjoy a boat ride up north to visit San Isidro Cathedral, built in 1706 by French architects, and opened by the city founder, Captain Domingo de Acassuso. Return to your hotel in time for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: BUENOS AIRES (THE EARLY LIFE OF A CARDINAL)

Travel to the Church of the Immigrant. Stop in the slums where Pope Francis worked and sought social justice for the poor. Upon arriving at the Church, we visit Father Juan, former secretary to Pope Francis giving us insight into the social programs implemented by the Holy Father while he was a Cardinal in Buenos Aires. Retrace his journey on the city's public transport system, where he regularly held Mass and Blessings. Attend Mass for the poor at Constituyentes Train Station. Return for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: BUENOS AIRES / COLONIA (DAY TRIP TO URUGUAY)

Cruise over the River Plate to the historic town of Colonia, founded in 1680 and a World Heritage Site and a UNESCO's protected property. Colonia is the only Portuguese settlement along the Rio de la Plata. View its most historical sites including Calle de los Suspiros "Street of the sighs" with the historical city gate and walls and the ancient Church of the Sacred Saint, the oldest church in Uruguay. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Buenos Aires – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily at hotel or local restaurants
- Lunch daily except upon arrival and departure
- Tango Lessons
- Boat ride to Tigre Delta and to Colonia (Uruguay)
- 9 Day of sightseeing tours
- Mass and spiritual activities daily
- Gratuities for hotel and restaurant staff
- Wireless headsets where needed
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group

** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 9: BUENOS AIRES / LUJAN (THE FOLLOWING OF CARDINAL BERGOGLIO)

Today visit Lujan Cathedral, built in honor of the Virgin of Lujan, the patron saint of Argentina. Six million pilgrims traveled there each year to be blessed by Pope Francis. Also visit and dine with the Benedictine monks of the Cono-Sur Congregation who reside at Abadia de San Benito on the outer skirts of Lujan. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: BUENOS AIRES (LIFE BEFORE A HOLY FATHER)

Today visit the life of Cardinal Bergoglio before his elevation to Pope Francis. Visit the City Cathedral where he celebrated Mass and lived nearby. It is here that Pope Francis described his outreach: "Instead of being a Church that welcomes and receives, we try to be a Church that comes out of itself and goes to the men and women." Afterwards, visit the Casa Rosada, the executive mansion and office of the President of Argentina. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: USA

Following breakfast depart for the airport for our return flight home. (B)

Shrines of France

13 Days / 11 Nights, Paris, Lisieux (St. Therese, the Little Flower), Poitiers, Lourdes, Carcassonne, Avignon, Paray-Le-Monial, Nevers (St. Bernadette), Chartres



The Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Lourdes

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to France. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 2: PARIS, FRANCE

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your English speaking Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private air-conditioned motorcoach to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: PARIS

Your private guided tour today features the Arc de Triomphe, Louvre, Champs-Élysées, and the Eiffel Tower. Visit the Basilica of Sacre Coeur on Montmartre Hill. Later explore the architectural wonders of Notre Dame Cathedral, where the relics of the Passion of the Christ can be seen on the first Friday of the month. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: PARIS / LISIEUX (EXCURSION) PARIS

Today we travel to Lisieux and visit Les Buissonnets, the family home of St. Therese. Attend Mass (French only) at the basilica. St. Therese was also known as “The Little Flower” and for her charming autobiography, “The Story of a Soul.” Next, visit St. Peter’s Cathedral, where her family attended Mass, and the Carmelite Convent, where she lived as a nun. Return to Paris in time for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: PARIS

After breakfast enjoy a special visit to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine, where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830. Then, visit the St. Vincent de Paul Shrine, where you can see the reliquary of the saint who has inspired thousands of charities and volunteers. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: PARIS / POITIERS

After breakfast, travel south to the cobblestone city of Poitiers, strategically perched atop a rocky outcrop and surrounded by two rivers. Settled by the Romans and then residence to early Christians, the city is a showcase of historical Romanesque architecture, and is home to the oldest surviving church in France and to the second-oldest university in the country. Enjoy a visit to the 4th-century baptistry of St. John with its ancient frescoes, baptismal fonts, and intricately carved sarcophagi dating from the 5th to the 7th centuries. Poitiers was also the site of two pivotal military battles, making its role in French history significant. It was here in 732 AD that the Franks halted and turned back Muslim expansion into Europe, while in 1356 during the Hundred Years’ War, French forces suffered a major defeat at the hands of skilled English archers. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: POITIERS / LOURDES

Travel to Lourdes, one of the world’s most famous places of pilgrimage. Visit the grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858. Join this evening’s memorable rosary and candlelight procession held every night. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: LOURDES

Start the day attending the international Mass at the Basilica of St. Pius X. Then, join a Local Guide for a walking tour including visits to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and St. Bernadette’s birthplace and family home. You may wish to experience the powerful healing baths or attend the “Blessing of the Sick.” Dinner and overnight. (Candlelight procession & group rosary only occur April-October). (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

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- English speaking Catholic tour guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 11 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 9: LOURDES

Full day at leisure to further explore Lourdes on your own or join an optional excursion to the nearby Pyrenees. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: LOURDES / CARCASSONNE / AVIGNON

First stop is Carcassonne, a medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, continue to Avignon. Enjoy a walk to the Palace of the Popes, residence of the papacy in the 14th century. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: AVIGNON / PARAY-LE-MONIAL / NEVERS

Following morning Mass in the Cathedral of Avignon (French only), travel to Paray-le-Monial, home to the Chapel of the Apparitions and where Jesus revealed his Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Also visit the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Continue to Nevers. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: NEVERS / CHARTRES / PARIS

Visit St. Gildard in Nevers, where St. Bernadette spent her life as a nun. See the beautiful and miraculously incorrupt body of St. Bernadette. Continue to Chartres and visit the Cathedral, a masterpiece of gothic architecture, one of Europe’s most celebrated shrines, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Paris for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: HOME

After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

Amsterdam, Belgium, Germany & Switzerland

12 Days / 10 Nights, Amsterdam (Our Lady of All Nations), Echt, Maastricht, Beauraing (Shrine of Our Lady of Beauraing), Banneux (Our Lady of Banneux), Gent, Bruges, Brussels, Aachen, Kevelaer (Our Lady of Kevelaer), Cologne, Trier, Strasbourg, Lucerne, Einsiedeln (Our Lady of Einsiedeln), Interlaken, Berne & Geneva



Cologne Cathedral at dusk, Germany

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart USA for your overnight flight to Amsterdam. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 2: AMSTERDAM

Upon arrival in Amsterdam, you will meet your Homeric Tours representative and check-in to your hotel. Enjoy a city tour of Amsterdam with a visit to Ann Frank's house. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: AMSTERDAM / ECHT / MAASTRICHT

Visit the chapel of The Lady of All Nations where Ida Peerdeman received many messages from Mary, beginning in 1945. After Mass visit her grave. Also visit the Reginenhof Catholic Church, where the Miracle of 1345 known as the Amsterdam Miracle is remembered. Continue to the Convent of Edith Stein and view the memorial dedicated to her before attending Mass. Then onto Maastricht for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: MAASTRICHT / BEAURAING / BANNEUX / GENT / BRUGES

Depart for Belgium. Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Beauraing where in 1932, the Blessed Mother appeared to a group of young children, 33 apparitions in all. Continue to Gent, famous for the painting "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb." On to Bruges to view Michelangelo's masterpiece Madonna and Child in the Cathedral of Our Lady, and the Chapel of the Holy Blood. (B,D)

DAY 5: BRUGES / BRUSSELS / BRUGES

Today visit the capital of Belgium and the European Community. We will visit St. Michael Cathedral and the Grand Palace, the law courts (Palace of Justice), the Arch of inquantenaire, and the famous bronze statue, "Manneke-Pis." Afternoon at leisure. (B,D)

DAY 6: BRUGES / BANNEUX / AACHEN

Depart for Banneux, Notre Dame. Visit Our Lady of Banneux. In 1933 the Blessed Mother appeared to a poor twelve year old girl Mariette Boco and called herself "the Virgin of the poor," telling her she came for all nations, for all the sick, and to relieve the ill and the suffering. Our Lady of Banneux was authorized with the approval of the Holy See in 1942. Continue to the village of Aachen, which holds the Aachen Cathedral and the Gothic Marian Shrine housing the swaddling clothes of Jesus, the loin cloth of the Lord, the cloth for John the Baptist's head and the Blessed Virgin's Cloak. Celebrate Mass in the Cathedral and view the 14th century statue of the Virgin that is venerated as miraculous. (B,D)

DAY 7: AACHEN / KEVELAER / COLOGNE

Continue our journey to "Our Lady of Kevelaer," recognized as one of the major Marian shrines in Central Europe. Afternoon visit to Cologne. Its importance as a center of pilgrimage grew after its acquisition, in 1194, of the relics of the Three Magi, the wise men that brought gifts to the infant Jesus. The relics remain in the Gothic Cathedral; the Kölner Dom. Visit the Cologne Cathedral. After celebrating Mass, tour the city. (B,D)

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- 10 Nights of hotel accommodation
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DAY 8: COLOGNE / TRIER / STRASBOURG

Drive along the Rhine River to Trier and visit the Relics of this period that includes Constantine's Basilica, the Kaiserthermen (the Imperial baths) and the Porta Nigra, a gateway built from colossal blocks of stone. Continue to Strasbourg for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: STRASBOURG / LUCERNE

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral built in 1439, soaring above the city and the 16th century astronomical clock. Take in Switzerland's beautiful scenery while traveling its remarkable villages to Lucerne. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: LUCERNE / EINSIEDELN / INTERLAKEN

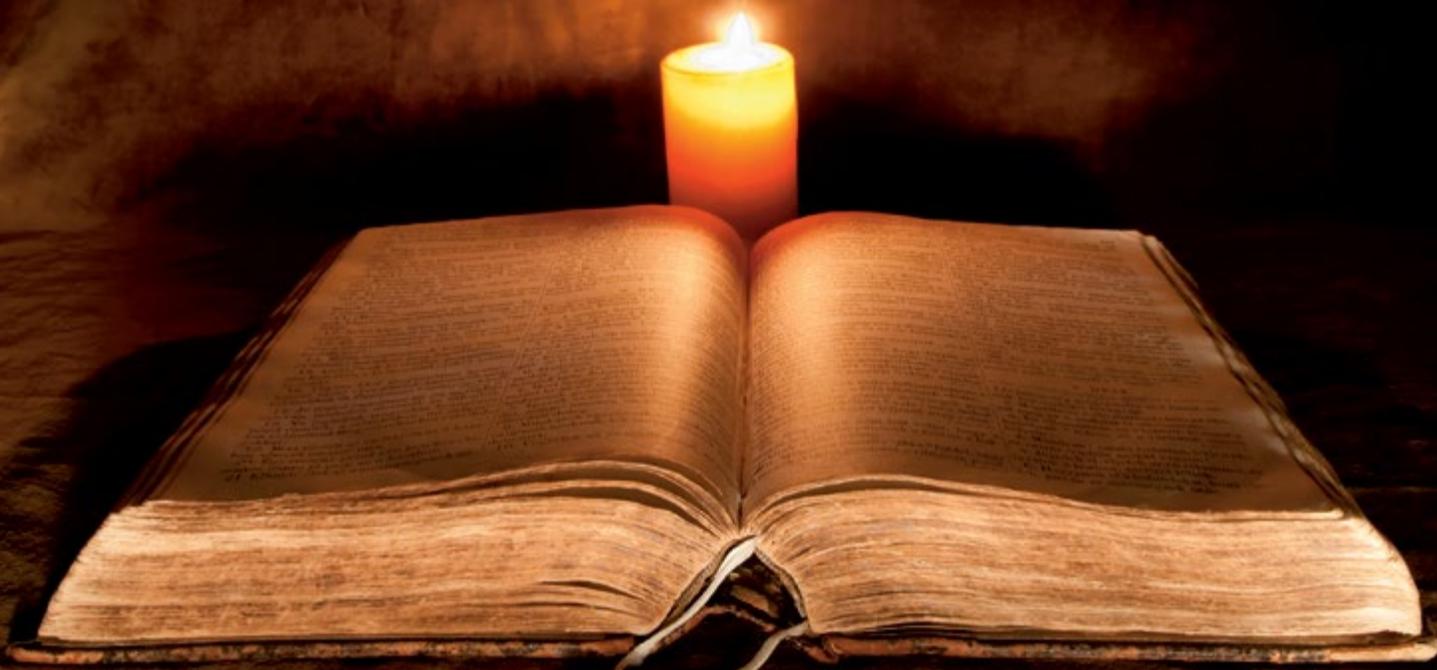
Depart Lucerne along the scenic Lake Lucerne and Lake Zug to Our Lady of Einsiedeln. Celebrate Mass at the Monastery of Einsiedeln. Continued to Interlaken, overlooked by the Jungfrau Mountain. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: INTERLAKEN / BERNE / GENEVA

After breakfast check out of your hotel and depart to Berne to explore on your own. In the afternoon continue to Geneva. Farewell dinner and overnight Geneva. (B,D)

DAY 12: GENEVA / USA

This morning time to bid farewell to Switzerland. Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



Introduction To Protestantism and Homeric Tours' Faith Tours

Protestant includes the following denominations: Assemblies of God, Anglican/Episcopalian (not always reckoned as Protestant), Baptist, Church of God, Church of the Nazarene, Churches of Christ, Congregationalist, Calvinist, Holiness, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Reformed, Seventh-day Adventist, Quaker, "Evangelicals," non-Denominational Protestants, and other Protestants. Estimates of total Protestant population vary from 800 million to 1 billion on account of the rapid growth and inability to ascertain accurately in environments of persecution.

The challenge for all Protestants is to reflect on their shared history within the church founded by Christ himself, who remains its head (Ephesians 4:15-16) and find new ways of relating to the rest of Christendom. Particularly in the last 30 years or so, the growth of the ecumenical movement has led to new ways by which Christians of all denominations can engage in dialogue and work together in proclaiming the gospel.

What is 'Protestantism'?

The word 'Protestant' derives from the protests made by German princes at the Second Diet of Speyer in 1529. The Diet voted to end the toleration of those who followed the teachings of Martin Luther within Germany, which had previously been granted at the first Diet in 1526. The core of Protestant teaching lies within the Five Soli (Latin: 'Alone'), which lie at the heart of Protestant theology. Essentially, Protestantism is characterized by emphasis on the Bible as the sole source of infallible truth and the doctrine

of salvation by grace through faith alone. In addition, Protestants have traditionally encouraged private interpretation of the Bible by individuals rather than relying on the interpretation of the church (as is the case, for example in Roman Catholicism with its *Magisterium*, or teaching authority). As a result of differing interpretations, various groups have emerged such as Baptists, Lutherans and Methodists, each holding their own distinctive doctrines.

The Protestant Historian Philip Schaff in the *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* offered this summary of Protestant beliefs:

"The Protestant goes directly to the Word of God for instruction, and to the throne of grace in his devotions; whilst the pious Roman Catholic consults the teaching of his church... From this general principle of Evangelical freedom, and direct individual relationship of the believer to Christ, proceed the three fundamental doctrines of Protestantism - the absolute supremacy of (1) the Word, and of (2) the grace of Christ, and (3) the general priesthood of believers..." - Philip Schaff

NOTE: The term *Evangelical* (from the Greek "evangelion": 'Good news') is often used as a synonym for 'Protestant'. More accurately, it might be described as a movement within Protestantism emphasizing evangelistic outreach and commitment to social change. However it can also be used for anyone with a desire to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, irrespective of denomination.

Biblical and Baptist Heritage Sites

13 Days / 11 Nights, *Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Phillipi, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Taghba, Mt. of Beatitudes, Nazareth (Baptist School), Ajloun (Baptist Center), Umm Qays, Jerash, Mt. Nebo, Wadi Mujib, Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Tabernacle, Masada, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea, Qumran, Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Gallicantu, Garden Tomb, Via Dolorosa, Pool of Bethesda, Church of Holy Sepulchre, Temple Mount, Old City, Baptist Village*



Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2: TEL AVIV

Welcome to Israel! After passport control and baggage claim, your Homeric Tours representative will direct you to your motorcoach for the short drive to your hotel. (D)

DAY 3: CAESAREA / MT. CARMEL / MEGIDDO / CAESAREA PHILLIPI / SEA OF GALILEE

After breakfast depart for Caesarea Maritima to see the ruins of the city and imagine Paul, in chains, making his defense before Agrippa and Festus. Continue our drive to Mt. Carmel, the site of the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal...and enjoy the view over the Valley of Jezreel. We drive north to Caesarea Philippi, the place Jesus asked his disciples the very pointed question: "Who do you say that I am?" Tel Dan, with its splendid ruins, is our last stop before heading to our hotel on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight Tiberias. (B,D)

DAY 4: CAPERNAUM / TAGHBA / MT. OF BEATITUDES / SEA OF GALILEE

Morning coastal drive to Capernaum to examine the ruins of Peter's house and the synagogue where Jesus and the disciples would have gathered upon arrival into Tabgha, with the Mount of Beatitudes nearby, we see the church mosaics celebrating the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Gideon's spring is our next visit before returning to the Sea of Galilee for an afternoon boat ride. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias. (B,D)

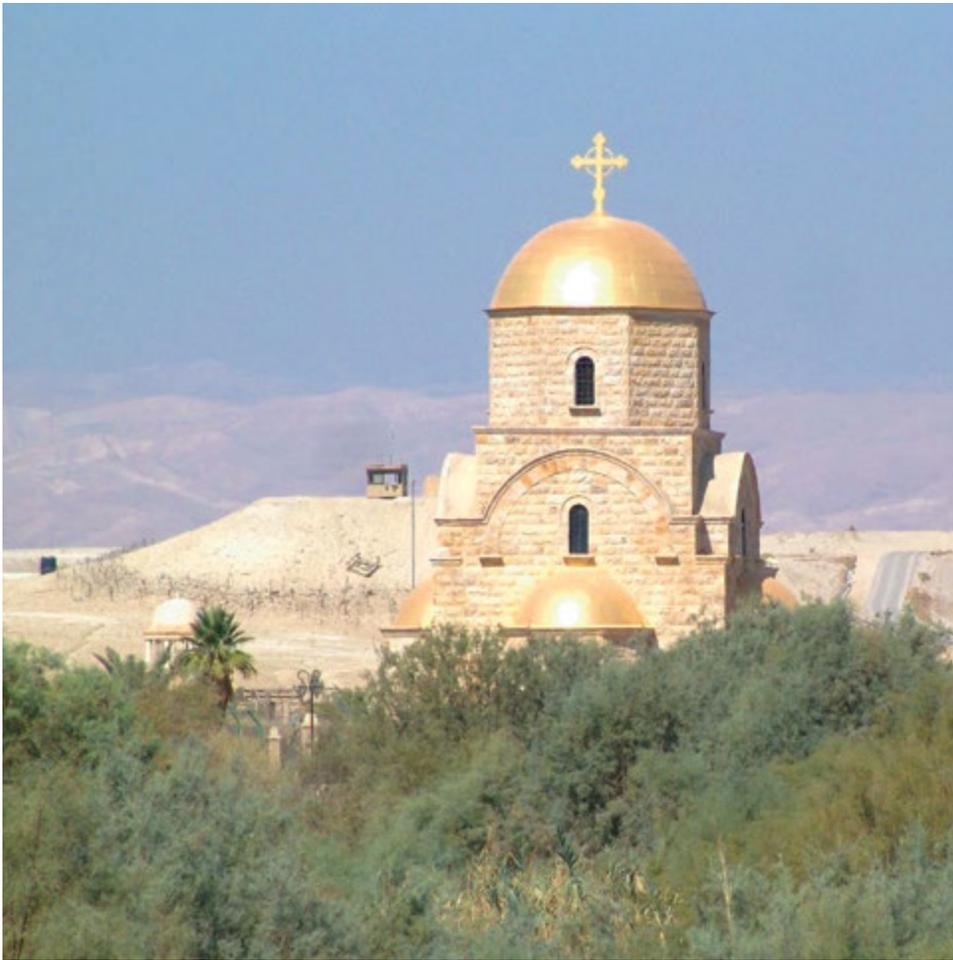
DAY 5: NAZARETH (BAPTIST SCHOOL) / CROSS TO JORDAN / AJLOUN (BAPTIST CENTER)

Nazareth Baptist School, considered one of the finest primary and secondary schools in Israel, is our first stop today. Hear about the history and vision of this outstanding institution established by Baptists many years ago in our Lord's hometown. We then make our way to Nazareth Village, a recreation of a first-century village. Lunch on site—a meal much like the inhabitants of Nazareth in the 1st century. Then cross over into Jordan to Ajloun Baptist Center for dinner and a time of

worship and an opportunity to hear a brief history of this important place in Baptist history. Overnight at the Ajloun Baptist Center. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: UMM QAYS / JERASH

Umm Qays, our first destination, is the old Decapolis city of Gadara, where Jesus encountered the demonic living in the tombs. From here overlook the Sea of Galilee in Israel, Mt. Hermon in Lebanon, and the Golan Heights of Syria. Next stop is Jerash, another city of Decapolis. The spectacular Roman ruins comprise one of the best-preserved provincial cities in the world. Hidden for centuries, and only recently excavated, this "Rome away from Rome" with its temples and colonnades is an awe-inspiring site. Dinner and overnight at the Ajloun Baptist Center. (B,D)



TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

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- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Christian guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4, 5 star hotels
- 11 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Two lunches
- 10 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
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DAY 7: BAPTISMAL SITE / MT. NEBO / KING'S HIGHWAY / WADI MUJIB

Morning stop to the Jabbok River to remember the meeting of Jacob and Esau after their long estrangement. We take the road that Gideon followed as he chased the Amorites. Passing along the modern city of Amman—and the ancient home of the Ammonites—continue to Mt. Nebo, and view as Moses did when he looked across the valley to the Promised Land. Continue to Umm ar-Rassas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the ancient St. Stephen's Church holds magnificent mosaics. Drive along the ancient King's Highway, pass through the ancient lands of Moab, the land that Ruth, great-grandmother of David and ancestor of our Lord, forsook. We stop at Wadi Mujib to view the border between Moab and Edom. After dinner, we will hear from the workers at the Wadi Musa Baptist Clinic. Overnight in Petra. (B,D)

DAY 8: PETRA / WADI RUM

Morning visit to Petra, the Rose-red city, one of the modern 7 Wonders of the World, never fails to amaze. Afterwards, we drive to Wadi Rum for an excursion in the open bed of a 4-wheel drive truck. T.E. Lawrence, who spent many months here prior to the Arab Revolt, called the place "vast, echoing and god-like." Dinner and overnight accommodations in Aqaba. (B,D)

DAY 9: AQABA / TABERNACLE / MASADA / EIN GEDI / DEAD SEA / QUMRAN / JERUSALEM

After a morning swim (weather permitting) in the Red Sea, we cross the border to Eilat, Israel to visit the scale replica of the Old Testament tabernacle. Continue north to Ein Gedi to sample the water. Continue to Masada. We make our way to Wadi Qilt, the setting for Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. Finally, atop Mt. Scopus, we gain our view of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 10: MT. OF OLIVES / GETHSEMANE / BETHLEHEM / GALLICANTU / GARDEN TOMB

Start our day at the Jerusalem Prayer Center, a site operated by Baptist representatives in Israel, where we will gain a perspective of 100 years of Baptist history in the Holy Land. Time for personal reflection. Then we head to the Mount of Olives to visit the Pater Noster. We make our way to Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. The Church of Gallicantu, built on the site where Jesus was interrogated by Caiaphas, and where Peter denied our Lord is our next stop. From there Bethlehem is only a few miles away and we will visit the Herodium, Herod's grand fortress, and Shepherds' Field before going to the Church of the Annunciation. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 11: VIA DOLOROSA / POOL OF BETHESDA / CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHRE

After breakfast follow the Via Dolorosa, including the Church of St. Anne's and the Pool of Bethesda, reaching the Church of the Sepulchre. Free time to shop and have lunch in the old city before making our way out of Damascus Gate to the Garden Tomb where we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: TEMPLE MOUNT / OLD CITY / BAPTIST VILLAGE / FAREWELL DINNER

After breakfast visit then to the Western Wall and climb the stairs to the Temple Mount to see the Al Aqsa mosque, built over the ruins of the Jewish temple. Explore the various quarters of the Old City before driving to Baptist Village in Petah Tikvah for an examination of this significant site. After a farewell dinner, we transfer to the airport for our late departure. Overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 13: USA

Today we return home from our flight. (B)

Israel: Heart of the Protestant Faith

10 Days / 8 Nights, Etanya, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Masada, Ein Gedi, Qumran, Mt. of Olives, Upper Room, Via Dolorosa, Garden Tomb, Bethlehem, Shepherd Field



The Old City of Jerusalem, Israel

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA

Depart USA for your overnight flight. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 2: NETANYA

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel in Netanya. Welcome dinner at hotel. (D)

DAY 3: NETANYA / SEA OF GALILEE

Today our tour of Caesarea includes the Theatre, Herod's Palace, the hippodrome and port, and the aqueducts. Continue to Mt. Carmel to visit Muhraqa where Elijah encountered the false prophets of Baal. Visit the Monastery to view the encounter site between the God of Israel and Baal. Onto Tel Megiddo overlooking the plains of Armageddon referred to in (Rev 16:15). Continue to Nazareth to visit the church of the Annunciation and the Archaeological site. Proceed to the Sea of Galilee through Cana of Galilee. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: SEA OF GALILEE

Begin with visiting Mt. of Beatitudes and continue to Capernaum before our visit of Tabgha including the Church of the multiplication of fish and loaves and the Primacy of Peter. After lunch, enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. End the day at the River Jordan for renewal of Baptismal Vows. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: SEA OF GALILEE / JERUSALEM

See the Tel Beit Shean where the bodies of king Saul and his children were hung (1 Samuel Ch. 28 – 31). Continue to Ein Harod, passing Mt Gilboa (2 Samuel Ch. 1 – David lamentation over the Gilboa). Visit Ein Harod, where Gideon would have taken his 10,000 men to drink and selecting 300 of them to fight the Midianites (Jud 7). Visit Tel Jericho, the first city to be captured by Joshua as part of his conquest of the Land and ascend to Jerusalem passing the Good Samaritan Inn. Stop at Mt. Scopus for a welcome ceremony into the city – dating back to the time of Abraham. Dinner at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: JERUSALEM

Visit the Wailing Wall, followed by the Temple Mount. Visit the pools of Bethesda (John Ch. 5) and sing at the Church of St. Anne's. At the Western Wall Excavations, we walk where Jesus walked and stand by the entrance of the Temple where Peter did his sermon after Pentecost. Visit the Israeli museum to view the Dead Sea scrolls and see the ancient city of Jerusalem also finish with a visit to Yad Vashem Memorials. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 7: DEAD SEA / MASADA / EIN GEDI / QUMRAN / JERUSALEM

Depart for Masada, built by Herod and the Zealots last stand. Onto Ein Gedi where King Saul's life

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was spared by David – Look out over the Oasis (time for sharing – psalm 142 – the prayer of David from a cave). Next we visit Qumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Time to swim in the Dead Sea. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: MT. OF OLIVES / UPPER ROOM / VIA DOLOROSA / GARDEN TOMB

Take in the view from the Mt. of Olives, a walk along Palm Sunday road and stop at Dominus Flevit to view the Jewish cemetery and the Eastern gate known as the Thrones of Judgment (Psalm 122). Continue to the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Upper Room and David's tomb, as well as St. Peter in Gallicantu "Caiaphas Palace." Enter the Old City of Jerusalem and walk the Via Dolorosa to the Garden Tomb. Optional communion service. Return to your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 9: BETHLEHEM / SHEPHERD FIELD / JERUSALEM

Visit to Shepherd Field followed by a visit of the Church of the nativity. Free afternoon – go back to explore your favorite locations, perhaps visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre the historical traditional site of Jesus' Tomb. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Presbyterian Heritage Tour

8 Days / 6 Nights, Scotland, Wales, and England including Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Mull, Perth, Edinburgh, Bath, Stonehenge

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART THE USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Glasgow.

DAY 2: GLASGOW

Welcome to Scotland. After custom control you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: GLASGOW / LOCH LOMOND / OBAN

After breakfast we visit St. Mungo's Cathedral, the most complete survivor of the great Gothic churches of south Scotland and now the Parish Church of Glasgow. Then we take a scenic drive northwards along the shores of romantic Loch Lomond to Tarbet. After, we ride along the shores of Loch Fyne to Inverary where we stop to visit the Castle, the seat of the Campbell Clan. Continue to the seaport of Oban, the leading resort on the West Highland coast, dominated by McCaig's Folly, a curious circular building erected by a local 19th century banker, an unfinished replica of Rome's Coliseum. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: OBAN / ISLE OF MULL / ISLE OF IONA

After breakfast, we transfer by ferry to the little Island of Mull which is one of the richest of the Scottish islands. We drive north to the pretty village of Tobermory with its attractive houses and then on to Dervaig where we visit the Old Byre Heritage Centre. Continue for another short crossing to the holy island of Iona. This mystical island has inspired people since St. Columba landed here in 536 AD. Iona was an early centre of the Celtic Church and St. Columba and his disciples landed here from Ireland and founded the famous monastery, which became a key centre for the spread of Christianity throughout the northern part of Britain. We will visit the Abbey. Some time at leisure then return to Mull for our dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: MULL / PERTH / EDINBURGH

A morning ferry takes us back to the mainland and Oban. We depart for Perth along the northern edge of Loch Awe, through Glen Lochy and Glen Dochart to Lochearnhead, along the scenic road past Loch Earn and through the small town of Crieff. Upon arrival into the historic city of Perth on the River Tay, we see St. John's where Knox preached and unleashed the storm of the Reformation. In Balhousie Castle, we visit the Black Watch Museum with its treasure of the 52nd/73rd Highland Regiments and two and a half centuries of British Military History. Continue to Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. Dinner and overnight Edinburgh. (B,D)

DAY 6: EDINBURGH

Our morning city tour of Edinburgh will show us the Scott Monument, Princes Street, prestigious Edinburgh University, Greyfriars and the Mound.

A highlight will be a visit to Impressive Edinburgh Castle which towers over the city and dominates the skyline; we drive along the Royal Mile to visit St. Giles Cathedral with its Thistle Chapel, from whose pulpit Knox spent most of his Reformation years preaching boldly and fervently. Visit John Knox House and the Palace of Holyrood. The afternoon is at leisure for independent activities. Overnight Edinburgh. (B,D)

DAY 7: EDINBURGH / HADDINGTON / ST. ANDREWS / EDINBURGH

After breakfast, we visit Haddington, where John Knox was born and raised. View the gardens of Haddington House (the House itself is not open to the public). Then drive out to St. Andrews, home of golf and named after Scotland's Patron Saint. See Holy Trinity Church, St. Mary's College and the University Chapel, and visit the Cathedral ruins, which date back to 1160. It was in St. Andrews that the Scottish Protestant reformer George Wishart was executed for heresy in 1546, after which John Knox preached in the castle and parish church. Return to Edinburgh via Hopetoun House, Scotland's greatest mansion to see historical works of art, fascinating documents and costumes. Overnight Edinburgh. (B,D)

DAY 8: EDINBURGH / USA

This morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight home. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION 7 DAYS

DAY 8: EDINBURGH / LAKE DISTRICT / CHESTER

This morning we drive to Gretna Green to cross the border into England. Take a tour of the Lake District National Park, which will take us through the village of Grasmere to the town of Ambleside and Lake Windermere, the largest lake in the area. On to the old city of Chester to see the medieval walls that completely enclose the city, numerous timber-framed old houses, 13th century Cathedral and St. John's an impressive Norman Church. Dinner and overnight Chester. (B,D)

DAY 9: CHESTER / WALES / CHESTER

After breakfast, cross the border into Wales to visit the Caernarfon Castle. We continue to Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway which we board for a ride through the breathtaking scenery of Snowdonia National Park. We return to Chester for the evening. Dinner and Overnight Chester. (B,D)

DAY 10: COVENTRY / BLENHEIM / OXFORD / BRISTOL

After breakfast, we drive to Coventry to visit the modern Cathedral built beside the ruins of the earlier Gothic one. We continue to Woodstock to tour Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Time permitting, we visit one of the many colleges in Oxford. We then drive to Bristol, linked with the colonization of America. Dinner and overnight Bristol. (B,D)

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- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Christian guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- Choice of 7 or 13 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 5 Days sightseeing tours / extension: 10 Days touring
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

*The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.
* Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 11: BRISTOL / BATH / STONEHENGE / SALISBURY / LONDON

This morning we visit Bath, one of Britain's best preserved Georgian towns. View the famous Roman Baths and its impressive architecture. Continue to Stonehenge to visit the collection of ancient monoliths placed there nearly 2000 years before the birth of Christ and which were once used to calculate the eclipses and equinoxes. We proceed to the market town of Salisbury to visit its Cathedral, which has the tallest spire in England and visible from miles around. Dinner and overnight in London. (B,D)

DAY 12: LONDON

A full day of sightseeing today! We will view Mayfair, Piccadilly, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guard ceremony (if held), Hyde Park and Marble Arch. A highlight is a visit to impressive Westminster Abbey. This afternoon we drive into the City of London to visit St. Paul's Cathedral, a masterpiece designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and the sinister Tower of London. The Tower has been both a Royal Palace and a prison over the years, and its Beefeaters in their traditional Tudor uniforms are instantly recognizable. Overnight London. (B,D)

DAY 13: LONDON

After breakfast enjoy a day at leisure to possibly explore the city, visit the National Gallery or shop at Harrows. Overnight London. (B,D)

DAY 14: LONDON / USA

Transfer this morning to the airport for our return flight home. (B)

Germany: Reformation Tour

12 Days / 10 Nights, Berlin, Wittenberg, Dresden, Leipzig, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Coburg, Nuremberg, Rothenburg, Augsburg, Munich, Neuschwanstein, Oberammergau, Heidelberg, Worms, Mainz, Rudesheim



Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany

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- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 10 Nights of hotel accommodation
- 10 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Portage of one suitcase per person
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DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for Germany for your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2: BERLIN

Upon arrival you will meet your Homeric Tours representative and enroute to your hotel enjoy a city tour including the now unified Berlin and capital of Germany. Rest of the day at leisure. Visit Kurfurstdam with its outdoor cafes and bustling nightlife. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: BERLIN

After breakfast depart for a full day sightseeing tour including the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, visit the Pergamon Museum, Berlin Cathedral, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, The Soviet Victory monument, check point Charlie and Alexander Platz and the Bonhoeffer House. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: WITTENBERG / DRESDEN

We depart after breakfast to East Germany to Luther's city, Wittenberg. Visit Luther's House, Melancthon House and the Castle Church where Luther and Melancthon lie buried in the town church with its Lucas Cranach Altar. Next a tour of Dresden includes the Zwinger Courts and the Frauen Kirche. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: DRESDEN / LEIPZIG / EISLEBEN / ERFURT

Following breakfast we depart for Leipzig with visits to St. Nicholas Church, Lutzen King, Gustavus Adolphus. Continue to Eisleben, Luther's birthplace. Travel to Erfurt for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: ERFURT / EISENACH

Continue our tour after breakfast to Erfurt to visit the first Cathedral where Luther said his first mass – St. Sens Church, the Tradesmans bridge, the University and the Monastery. Continue to Eisenach to visit Luther's house, Bach's house and St. Georges Church. Visit Wartburg, where Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German. Dinner and overnight in Eisenach. (B,D)

DAY 7: COBURG / NUREMBERG / ROTHENBURG

After breakfast, travel to Coburg, where Luther stayed in 1530 for the Imperial Diet of Augsburg. Visit the fascinating Coburg Fortress, one of the largest surviving medieval fortresses in Germany. Continue to Nuremberg and visit Albert Durer's house. Drive to Rothenburg for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: ROTHENBURG / AUGSBURG / MUNICH

After breakfast, take a tour of Rothenburg. Visit St. Jacob's Church, the Last Supper carved in wood, the Town hall and the Christmas store. Continue to Augsburg to visit the site of the Augsburg Confession and St. Anne's Church. Finally we travel to Munich for dinner at the Hofbrauhaus with folklore entertainment. Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: MUNICH / NEUSCHWANSTEIN / OBERAMMERGAU

We begin our tour of Bavaria after breakfast with a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle. We continue to Oberammergau, the site of the world famous Passion Play, before returning back to Munich to visit the Gothic Town Hall, Marienplatz, Karstorgate and our Lady's Cathedral. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: HEIDELBERG / WORMS / MAINZ / RUDESHEIM

We take a morning drive after breakfast to the Medieval City of Heidelberg to visit the famous Stone bridge the Castle, and the Church of the Holy Ghost. We then depart for Worms, the site of Luther's trial for heresy. We will visit the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity and Luther's Monument. Continue to Mainz-Rudesheim for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: MAINZ / RUDESHEIM (RHINE DAY CRUISE)

Enjoy breakfast and then take a tour of Mainz to visit the museum with one of 47 existing copies of the Guttenberg Bible. Explore the Rhine's Romanesque Cathedrals before boarding your Rhine cruise and cruise past Lorelei, castles, barges and pleasure boats. Farewell dinner and overnight in Mainz. (B,D)

DAY 12: MAINZ / USA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

England: Methodist Heritage Tour

10 Days / 8 Nights, London, Salisbury, Stonehenge, Bath, Bristol, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Birmingham, Coventry, Birmingham, Lincoln, Epworth, York, Oxford, Windsor



Old Roman baths, Bath, England

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to London.

DAY 2: LONDON

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours director and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day will be at leisure. (D)

DAY 3: LONDON

After breakfast enjoy a morning tour of London visiting all of the city's major sites. This afternoon we visit John Wesley's Chapel, with its Museum of Methodism in the crypt. His grave can be seen in the Chapel and many personal relics in the Wesley's House. Overnight London. (B,D)

DAY 4: SALISBURY / STONEHENGE / BATH / BRISTOL

This morning we depart for Salisbury to see the magnificent Cathedral with its 404 foot spire and original version of the Magna Carta. Continue to Stonehenge and then to Bath, England's oldest spa built on Roman ruins. We will make a brief stop at Lansdown Hill to see the Kingwood School, founded by John Wesley in 1748, Methodism's oldest school. Overnight Bristol. (B,D)

DAY 5: BRISTOL / STRATFORD UPON-AVON / COVENTRY / BIRMINGHAM

Start the day enjoying a morning sightseeing tour of Bristol. See the oldest Methodist Shrine in England, the New Room, built by John in 1739 to house the Holy Club. Visit Charles Wesley's house, the Portland Chapel built by Captain Thomas Webb (founder of American Methodism), and the small village of Pill. Continue to Stratford-Upon-Avon, William Shakespeare's hometown and Coventry to view the modern Cathedral. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: BIRMINGHAM / LINCOLN / EPWORTH

Today visit Francis Asbury's birthplace and the tiny Asbury Cottage which was his home before he heard John Wesley's call for preachers to go to America. Continue to Lincoln to see the Cathedral, the most beautiful in England which houses John's baptismal record. Overnight in Epworth. (B,D)

DAY 7: EPWORTH / YORK

Enjoy the morning exploring Epworth the home village of the Wesley's brothers, including the Old Rectory (now a major Methodist Center). Visit St. Andrew's Church, where Wesley relics are held. Continue to York for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

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DAY 8: YORK

Visit this fascinating city with its Minster and the Shambles Medieval Street. Afternoon at leisure to visit a museum or shop. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9: OXFORD / WINDSOR / LONDON

A full day to explore more of the Methodist history. Visit Oxford, the birthplace of Methodism, including the Christ Church College. Continue to Windsor and tour the great Castle including the State Apartments, St. George's Chapel, and the Round Tower. Dinner and overnight in London. (B,D)

DAY 10: USA

Transfer to the airport for your flight back home. (B)

Anglican Faith and Heritage Tour

9 Days / 7 Nights, London, Canterbury, Salisbury, Glastonbury, Bath, Bristol, Nottingham, York



Winchester Cathedral, England

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to England.

DAY 2: LONDON

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and private motorcoach. Begin with a panoramic orientation tour of the city of London. Sites include: Southwark Cathedral, Lambeth Palace (home of the Archbishop of Canterbury), Buckingham Palace (time permitting, we stop for the changing of the guard), Old Bailey, St. Paul's Cathedral (visit), Tower of London, and Trafalgar Square. Our day ends as we attend Evensong at Westminster Abbey (if possible). Welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

DAY 3: LONDON

After breakfast, we begin our "Windsor Castle, Hampton Court & River Cruise" tour. Highlights include St. George's Chapel, Windsor River Cruise, Changing of the Guard, a visit to Windsor Castle & Hampton Court State Apartments. Dinner and overnight accommodations at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4: CANTERBURY

After breakfast, we will stop at St. Albans Cathedral, dedicated to the Roman soldier who was beheaded in 209AD for sheltering the priest Amphibalus. Alban is the Proto-martyr of the English church, and the cathedral stands on the site of Alban's martyrdom, dedicated in 1116. Continue to Cambridge University, whose highlight is the 15th century King's College Chapel. Continue to Canterbury via Rochester Cathedral for a brief visit, then to Canterbury, the most important ancient city in all of England. In 560 it became the Kingdom of King Ethelbert and his Queen Berta, who was a Christian. In 597, Pope St. Gregory sent St. Augustine and his missionaries there and were welcomed by the king, who provided them a monastery and a church where Ethelbert was later baptized. Canterbury became the burial place of kings and archbishops. The present cathedral was built in 1070 by Archbishop Lanfranc loyal to Wil-

liam the Conqueror. Canterbury became the center of English pilgrimage after St. Thomas Becket was martyred by the knights of Henry II in 1170. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: SALISBURY

After breakfast attend Prayer at Canterbury Cathedral. Then continue to Leeds Castle built in 857 AD on two islands in a lake and rebuilt by the Normans in 1119. Proceed to Winchester, which was the capital of England from 829 until the Norman Conquest. Visit Winchester Cathedral (the longest medieval church in Europe). Winchester was evangelized by St. Birinus in 634 AD and 40 years later, became an archbishop. Many great English saints are associated with Winchester, namely St. Swithun, St. Ethelwold, and St. Dunstan (Abp. of Canterbury). Our final stop is Salisbury and its great cathedral with its majestically elegant spire (tallest in England). Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6: GLASTONBURY / BATH / BRISTOL

Our first visit today is the site of Old Sarum Cathedral famous for the beautiful "Sarum Rite" that became the ritual for all South England until 1550. Take a short drive to the Salisbury plain to prehistoric Stonehenge. Continue to Glastonbury and the ruins of its abbey. King Arthur and Queen Guinevere are said to be buried here. Another legend holds that St. Joseph of Arimathea planted his staff in the ground which bloomed into a thorn tree which is said to bloom on Christmas Eve. But a French legend connecting St. Joseph of Arimathea to the Holy Grail gave Glastonbury Abbey its great importance. Next we visit Bath, which began as a Roman Spa more than 2000 years ago. We stop for a visit to the Roman Baths, and also Bath Abbey, the last of the great pre-Reformation built in 1499 (built on the foundation of a church dated 676, and later a Norman cathedral). Now a parish church, Bath Abbey is remarkable for its size. We end our day at our hotel in Bristol. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 7: NOTTINGHAM

Today visit Oxford, the "City of Dreaming Spires," and its ten centuries old Oxford University. During the Reformation, Protestant bishops Crammer, Latimer, and Ridley were burned at the stake in Oxford Yard. In the 19th century the Oxford Movement produced such greats as Keble, Pusey, and Newman. Oxford is also home to the smallest cathedral in England. Next is Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare. We pass by ancient timbered buildings as we stop by the Shakespeare home. Our last visit of the day is Coventry Cathedral, which was bombed to smithereens by the Germans in the blitz of 1940, but which rose

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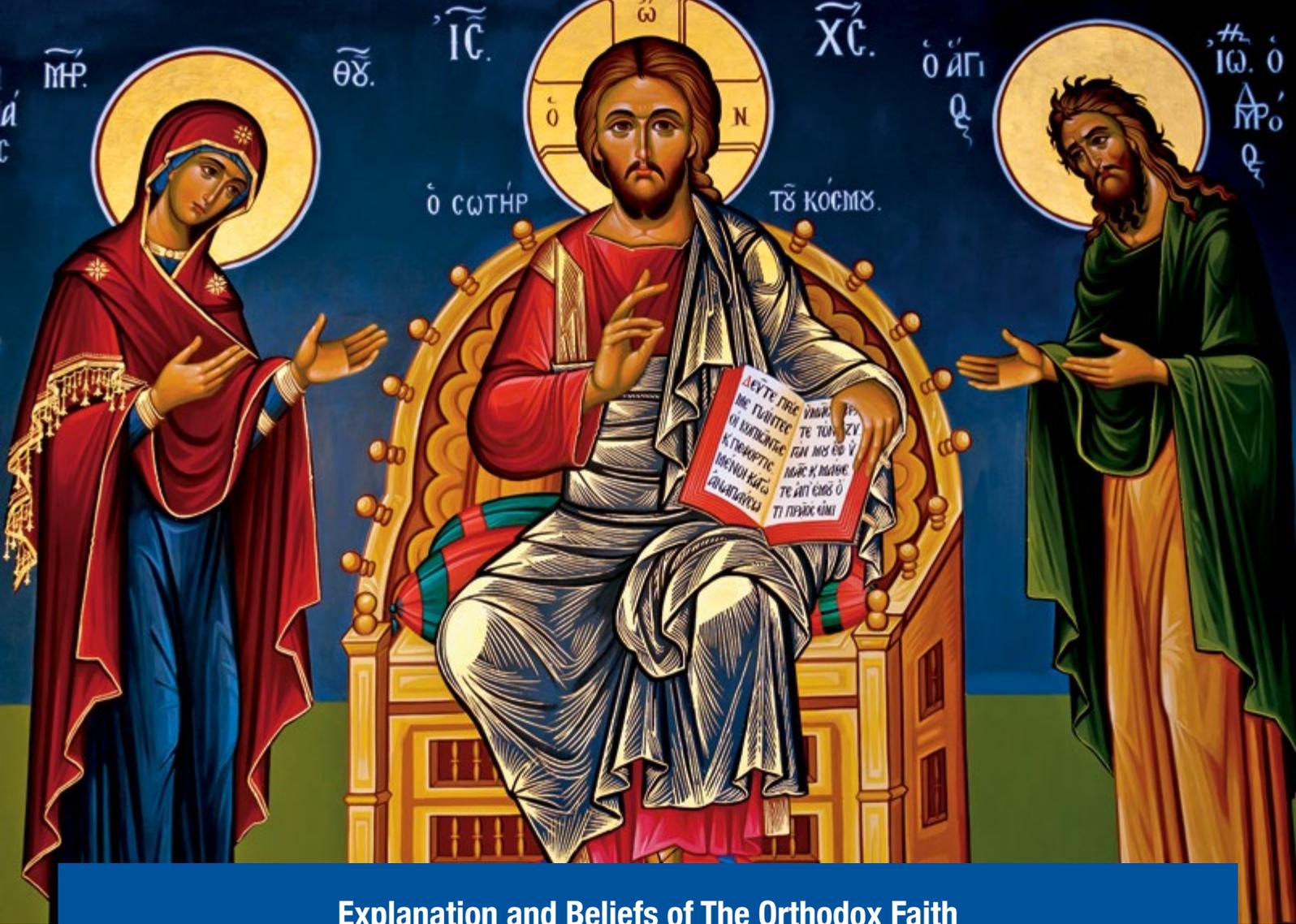
from the ashes with a message of forgiveness. The bombed hulk of the old cathedral joined to the new one. After touring the cathedral we see a short film entitled "The Spirit of Coventry." Continuing north we reach Nottingham, with its fine castle in the heart of "Robin Hood Country." Dinner and overnight in Nottingham. (B,D)

DAY 8: YORK

After breakfast we drive to Lincoln and its magnificent cathedral. The cathedral has been said to be "the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles," and is the 4th most important in England. Composer William Byrd was the organist here from 1563-1572. Also tour Lincoln castle, founded by William the Conqueror. Continue to York, which was a Roman provincial capital called "Eboracum" in AD 71. In 306 Constantine was proclaimed emperor here. In the fifth century it was the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria and was called "Eoforwic." A church has been here since 627 when the city became an early center of Christian learning. The Archbishop of York holds the title "Primate of England" and is the second only to the Archbishop of Canterbury who holds the title "Primate of All England" in the Anglican Church. We tour the massive York Minster, the largest medieval cathedral in England built in 1080. Visit preserved medieval quarter. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 9: USA

An early breakfast then transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)



Explanation and Beliefs of The Orthodox Faith

The Eastern Orthodox Church is the second largest single Christian communion in the world with an estimated 300 million members worldwide. It is considered by its adherents to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church established by Jesus Christ and his Apostles nearly 2000 years ago. The Church is composed of numerous self-governing ecclesial bodies, each geographically and nationally distinct but theologically and sacramentally unified. Each self-governing (or autocephalous) body is shepherded by a Synod of independent bishops whose duty is, among other things, to preserve and teach the Apostolic and patristic traditions and related Church practices. All Orthodox bishops trace their lineage back to one of the twelve Apostles through the process of Apostolic Succession.

Eastern Orthodoxy traces its history back to the Hellenized eastern portion of the Roman Empire, especially Constantinople or New Rome (now Istanbul). It shares the first ecumenical councils, concerning the Trinity and the Nicene Creed, with nearly all other Christians. After the Western Roman Empire fell, East and West slowly grew more separate. Meanwhile, internal schisms and the advance of Islam reduced Eastern Orthodox territory, but the faith spread to the Slavs to the north (including the Russians). Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism split in 1054 over theological issues concerning Western additions to the creed (the filioque clause) as well as the issue of Roman primacy. Later in 1204 Constantinople was sacked by crusaders

enlarging the rift between the two. Reunification was attempted during two councils but they were rejected by the Eastern Orthodox people, being considered “robber councils.” After Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, the Russian Orthodox Church became more powerful.

Efforts are under way to heal the division that since the Council of Chalcedon (451) exists between them and Oriental Orthodoxy in connection with the proper way to speak of the two natures (one human and one divine) of Christ. They use the Nicene Creed as endorsed at the First Council of Constantinople (381), and reject the Western addition to it of “Filioque,” and the many additions used by the Armenian Apostolic Church in the East. They celebrate the same sacraments (called sacred mysteries) as in the other ancient Christian Churches, but have some differences in theology and many differences in practice. They teach the doctrine of theosis (deification), by which Christ makes it possible to partake of the divine, a teaching less prominent in the Western Church. Their Bible is close to that of the Roman Catholic Church: it includes the Deuterocanonical Books, which are generally rejected by Protestants, and a few texts that are not in the Western canon. Eastern Orthodox icons also reflect an ancient opposition to statuary. Most Eastern Orthodox Churches are members of the World Council of Churches, which includes most Protestants, but not Roman Catholics.

Christian Orthodoxy in Turkey with visit to Patmos Island

16 Days / 14 Nights, Istanbul, Antakya, Adana, Cappadocia, Antalya, Pamukkale, (Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, Laodicea), Philadelphia, Aardis, Izmir (Smyrna), Pergamon, Thyatira, Patmos



Ancient city of Perge, Antalya, Turkey

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for our overnight flight this evening. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (B,D)

DAY 2: ISTANBUL / ANTAKYA

Antakya via Istanbul. Meet and Assist and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: ANTAKYA / ADANA

It was in Antioch that followers of 'the Galilean' were first called "Christians." Attend Liturgy at the Orthodox Church, then visit the cave church associated with Apostle Peter and the monastery of St. Simeon Stylites the Younger, Orthodox saint of the 6th century. Visit the Archaeological Museum known for its famous mosaic collection. Onto Adana for dinner and overnight (B,D)

DAY 4: CAPPADOCIA

Morning visit to Cappadocia, also important in Christian history. On the way from Tarsus we stop and visit Esgigumus Monastery, rediscovered in the mid-20th century and boasting some of the best-preserved frescoes in Cappadocia. Continue to the Soganli Valley (visit). Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5: CAPPADOCIA

Visit to Kaymakli, an underground city, and the Goreme open Air Museum, the Pasabagi Valley with the cave hermit dwellings and the churches in Cavusin. Many of the dwellings in this wondrous region were inhabited up until 1920s. The sad events of the early 20th century turned most of the once densely populated cave cities into ghost towns and "open air museums." (B,D)
**Optional hot air balloon early in the morning*

DAY 6: ANTALYA

Morning departure to the Mediterranean Coast via the ancient city of Iconium. Visit the Agzikarahan Caravanserai, built in the 13th century as the safe haven on the major trade route. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Antalya. (B,D)

DAY 7: ANTALYA

Visit two archaeological parks – those of Aspendos and Perge, both important centers during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Aspendos is known for its well-preserved theater and large aqueduct. Perge was visited by Apostle Paul during his journeys. Also visit the Archaeological museum in Antalya. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: PAMUKKALE

This day we will pass under the special patronage of St. Nicholas, as we visit the ancient ruins of Patara, the birthplace of St. Nicholas, and Myra (Demre), the town where he was bishop and where his relics were. Both Patara and Myra are historical centers and were prime cities of the province of Lycia. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

DAY 9: PAMUKKALE (APHRODISIAS / HIERAPOLIS / LAODICEA)

Today depart for the archaeological parks of Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, and Laodicea to visit the sites and Museums. Hierapolis is renowned in antiquity for its natural hot springs. Walk the ancient colonnade and look at the travertines. Climb to the martyrium built over the site where Apostle Phillip was executed. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

DAY 10: PHILADELPHIA / SARDIS / IZMIR, (SMYRNA)

Visit Philadelphia mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Its history dates back to the 2nd century BC. During the Roman and Byzantine period. Next stop, Sardis, an important centre of the Ancient Roman Empire and also mentioned as one of the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. End our day in Izmir (Smyrna), sanctified by the preaching of the Apostles, and the martyred death of Polycarp, the disciple of St. John and the Bishop of the city. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: PERGAMON / THYATIRA / IZMIR

Depart for Pergamon. Mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the site was sanctified by the martyric death of its first Bishop, Antipas. Continue to Thyatira, a smaller archaeological site, but an ancient flourishing city. Apostles Paul and Sila stopped here during their missionary journeys. Thyatira is mentioned as one of the Seven Churches and home to a Christian community. Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

DAY 12: PATMOS

The Island of Patmos is mentioned in the Book of Revelations that is ascribed by the earliest Christian tradition to St. John the Theologian. In the book it's stated that St. John was on the Island of Patmos when he received his revelation. We visit both the

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Cave and the Monastery of St. John. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: EPHEBUS / ISTANBUL (CONSTANTINOPLE)

Full day tour of Ephesus. Two of the Seven Ecumenical Councils recognized by the Orthodox Church were conducted in this city. Visit the Artemision (one of the 7 Wonders of the World), the Museum, Basilica Tomb of St. John, and the House of the Virgin Mary. Later we transfer to the airport for a short flight to Istanbul. (B,D)

DAY 14: ISTANBUL (CONSTANTINOPLE)

We begin our visit with what was once the heart of Eastern Christendom, the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia. Visit our Lady Pammakaristos Church, with its world famous mosaics and frescoes and the ruins of the monastery of St. John the Baptist in Studios. St. Theodore the Studite came from this monastery. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: ISTANBUL

After breakfast we begin our day by visiting the Greek Patriarchate in Phanar district, church of Sergius and Bacchus, known also as "Little Agia Sophia," Church of the Mother of God at Blachernae, and the Spice Market. Your afternoon will be at leisure or an optional Bosphorus Cruise will be offered. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul. (B,D)

DAY 16: USA

After breakfast we transfer by private coach to the airport for our flight home. (B)

Israel's Christian Orthodox Program + Jordan Holy Land & Sinai Extension

9 Days / 7 Nights, 1 night Tel Aviv, 2 Nights Tiberias or Nazareth, 4 nights Jerusalem
Extension Sinai 2 nights 3 days: 1 night Sinai, 1 night Jericho



The Dead Sea, Jordan

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight. Dinner and breakfast served on board.

DAY 2: TEL AVIV

Arrival in Tel Aviv, where our Homeric Tours Christian Orthodox English speaking guide will greet us. Our first stop is "the Church of St George the Dragon Killer" – the burial place of St. George, the Patron Saint of the Holy Land. Onto Tel Aviv for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 3: JAFFA / CAESAREA / HAIFA / TABOR

After breakfast, visit Jaffa including the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Simon the Tanner. Then onto Caesarea, the ancient ruins of the port from which St. Paul sailed from and where St. Peter Baptized the first gentile – Cornelius. Our visit includes the Theatre and Herod's palace and the aqueducts of the city. Continue to Haifa to visit St. Elijah's Monastery where the prophet had taken refuge from King Ahab. Proceed to Mt. Tabor and visit the Mt of the Transfiguration. Continue to Nazareth where Jesus lived for most of his life. Dinner and overnight Nazareth. (B,D)

DAY 4: SEA OF GALILEE / CANA / NAZARETH

Today we take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee to visit the Greek Orthodox Church at Capernaum followed by a visit to the ancient Synagogue where Jesus preached. Continue to Mt. of Beatitudes and then the Church of the Multiplication of Fish and Loaves in Tabgha to see the fabulous Byzantine Mosaic showing the 5 loaves and the 2 fish. On to Cana of Galilee and the Greek Orthodox Church where we see two of the six jars that Jesus used in his very first miracle of turning water into wine for the wedding feast. Here we can renew our wedding vows. Continue to Nazareth – visiting St. Mary's Well and the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. Dinner and overnight Nazareth. (B,D)

DAY 5: JERICHO / BET ARAVA BAPTISMAL SITE / DEAD SEA / JERUSALEM

After breakfast, depart for Jericho stopping at Bet Arava for a visit of the Baptismal site – renewal of Baptismal vows. Onto Jericho, the oldest inhabited city in the world. Visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Zacchaeus with its famous Sycamore tree located in the courtyard of the church. Take the cable car to the top of Mt. of Temptation to visit the Orthodox Monastery. Lunch on your own. On to the Dead Sea to enjoy a swim in the mineral rich waters (be sure to bring your bathing suit). After our swim we ascend to Jerusalem stopping en route at Wadi Qilt to the Greek Orthodox Monastery of St George Koziba. Check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 6: ST. SAVVAS / BETHLEHEM / SHEPHERD'S FIELD (ORTHODOX CHURCH) / EIN KAREM ORTHODOX CHURCH / JERUSALEM

After breakfast, we depart for Bethlehem – en route we stop at the Monastery of the Cross. Continue to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity where Christ was born and Shepherd's Field where the Shepherds heard the "Good News." The men will visit St. Savvas Monastery while the women visit a craft center (Palestinian Heritage Center) and have additional shopping opportunities. We end the day with a visit to the village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist and place of the Visitation, where Mary visited Elizabeth to bring her the good news of Christ's birth. Visits to include the Russian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist and his birth place. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 7: MT. OF OLIVES / MT. ZION

After breakfast, we visit the Greek Orthodox Church at Bethany, marking the place where Jesus met the Sisters at the entrance of the town. Visit Lazarus Tomb and the Greek Orthodox Church built over it. Ascend Mt. of Olives, visiting the Ascension Chapel and Pater Noster where you can read the "Lord's Prayer" in over 150 languages. Walk down the Palm Sunday (Willow) Road stopping at the Church of Mary Magdalene – a beautiful Russian Orthodox Church where you can see part of the original road, which descended the Mt. of Olives 2000 years ago. Visit Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden of Agony and the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin. En route to Mt. Zion we pass St. Stephen Church marking the area where St. Stephen was stoned to death. Lunch is on your own. We then visit Mt. Zion and walk into the Old city seeing the Jewish quarter and Wailing Wall. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Israel – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4, 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 8: VIA DOLOROSA / HOLY SEPULCHER / OLD CITY / JERUSALEM

After breakfast, walk down the Via Dolorosa – The Way of the Suffering – to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is so large that both the Golgotha (the site of the crucifixion) and the Holy Tomb of Christ are located. Later we visit the Patriarch of Jerusalem. This afternoon we take a journey to Nablus where we visit the Greek Orthodox Church at Jacobs Well where Jesus met the Samaritan women. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem. (B,D)

DAY 9: DEPARTURE TO USA OR TAKE AN EXCURSION TO SINAI

EXTENSION

DAY 9: JERUSALEM / SINAI

After breakfast we depart for Taba border along the Egyptian – Israeli borders where we cross into Egypt heading to Mt. Sinai. Afternoon we visit St. Catherine Monastery and the Icon Museum. Check into your hotel. Dinner at hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10: SINAI / JERICHO

Early morning (Optional) – we put on warm clothing and we head to climb Mt. Sinai for a Sunrise view from the top of the Mountain where Moses received the 10 commandments. Return to hotel for breakfast. Depart for Taba border crossing back into Israel and along the Arava wilderness and shores of the Dead Sea passing Masada and Ein Gedi to Jericho for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 11: USA

Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for your journey back home. (B)

Monasteries of Greece

9 Days / 7 Nights, Athens, Corinth, Loutraki, Kalavryta, Nafpaktos, Kalambaka, Meteora, Evia, Prokopi



Church of Agia Lavra, Kalavryta

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Greece.

DAY 2: ATHENS ARRIVAL

Upon arrival in Athens you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight accommodations. (D)

DAY 3: ATHENS (CITY TOUR) / ANCIENT CORINTH / LOUTRAKI

After breakfast at the hotel, we will begin a half-day Athens city tour. Today, we will see such sites as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Royal Palace, Pan-Athenian Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and visit the world famous Acropolis, with its new Museum as well as Monastiraki (the Old Flea Market), and a special visit to Mars Hill, where Paul preached to the Athenians. Depart for Ancient Corinth which in Ancient times, was amongst the richest cities and this is quite evident by its remains, including the huge agora (market place) and Apollo's Temple (6th century B.C.) we will also have a brief stop at the site of the ancient port of Kechreai, where St. Paul disembarked. Continue to Loutraki for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 4: LOUTRAKI / DERVENI / LOUTRAKI

Today we visit the Monastery of Assumption of Panagia the Kyparissiotisa in Derveni, dating back to the 11th century. View the extremely rare Icons of Angels Giil and Gidail, names from the old Testament. The most precious treasure of the monastery is the burial head (Karas) of St. Lerotheou. Continue to Osiolos ('the Blessed') Patapios located high in the Geraneia mountains. The relics of Osiolos Patapios, known for his many miracles, were

originally buried at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Constantinople, but later brought to the Geraneia Mountains and sealed in a cave adorned with 13th century Byzantine wall paintings. Dinner and overnight in Loutraki. (B,D)

DAY 5: KALAVRYTA / NAFPAKTOS

Today we visit Kalavryta and its Mega Spileo & Agia Lavra monasteries. Mega Spileo Monastery was founded in the 4th century by two monks from Thessalonica, and built in a huge cave on Mount Helmos at an altitude of 924 meters. The monastery of Agia Lavra was constructed in the year 961 at an altitude of 961 meters, housing 961 monks. It also houses a precious carved icon screen, frescoes and other valuable relics. Continue to Nafpaktos for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 6: NAFPAKTOS / KALAMBAKA

This morning we visit the monastery of St. Augustine and Seraphim Sarof, built in 1980 and which quickly became known world-wide. Its unique bell tower houses 400 bells and is considered to be one of the largest in the world. We continue our visit to the 11th century Byzantine Monastery of Ossiolos Loukas. The Cathedral is decorated with splendid mosaics, and is architecturally one of the finest Byzantine monuments in Greece. Continue to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B,D)

DAY 7: KALAMBAKA (METEORA)

After breakfast, we then visit the spectacular Meteora, where you will see thousand-year-old Byzantine monasteries perched high on colossal gray and reddish boulders. First built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation, the site now exhibits superb icons, old

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round trip airfare: USA – ATHENS
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- 24-Hour "Emergency" Hotline
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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** Ask about our church donation program*

manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. In the evening, we listen to the Esperino, the Divine Liturgy in one of the monasteries - a lifetime spiritual experience. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka. (B,D)

DAY 8: PROKOPI / ATHENS

The last leg of the tour takes you to the village of Prokopi, where you will visit the church of St. Ioannis Rossos, a soldier captured by Turks and tortured in Prokopi in Asia Minor. After the Greek War of Independence and with the exchange of populations, a Greek ship owner chartered a ship to bring the Greek citizens of Prokopi, Asia Minor to the new Prokopi town in Evia Greece where they also brought the relic of the saint. The saint is known for many miracles. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

DAY 9: USA

Transfer to Athens International Airport for departure flight. (B)

OPTIONAL: 3, 4 or 7 Day cruise available, ask for details.

3 Day	4 Day	7 Day
Athens	Athens	Athens
Mykonos	Mykonos	Istanbul
Ephesus/Patmos	Ephesus/Patmos	Kusadasi
Heraklion/Santorini	Rhodes	Santorini
Athens	Heraklion/Santorini Athens	Crete (Ag. Nicholas) Rhodes/Symi Chios/Mykonos Athens

Orthodox Armenia and Georgia

15 Days / 13 Nights, Yerevan, Garni, Geghard, Areni, Noravank, Goris, Noraduz, Sevan, Lori, Dilijans, Dzoraget, Alaverdi, Georgia, Tbilisi, Stepantsminda, Gergeti, Gudauri, Gori, Uplistsikhe, Kutaisi, Mtskheta, Telavi, Kakheti, Gremi, Signagtela



Haghat Monastery, Armenia

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for our overnight flight to Armenia.

DAY 2: YEREVAN

Upon arrival in Yerevan your Homeric Tours representative will meet you and transfer by private air-condition and motorcoach to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (D)

DAY 3: YEREVAN / GARNI / GEGHARD / YEREVAN

Today we take a short drive to the village of Garni to walk the hills around the temple of Garni. Continue to Geghard monastery (another UNESCO site) to see caves that house monastic cells. Return to Yerevan. Dinner at hotel then stroll the thriving café culture of Yerevan. (B,D)

DAY 4: YEREVAN

Morning visit to the Genocide Memorial dedicated to the massacre of 1.5 million victims in 1915. Visit the Matenadaran, Armenia's ancient manuscripts library and the Yerevan's Synagogue before the short drive to the Holy Site of Echmiadzin and the 7th Century ruins of Zvartnots Cathedral. In the gardens there are many fine khatchkars (carved cross stones) and bell towers. Return to Yerevan for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: YEREVAN / ARENI / NORAVANK / GORIS

Early this morning, we visit the monastery of Khor Virap, one of the holiest sites in Armenia. Visit Areni village and stop at its winery. Continue

to Noravank where the 13th c. monastery is dramatically located in the canyon. Then visit Tatev Monastery, perched on the edge of the Vorotan Canyon. Our final destination of the day is Goris. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: GORIS / NORADUZ / SEVAN

Follow the ancient Silk Road with its well-preserved stone ruins of the 14th Century Selim caravanserai. From here we continue to the top of the pass, before descending to Lake Sevan, brief stop at Noraduz to see the 'forest' of khachkars (cross stones which incorporate both Pagan and Christian symbols). Lunch on the shores of Lake Sevan (on your own). This afternoon, visit Sevanavank monastery. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: SEVAN / LORI / DILIJANS / DZORAGET

Onto Lori - the alpine region of Armenia. Here, nestled on the mountainside lies the 12th Century Haghartsin Monastery. We then visit Dilijan, a small town known for its arts and crafts. On the way to Dzoraget, we pass Molokan villages. Molokans (Milk Drinkers) are a sect of Russian Old Believers who broke away from the Russian Orthodox Church in the 16th Century. (B,D)

DAY 8: DZORAGET / ALAVERDI / GEORGIA / TBILISI

Today we head to Alaverdi to visit Haghat monastery, an impressive UNESCO site. We then cross the border into Georgia and to Tbilisi. Our hotel is centrally located in the old town and it's a short walk to the cafés and restaurants in the restored Tbilisi streets. (B,D)

DAY 9: TBILISI

Much of Tbilisi will be visited on foot and in the morning we explore the old town to see the ancient sulphur baths and Sioni Cathedral, which dates from 7th Century. We also visit a beautifully decorated synagogue, Rustaveli Ave, the main artery of Tbilisi and the Treasury of the State Museum. Afternoon at leisure to explore art galleries, handicraft markets and the enormous new Holy Trinity Cathedral. Overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: TBILISI / STEPANTSMINDA / GERGETI / GUDAURI

This morning we drive to the town of Stepantsminda (formerly Kazbek) and walk up through the village of Gergeti to the landmark Holy Trinity church (approx. 2-3 hours walk; local jeeps may also be rented). Drive to the ski resort of Gudauri, for dinner and overnight in a cozy alpine hut style hotel. (B,D)

DAY 11: GUDAURI / GORI / UPLISTSIKHE / KUTAISI

Today we visit Gori, Stalin's birthplace and visit Stalin Square and its museum. Visit Uplistsikhe, once an enormous cave city dating from pre-

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Yerevan and Tbilisi – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- 13 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 12 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
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Christian times with large underground tunnels, ancient temples and theaters. Continue to Kutaisi for night at a local guesthouse with genuine Georgian hospitality. (B,D)

DAY 12: KUTAISI / BORJOMI / KHARAGAULI / BAKURIANI

Visit the ruins of the 11th Century Bagrati Cathedral and the Gelati Academy and Monastery - founded by King David the Builder in the 12th Century. Both sites are on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Continue to Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park and then to the small ski village of Bakuriani for dinner and night in an alpine hut style hotel. (B,D)

DAY 13: BAKURIANI / MTSKHETA / TELAVI

Today we head to the wine growing region of Kakheti. We stop at Mtskheta, the former capital of Georgia to see the 11th Century Sveti-Tskhoveli Cathedral, the largest in Georgia. Visit Mtskheta to see Jvari church, built in the 6th Century on the spot where St. Nino (Nina) set up her cross in the 4th Century; converting the town from paganism. Continue to Telavi to our comfortable guesthouse for dinner in the wine cellar. (B,D)

DAY 14: TELAVI / KAKHETI / GREMI / SIGNAG / TBILISI

Today we visit the 11th Century Alaverdi Cathedral - the main spiritual centre in Kakheti. From here we continue to the citadel of Gremi on the banks of the Intsoba river to visit the renovated royal town of Signag. Return to Tbilisi for last minute shopping. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15: TBILISI / USA

After breakfast depart for the airport for our flight home. (B)

Byzantine Cyprus

9 Days / 7 Nights, Limassol, Nicosia, Agros, Lagoudera, Nikitari, Laneia, Larnaca, Paphos



Rock of Aphrodite, Paphos, Cyprus

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Cyprus.

DAY 2: LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

Upon arrival you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours escort and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. (D)

DAY 3: LIMASSOL

After breakfast we view the Tomb of St. Barnabas and the Monastery, built on an ancient Basilica. In the afternoon we visit fort of Famagusta and the Cathedral of St. Nicholas. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: NICOSIA

After breakfast, we then depart for Nicosia to visit St. John's Cathedral and the Byzantine Museum. Afternoon is free to shop for jewelry, pottery and more at the newly restored "Laiki Gitonia" (local market). We visit the tomb and monastery of Ayios Herakleidios. Dinner and overnight in Limassol. (B,D)

DAY 5: AGROS / LAGOUDERA / NIKITARI / LANEIA

Today our excursion includes a visit to Agros, a village famous for their roses, followed by a visit to a century church of Panayia tour Arake in the village of Lagoudera. We continue with a visit to the church of Panayia tis Asinou in Nikitari Village. After lunch (on own) we continue through the valleys of Solea and Saittas village to the valley of Kourris. We visit Laneia village before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: OMODOS / KAKOPETRIA

After breakfast, we explore the village of Omodos, famous for its monastery dedicated to the Holy Cross. Continue to the World Heritage Site to visit the Church of Ayios Nikolaos followed by a walk in the old part of Kakopetria village. We will also visit the UNESCO World Heritage site – the Church of Panayia Podithou. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – CYPRUS – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
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- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 7 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 6 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
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DAY 7: LARNACA

After breakfast, we visit Kiti Village and Angeloktisti Church where we view the magnificent mosaics made of semi precious stones and gold, followed by a visit to the Church of St. Lazarus, built over his tomb. After lunch (on own), we visit Ayios Georgios Alamanos convent. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8: PAPHOS

Our first stop is the Birthplace of the Goddess Aphrodite, followed by a visit to the monastery of Ayios Neophytos (12c. Enclistra Hermitage and 16c. Monastery). We visit St. Paul's Pillar and the ruins of the Basilica of Chrysopolitissa. In the afternoon we visit the House of Dionysos, Aion and Theseus. Rest of the day at leisure to explore on your own before we return for overnight in Limassol. (B,D)

DAY 9: RETURN TO THE USA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

Byzantine Italy

13 Days / 11 Nights, Venice, Padua, Ravenna, Florence, Orvieto, Rome, Naples, Amalfi Coast, Salerno, Pompeii, Sorrento, Naples



Doge's Palace, Venice, Italy

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Departure for our overnight flight to Venice.

DAY 2: VENICE / PADUA

Upon arrival at Venice Airport we will meet our English-speaking Homeric Tours Escort. Transfer to Padua for lunch and a tour including a visit to St. Anthony's Cathedral and Scroveni Chapels. Overnight in the region. (D)

DAY 3: PADUA / VENICE / PADUA

After breakfast, we depart for Venice, which originally was a Byzantine province. We have a guided tour of St. Mark's Square and Doge's Palace, before visiting the Museum of the Venetian-Greek Icons. Afternoon visit to the islands of Murano, famous for its glass making, and the Basilica of Santa Maria e Donato, with Byzantine mosaics. We then head for the island of Torcello to see the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta with the mosaic of the Last Judgement. Overnight Padua. (B,D)

DAY 4: PADUA / RAVENNA / FLORENCE

Today we depart for Ravenna, whose beauty is hidden inside the majestic Byzantine churches. The works of art found there are spread over four periods. We see Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Baptistery of the Orthodox, and Baptisteries of the Arians, St. Apollinare Nuovo and St. Apollinare in Classe, as well as St. Vitale. Depart to Florence for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: FLORENCE

Today we tour St. Mark's Monastery and the Cathedral, and view its Baptistery (from the outside). Visits also include the Holy Cross Church and the Medici Chapels. Afternoon is at leisure to see the famous Uffizi Gallery and the Accademia. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: FLORENCE / ORVIETO / ROME

This morning we join the liturgy in the Orthodox Church, before departing for Orvieto. Take the funicular up to the Cathedral to tour one of the most beautiful Cathedrals in Italy. Wine tasting with the area's famous local wine. Afternoon arrival in Rome. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: ANCIENT ROME TOUR

After breakfast, we will have a guided tour of Ancient Rome including the Church of St. Sabina, Circus Maximus, Imperial Palace, Coliseum, Arch of Constantine, Roman Forum, St. Maria Antiqua, Cosma and Damiano, Mamertine Prison and St. Nicholas Church, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. Dinner and overnight Rome. (B,D)

DAY 8: CHRISTIAN ROME

After breakfast we tour Santa Maria in Trastevere, St. Peter's Basilica, Scavi (if possible), St. Maria Maggiore, Holy Stairs, St. John the Lateran including the Baptistery, St. Clement and St. Paul Outside the Walls. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B,D)

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- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 11 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 11 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
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DAY 9: ROME

After breakfast, we will tour the ancient Catacombs before having an afternoon at leisure for shopping or visiting the Vatican Museum. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B,D)

DAY 10: NAPLES / AMALFI COAST

We depart Rome for Naples after breakfast and tour Naples' Duomo and the nearby St. Giorgio Maggiore. Lunch is included today in a typical trattoria. The day ends in Paestum to visit the Temples. Overnight in Salerno. (B,L)

DAY 11: SALERNO / POMPEII / SORRENTO

This morning we tour the volcanic ruins of Pompeii, and the Rosary Basilica. We continue to Capri (weather permitting) and visit the Blue Grotto by boat, an unforgettable sight. After dinner we depart for Sorrento for overnight. (B,D)

DAY 12: SORRENTO

After breakfast we drive along the Amalfi coast and stop for lunch and shopping in the local villages. In the afternoon we return to Sorrento for a leisurely afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Sorrento. (B,D)

DAY 13: NAPLES / USA

After breakfast we transfer early to the Naples airport for our flight home. (B)

Byzantine Greece

11 Days / 9 Nights, Thessaloniki, Mount Athos, Meteora, Delphi, Olympia, Mystras, Sparta, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Corinth, Athens, Option: Mykonos, Tinos



Monasteries at Meteora, Greece

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for our overnight flight to Thessaloniki.

DAY 2: THESSALONIKI

Upon arrival you will be greeted by a Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (D)

DAY 3: THESSALONIKI

After breakfast, we will tour Thessaloniki, visiting St. Dimitrios Church, St. Sophia and the Church of the 12 Apostles. We will see the Arch of Galerius, St. George Rotunda and the White Tower. Tonight we have a discussion with a Greek religious specialist about Mt. Athos, and learn about the remarkable living museums of Byzantine art and culture, their impressive libraries, amazing frescoes, beautiful mosaics and fascinating way of life. Overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

DAY 4: HOLY MOUNTAIN / (MOUNT ATHOS)

Visit Mt. Athos a monastic state, which has conformed to unchanged rules of life and worship for a thousand years. Emperor Constantine decreed that the Holy Mountain be set aside for exclusive veneration of the Virgin Mary, the protectress of the territory, and the area is off limits to women. Men need to have special permission to enter the Holy Site. In 20 sovereign monasteries, 2000 Orthodox Monks still live and work. Overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: METEORA

After breakfast, we depart for another Byzantine wonder - Meteora, where seemingly unscalable black rocks are topped by beautiful monasteries. Many monks believe that the founder of the first monastery was carried there by an eagle. The first monks were likely 10th century ascetics who climbed the rocks and lived in caves. By the 14th century, there were enough monks to build the Great Meteora monastery. In the late Byzantine period and during the Ottoman rule, this monastic community became a sanctuary of the persecuted, and developed into a centre of Byzantine art. Of the original 24 monasteries, 5 remain and welcome visitors. Overnight in Kalambaka. (B,D)

DAY 6: DELPHI

Today we drive through the countryside of central Greece to “the navel of the world” – Delphi. Leaders from around the ancient world flocked to Apollo’s Delphi Oracle for advice. You understand the foresight of the ancients when you see here the first monument ever created to One God. Visit the Archaeological Site and its Museum. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7: OLYMPIA

After breakfast, we depart for Olympia via the town of Nafpaktos with its old Venetian fortress. In Olympia we will see the pediments of the Temples of Zeus and Hera, and walk the length of the world’s most famous stadium, where in 776 BC, the first Olympic games were held in honor of Zeus. Dinner and overnight in Sparta. (B,D)

DAY 8: MYSTRAS / SPARTA

After breakfast, we depart for Mystras, where the ruins of a dead Byzantine city are spread along the foothill of Mount Taigetos. This captivating site is one of the most extensive Byzantine monuments in Greece. Once a home to 45,000 people its only inhabitants now are the nuns who maintain the Pantanessa Convent. Dinner and overnight in Sparta. (B,D)



Church of Panagia Evangelistria at Tinos island, Greece

DAY 9: EPIDARIUS / MYCENAE / CORINTH / ATHENS

Journey through the ancient Peloponnese, full of treasures depicting a civilization that still captivates the world. Continue to Epidaurus, a lovely riverside sanctuary where healing arts were once practiced. Visit the amphitheatre, a miracle of acoustics, which hosts the famous summer Greek tragedy festival with participation by leading Greek performers. Continue to Mycenae, with its Lion Gate, the ruins of the Palace of Agamemnon and the Royal Tombs. Some of the richest archaeological finds are from this area. Continue to Corinth of St. Paul and the marketplace where the Apostle preached to the Corinthians, the Temple of Apollo and the Corinth Museum. Continue via the Corinthian Canal to Athens. Time permitting we stop at Dafni Monastery. Dinner and overnight Athens. (B,D)

DAY 10: ATHENS

After breakfast, our Athens city tour begins with a visit to the Agora where Paul preached, and where Socrates taught and was forced to drink the deadly hemlock. Visit the Acropolis to see the Parthenon and its Museum, the theatre of Dionysos, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and other sights which reflect the golden age of Greece. In the afternoon visit the Metropolitan Cathedral and Kessariani Monastery. This evening enjoy dinner in the Plaka with traditional Greek music and dancing. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B,D)

DAY 11: USA

After breakfast we depart for the airport for our flight home. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: INCLUDING A 3-DAY CRUISE

DAY 11: MYKONOS (ANO MERA)

After breakfast, we transfer to Rafina (port of Athens) and board our superfast ferry to Mykonos (2 ½ hrs). Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. After check in, we take a very short coach drive to Ano Mera to visit the monastery of Panagia Tourliani whose main church houses a superb collection of icons made by a Cretan painter, as well as holy vessels and vestments. The wonderful belltower and marble fountain are in the courtyard of the monastery and are worth seeing. Dinner and overnight in Mykonos. (B,D)

DAY 12: MYKONOS (TINOS)

Leave your luggage behind as we take a half day excursion to the nearby island of Tinos. We visit Pyrgos, the most characteristic village of Tinos, with a long tradition in marble carving. The island is special for the Orthodox Greeks as it hosts the Church of Panagia (Virgin Mary), considered the protector of the country, with a miraculous icon inside. This church receives thousands of pilgrims year round, particularly on the 15th of August, on the occasion of the Dormition of the Virgin. Return to Mykonos and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure to shop, swim and enjoy the slow pace of the island. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 13: CRUISE

Today is free for last minute shopping or relaxing at the pool or beach. In the afternoon transfer to the port to board your cruise ship and begin your 3-day cruise. Dinner on board. (D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Greece – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
- Optional 3 Day cruise
- Port taxes and onboard gratuities
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group.

** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 14: KUSADASI / PATMOS

Arrive in Kusadasi and take an optional tour to the ancient city of Ephesus, where Paul preached. See the monastery of St. John, where tradition tells us the Apostle is buried. You can also visit Mary's house where tradition tells us Mary spent her last days upon leaving the Holy Land with St. John. In the afternoon cruise towards Patmos, where St. John the Divine received the mystical revelation which forms the last book of The New Testament. Your optional excursion takes you to the Grotto of the Revelation and the 11th century Monastery of St. John (which houses the original manuscript of the Gospel). (B,L,D)

DAY 15: CRETE / SANTORINI

This morning we arrive in Heraklion, the capital of Crete and visit the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos at the seat of ancient Minoan culture. This afternoon depart for the island of Santorini, possibly the most breathtaking of all Greek Islands. (B,L,D)

DAY 16: ATHENS / USA

This morning return to Athens and transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Byzantine Path to Romania & Bulgaria

11 Days / 9 Nights, Bucharest, Pietra Neamt, Sibiu, Sighisoara, Brasov, Transylvania, Veliko Turnovo, Arbanasi, Plovdiv, Sofia



Sucevita Monastery, Romania

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Departure this evening for your overnight flight to Bucharest.

DAY 2: BUCHAREST

Upon arrival, meet your Homeric Tours representative and explore the city. We will see the Palace of Parliament (the second largest building in the world), the Metropolitan Church, the Romanian Athenaeum, and the Arch of Triumph and visit Bucharest's Harastrou Park and the Folk Village Museum. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant with wine. (D)

DAY 3: PAINTED MONASTERIES TOUR

After breakfast, we tour the monasteries of Bucovina: Humor Monastery, Voronet Monastery, the Chapel of Eastern Europe, Moldavian Monastery, where the Golden Apple award was given in 1975 by UNESCO and Sucevita Monastery- the best preserved with its imposing walls and towers. Overnight in Pietra Neamt. (B,D)

DAY 4: SIBIU

Depart for Sibiu, once the richest town in Transylvania. Our route crosses the Transylvanian Mountains through the magnificent scenic beauty of the Olt River Valley. Along the way we'll visit the Cozia Monastery, built in 1386. We also stop at the Church of the Annunciation. In the evening enjoy a hearty Romanian dinner with a local family at a farmhouse in Sibiel and overnight in Sibiu. (B,D)

DAY 5: SIGHISOARA / BRASOV

Today we take a walking tour of Sibiu where we pass the medieval shops and houses, visit the cathedral where Vlad the Impaler's son was assassinated. Visit the Brukenthal Art Gallery and continue to the Saxon village of Biertan to visit the Fortress Church and continue to Sighisoara both UNESCO Heritage sites. Tour the towns and visit the famous Clock Tower Museum and the house where Dracula (Prince Vlad Tepes) was born in 1432. Continue to Brasov for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6: TRANSYLVANIA

Depart for Bram's Castle, built in 1377 and now a museum with its collection from the 14th century. Afterwards, return to Brasov to visit the 13th century, Gothic Black Church, the Nicolae Church and the First Romanian school, the old town hall and explore Brasov's city center. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Dinner in a medieval atmosphere restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 7: VELIKO TURNOVO (BULGARIA)

Depart to Peles castle, once the summer residence of the Romanian royal family. Continue to Giurgiu. Drive across the Danube and enter the Bulgarian port town of Ruse. From there, proceed to the "Valley of the Roses," where the Bulgarian rose oil is still being produced. Dinner and overnight in Veliko Turnovo, the former capital of the Bulgarian Empire. (B,D)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – ROMANIA and BULGARIA – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily plus one lunch
- 9 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

The itinerary may be modified and tailored to the specific requirements and budget of your group

** Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 8: ARBANASI / PLOVDIV

This morning we tour Veliko Turnovo and then drive to Arbanasi, a medieval Bulgarian town with stone houses and red tile roofs. Visit the Church of Nativity, its walls covered with colorful frescoes from the 1600s. Continue to Plovdiv for lunch and visit the Etura ethnographic museum and Shipka Memorial Churches. Afternoon walking tour of old Plovdiv includes a visit to the Roman Amphitheater. Overnight in Plovdiv. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: SOFIA

After breakfast, we visit the Bachkovo Monastery built in the 11th century and one of the richest galleries of traditional Bulgarian religious art. We continue to Rila Monastery, built in the 10th century, with ancient icons murals and rare incunabula. Arrive in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The balance of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10: SOFIA

Our sightseeing of Sofia includes visits to Alexander Nevsky Memorial Cathedral with its gilded domes and interior murals, icons and mosaics, St. Nicholas Russian church and the 4th century Rotonda of St. George church, the oldest building in Sofia, and St. Joseph's Cathedral. Afternoon is at leisure. Farewell dinner has been arranged. (B,D)

DAY 11: USA

After breakfast, we transfer to Sofia airport for your flight home. (B)

Christian Roots of Albania

11 Days / 9 Nights, Tirana, Lac, Durres, Apollonia, Vlora, Saranda, Butrint, Ksamil Islands, Saranda, Phoenice, Mesopotam, Gjirokastra, Permet, Leuse, Korca, Voskopoje



Belltower of St. Mary church, Voskopoja, Albania

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight. Breakfast and dinner will be served on board. (B,D)

DAY 2: TIRANA

After passport control you will be greeted by your Homeric Tours representative and transfer by private air-condition motorcoach to your hotel. Rest of the day is for relaxation. In the evening a welcome dinner has been arranged at a local restaurant. (D)

DAY 3: TIRANA / LAC

After breakfast we make a short excursion to the old town of Lac. Visit Saint Anton church, believed to have healing powers. History here dates back to the 12th century and is filled with tales of mistreated monks by enemies of Christians, including the Ottoman Empire. Return to Tirana. Afternoon visit to the Archaeological Museum and the National Gallery of Arts. Dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: DURRES / APOLLONIA / VLORA / SARANDA

After breakfast, we make a short stop to explore the City of Durres, once a major Roman port, visiting the Amphitheater and Archeological Museum. Continue to Via Egnatia Apostle Paul penetrated the heart of Albania and tradition holds that he introduced Christianity into Albania and founded

the church of Durres. We head toward Apollonia, (ancient Hellenic city) and visit the site, museum and the church of Saint Mary, built in the 13th century. After lunch, travel to the coastal town of Vlora, with stops at several coastal villages and the Castle of Palermo. Arrive in Saranda, opposite the Greek island of Corfu. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 5: SARANDA / BUTRINT / KSAMIL ISLANDS

Today visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Butrint, Albania's most important archaeological site and the "gem of the country." Tour Butrint National Park. Strategically located, Butrint was the site of an Epirot city, a Roman colony and a bishopric. Butthrotum was recognized by the Council as a Christian center. Visit the paleo-Christian mosaics, the Paleo Christian Basilica and other early Christian sites. Lunch at a local restaurant. We continue to a beautiful beach at the Ksamili Islands for free time by the sea. Dine at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: SARANDA / PHOENICE / MESOPOTAM

After breakfast, we travel towards the Mesopotamian site, a 12th century Byzantine Monastery mentioned in the Battle between the Norman Crusaders and the Byzantines. Explore the historical Christian site. Nearby, the ancient city of Phoenice, its Roman theater with 15,000+ seats, is one the largest in the world. Lunch at a local restaurant. After we visit the synagogue of Saranda which dates from the 5th or 6th century and was converted to a church, prior to being abandoned. Dinner and overnight at hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: GJIROKASTRA

After breakfast, we travel to Gjirokastra to visit the church of Labove e Kryqit, one of the oldest churches in Albania. A holy relic believed to be a fragment of the true cross was stolen from here during the civil unrest of the early 1990s. This afternoon we will walk in the Old Town of Gjirokastra and visit the Ethnographic Museum, once the house of the communist dictator, Enver Hoxha. Visit the Castle of Gjirokastra, one of the largest castles in the Balkans. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: PERMET / LEUSE

After breakfast, we drive through the Kelcyra Gorge, a famous battle site between King Philip of Macedonia and the Roman army of Proconsul Paulius Emilius. After lunch, we visit the Byzantine Church of Saint Mary of Kosina. Enjoying the views of the Vjosa Valley, we reach the small

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – ALBANIA – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 4 or 5 star hotels
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Full board; breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- 8 Days of sightseeing tours
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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* Ask about our church donation program*

city of Permet. Explore Permet by foot with a 1/2 mile walk to the village of Leusa, where we see the Byzantine Church, a great example of rural architecture. Overnight in Permet. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: KORCA

Today we explore Korça, the regional capital of southeast Albania. Its location is dominated by the Morava Mountains to the east. The town of Korça was called "Little Paris" in the 1930's because of its thriving intellectual life. The highlight of the town is the beautiful 13th Century church of Mborja. The frescos are of the finest workmanship in the region. Dine at a local restaurant and overnight in Korça. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: VOSKOPOJE / TIRANE

After breakfast, we drive to the village of Voskopoja considered a sort of Holyland to local Orthodox Christians. The village had 24 churches during the 18th century. The remaining churches in the region are among the most representative of the ecclesiastical art in the Balkans. Characteristically their murals are comparable to Mount Athos and Meteora in Greece. After lunch, we continue to Tirana for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 11: USA

After breakfast we depart for the airport for our flight home. (B)

Orthodox Pilgrimage to Russia

14 Days / 12 Nights, Moscow, Pskov, Pechori, Izborsk, Vybuty, Novgorod, Vitoslavitsi, Tzarskoe Selo, Peterhoff, St. Petersburg



St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, Russia

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Russia. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (B,D)

DAY 2: MOSCOW

Upon arrival meet your Homeric Tours representative and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner at your hotel. (D)

DAY 3: MOSCOW

After breakfast, we begin with a visit to Moscow Kremlin. Visit Uspenskiy (Dormition) Cathedral, once the place of installation of the Russian Patriarchs and Crowning of the Tsars. We proceed to the Red Square with its iconic "picture of Russia," the famous Cathedral of St. Basil and the Donskoy Monastery, and the "jail" and resting place of the Russian Patriarch Tikhon. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4: MOSCOW

After breakfast, we visit the Tretyakov gallery of Russian art from the 10th century. In the attached museum church we will see the miracle-working "patron" Icon of Russia, Our Lady of Vladimir. After lunch, visit the largest functioning Orthodox Church in the World, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. Continue to the Arbat Street, a famous Moscow pedestrian zone of art galleries and souvenir shopping. (B,D)

DAY 5: MOSCOW / PSKOV

After breakfast, we travel to the famous Holy Trinity Lavra. This monastic settlement was

established by St. Sergius in the 14th century and became the single most important spiritual centre of Russia. Visit the village Semhoz and the church built on the spot where Fr. Alexander Men, a famous Missionary, was assassinated. After lunch, we visit Butovo, a memorial for thousands of innocents who perished from the hands of the Godless Communist regime. Tonight embark on the train for an overnight travel to Pskov. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: PSKOV

After breakfast, we visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral situated amidst picturesque fortifications of the Pskovan Kremlin. We visit the state historical museum with its excellent Icon collection, and a special chamber with various medieval ecclesiastical artifacts. Then we continue to explore the treasures of Pskov – among them two splendid jewels – Mirozhsky monastery and Church of St. John the Baptist. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: PECHORI / IZBORSK / VYBUTY

After breakfast, we visit the Ancient Monastery of Pechori (Pskov Cave Monastery). These "God made caves" were used as the monastic cemetery and partial hermit cells. We then visit the ancient town of Izborsk for an inspiring walk through the ruins of a medieval fortress to the icy-cold shower in the Holy Springs. We then stop at a small village of Vybuty, believed to be the birth place of the Russian equal-to-the-apostles princess Olga. (B,L)

DAY 8: NOVGOROD / VITOSLAVITSI

This morning we visit Novgorod to visit St. George Monastery - the oldest Russian Monastery. We proceed to Vitoslavitsi whose museum has the finest collection of wooden architecture of the North. Optional, boat ride on Volkhov River for splendid panoramic view of the city. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: NOVGOROD

Today we visit the main attraction of Novgorod, the Medieval Kremlin. The buildings dates back to the 11th -16th centuries, in particular, the Cathedral of St. Sophia. Visit several historic and art exhibits in the museums of the Kremlin. After lunch we visit the Market square, Il'ina street and Znamensky Cathedral. This afternoon we visit the monastery of St. Varlaam of Hutyn, founded by St. Varlaam in the 12th century. (B,L)

DAY 10: NOVGOROD / TZARSKOE SELO / PETERHOFF

Today we travel to "Tzarskoe Selo" (Tsar's village,) the summer residence of the Romanov dynasty with the Catherine's Summer Palace, representing the glory of Russia's "Golden Age." This afternoon we visit Peterhoff, the location of the famous Golden Palace surrounded by arcades of golden fountains. Our final stop is SS Peter and Paul Cathedral, an Orthodox Architectural Masterpiece built in Neo-Russian style. (B,L)

TOUR FEATURE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip air: USA – Moscow and St. Petersburg – USA
- Meet and assist upon arrival by your Homeric Tours representative
- Private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach throughout
- Professional English speaking Orthodox guide(s)
- Your choice of 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- 12 Nights of hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner as indicated in the itinerary
- 11 Days of sightseeing tours
- Overnight sleeper train from Pskov to Moscow
- All transfers
- All entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program

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* Ask about our church donation program*

DAY 11: ST. PETERSBURG

If it's Sunday, we attend the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral dedicated to the Icon of our Lady of Kazan, known as Kazan Cathedral where a miracle working copy of the Icon of our Lady of Kazan is housed. Visit the Russian Museum, housing art from its Byzantine origins. We then visit Alexander-Nevsky Holy Trinity Lavra, a beautiful monastery and tour the grounds, and the Holy Trinity that houses relics of St. Alexander Nevsky. (B,L)

DAY 12: ST. PETERSBURG

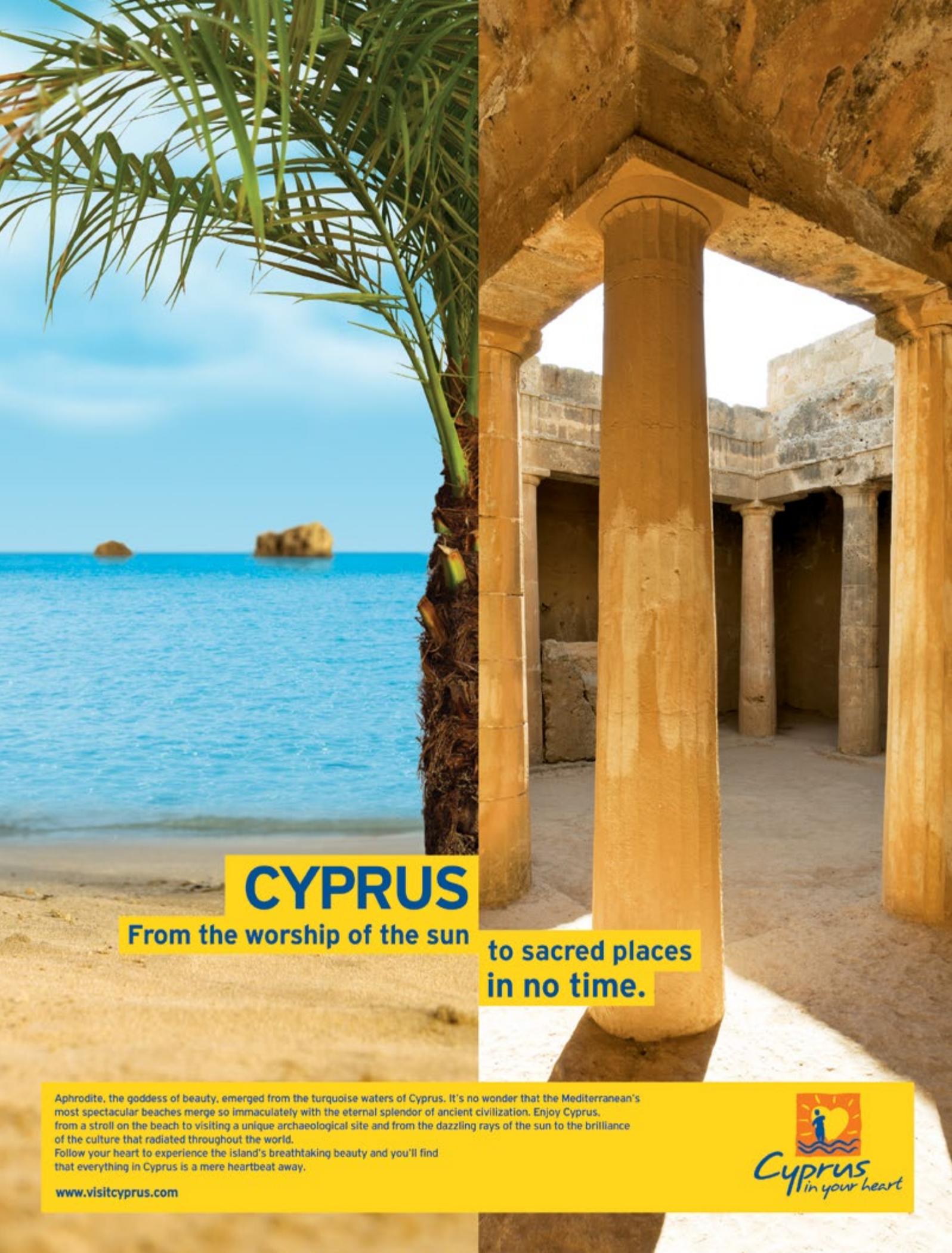
This morning we stop at Smolenskoye Cemetery where the Russian Saint and heavenly patron, St. Xenia is buried. We visit St. John of Rila Monastery on Karpovka River. Visit SS Peter and Paul Fortress. Its Cathedral also serves as a final resting place for the Russian Rulers of the Romanov dynasty. After lunch we visit St. Nicholas Cathedral, the most illustrious example of the Baroque style in Russian Church Architecture, built in the 18th century. (B,L)

DAY 13: ST. PETERSBURG

After breakfast, we visit the State Hermitage, once the Winter Palace of the Russian Tsars, which houses one of the world's largest collections of Fine Arts. After lunch, we stop at the Cathedral of St. Isaac, one of the world's largest domed Cathedrals and built as a dedication to the Patron of Peter the Great, St. Isaac of Dalmatia. The panoramic view of St. Petersburg from its observation deck around the dome is truly magnificent. (B,L)

DAY 14: USA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



CYPRUS

From the worship of the sun

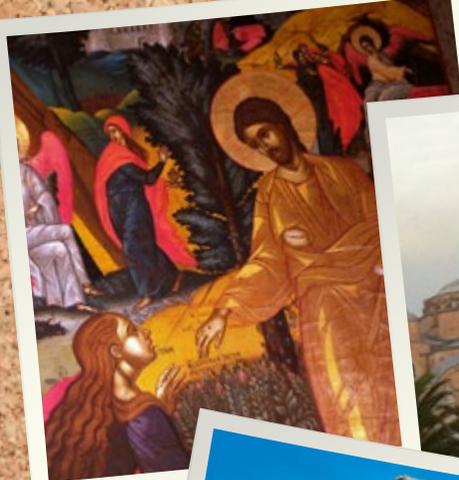
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LOUIS CRISTAL: Sample Itinerary

DAY	PORT	ARRIVAL	DEP
FRI	ATHENS (LAVRION**), Greece	-	17:00
SAT	THESSALONIKI, Greece	08:00	18:00
SUN	KAVALA, Greece	08:00	16:00
MON	ISTANBUL, Turkey	09:30	20:00
TUE	DIKILI, Turkey	12:00	20:00
WED	KUSADASI, Turkey	08:00	23:30
THU	PATMOS*, Greece	06:30	11:30
	SYROS, Greece	18:00	23:30
FRI	ATHENS (LAVRION**), Greece	06:00	-

* Tendering weather permitting.

** The port of Lavrion is near the Athens airport and approx. 60 klm from the center of Athens.



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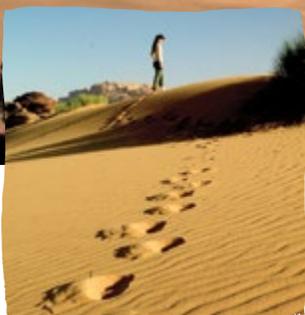
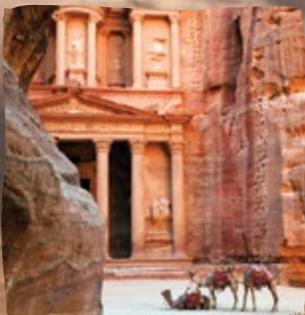
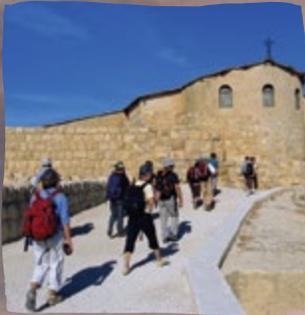
KING DAVID, JERUSALEM 🏰 DAN TEL AVIV 🏰 DAN CARMEL, HAIFA 🏰 DAN JERUSALEM 🏰 DAN EILAT 🏰 DAN ACCADIA, HERZLIYA-ON-SEA
DAN CAESAREA 🏰 DAN PANORAMA TEL AVIV 🏰 DAN PANORAMA HAIFA 🏰 DAN PANORAMA JERUSALEM
DAN PANORAMA EILAT 🏰 DAN BOUTIQUE, JERUSALEM 🏰 DAN GARDENS, ASHKELON 🏰 DAN GARDENS, HAIFA

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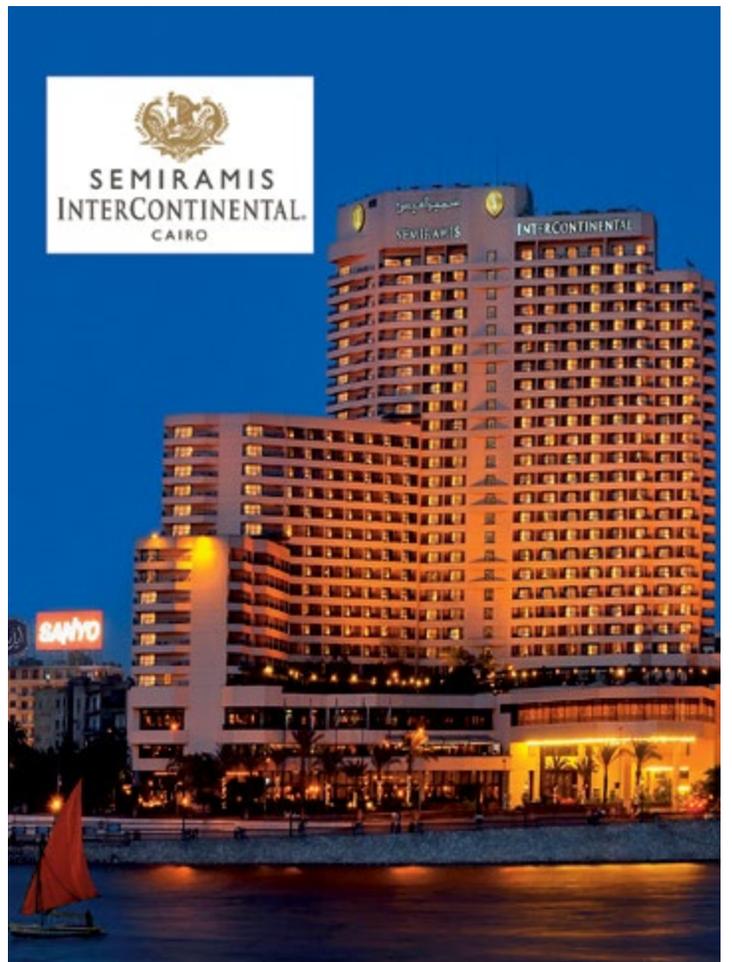


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General Information and Tour Conditions

PRICING: Homeric Tours group rates are based at the current rate of exchange at the time of request. Homeric reserves the right to re-price should the rate of exchange change prior to deposit.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500.00 is required to secure your group tour allocation. If your request requires a second coach, then a second deposit of \$500.00 will be required. An additional deposit may be required for some cruise-inclusive packages. Final payment must reach Homeric Tours no later than 65 days prior to departure date. Returned checks: \$30 fee.

LAND ONLY BOOKINGS & TOUR DEVIATIONS: Any deviation from the tour requested by the client will be assessed a charge of \$50.00 per person, plus any additional costs the change may incur.

CHANGES IN BOOKINGS: Homeric Tours reserves the right to charge a \$35.00 per person change fee should any component of the tour be voluntarily changed inside of 95 days prior to group departure. Once airline tickets have been issued, the tour participant is responsible for any airline imposed amendment fees for voluntary changes, including name changes or names not matching the passenger's passport. These fees start at \$75.00 per name and can even be higher and non-refundable based on the airline's policy. If any of our vendors (i.e. hotels, cruise companies, airlines etc.) charge penalties in addition to those previously noted, it will be necessary for us to pass those costs on to you.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

ENTIRE GROUP CANCELLATION

More than 121-days prior	Group deposit is fully refundable
120-96 days prior	\$500.00 + any applicable airline fees
95-65 days prior	\$1,000.00 + any applicable airline fees
64 or less days prior	All monies paid to Homeric Tours will be forfeited – no refunds

INDIVIDUAL PASSENGER CANCELLATION

More than 65 days prior	\$100.00 per person + Insurance + any applicable airline fees
64-46 days prior	\$150.00 per person + Insurance + any applicable airline fees
45-36 days prior	\$200.00 per person + Insurance + any applicable airline fees
35-10 days prior	50% of total cost + Insurance + any applicable airline fees
9 days or less prior	100% of total cost + Insurance + any applicable airline fees

FOR LAND AND CRUISE-INCLUSIVE PACKAGES: Once cruise and/or air tickets are issued, additional penalties will apply. The cancellation rules may vary depending on the destination chosen, if this becomes the case, your group proposal will have an updated "Terms and Conditions" which will supersede the above.

INSURANCE: Homeric Tours is not responsible or liable for loss, damage or theft of luggage or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accidents or illness while on tour nor is Homeric Tours responsible for any type of trip interruption.

TRAVEL PROTECTION & INSURANCE: Homeric Tours highly recommends the purchase of our optional comprehensive trip insurance.

TRIP COST	PREMIUM RATE
Up to \$750.00	\$71.00
\$751 to \$1,500	\$93.00
\$1,501 to \$2,500	\$116.00
\$2,501 to \$3,500	\$146.00
\$3,501 to \$4,500	\$183.00
\$4,501 to \$5,500	\$211.00

For review of policy please call TRIPMATE at 1-800-888-7292 or visit their website at: www.tripmate.com. The policy exclusion for pre-existing conditions will be waived provided your client's premium is received within 7-days of the \$200.00 per person deposit payment, and your clients are not disabled from travel at the time payment of the premium is made. Insurance may be purchased up to 65 days prior to departure, but the pre-existing conditions and terrorist acts conditions will not be covered.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AFTER DEPARTURE: Once the tour commences NO REFUND will be made for unused features or voluntary modifications made by the tour participant.

REFUNDS: Applications for refunds must be submitted in writing to HOMERIC TOURS, INC, within 15 days of tour termination. Processing will take from six to eight weeks from the date HT receives relevant documents. There will be no refunds for unused package tour services or features, including missed transfers due to airline changes and/or missed flights, unused meals, missed sightseeing tours, unused entrance fees and accommodations.

PASSENGER NAME: Passengers/Group Leaders are responsible to ensure that the names printed on the invoice exactly match the first and last name written in their passport. Any name change may require airline reservations to be canceled and rebooked. Reservations are subject to availability at the time of rebooking. Passengers will be required to pay foreign airlines rebooking fee of up to \$350 per ticket. Homeric Tours will not be held responsible for the denial of services by a carrier due to any name discrepancy.

Special Requests: We will be happy to advise hotels and cruise lines of any special request.

AIRLINES: Once issued, tickets are non-refundable. Foreign airline schedules and flights are subject to change without notice. Airlines reserve the right to demand immediate issuance of tickets whenever they determine that necessary. In that case, HT will require immediate full payment of the airfare portion and taxes. This situation overrides invoice terms and conditions and payment due dates. If full payment is not received, seats will be cancelled by the airline and may not be available to be rebooked on the same flights or at the same airfare. Any replacement of air arrangements and any additional cost of airfare will be the sole responsibility of the passenger.

HOTELS: Hotels accommodations will be provided in accordance with the itinerary or similar. We reserve the right substitute hotels of equal category. All rooms are twin-bedded rooms with private facilities, unless an upgrade was requested. Room selection is at the discretion of the hotel. Triple rooms consist of a standard twin bedded room plus a sofa, folding bed or cot for the third person.

BAGGAGE: The less you bring with you, the better. We recommend that you take along one suitcase per person, plus a small overnight bag. On land, due to limited motorcoach capacity, we request that only one bag per person be carried on motorcoaches. If additional baggage is carried (other than overnight bag) a supplementary charge of \$2.00 per additional suitcase per "lift" will be levied according to the number of lifts. For those tours that include a domestic flight(s) only one suitcase per person will be allowed. Additional baggage charges according to airline tariff will apply and will need to be paid directly to the airline at time of check-in. You may visit the foreign airline's website to view the specific baggage fee information. Baggage is carried at owner's risk and baggage insurance is strongly recommended.

PORTERAGE: Porterage (luggage handling) of one suitcase per person is provided in our tours. We ask that you bring with you only a small carry on piece and one suitcase. Both pieces you should be able to carry on your own, where necessary, when the law, for your own protection, demands it. This will be in Customs and security areas such as ports and airports. Our own people will be there beyond these areas to assist you. Also porterage is not always available.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: It is required that the passport be valid at least (3) months beyond the conclusion of your trip. It is suggested that ALL participants check with the appropriate Consulates to determine if any visas are required. Those taking our Egypt, Turkey, Algerian, India or China tours require a visa and should obtain one prior to departure. **IMPORTANT:** Passengers requiring a Schengen visa MUST have a multi entry Schengen visa.

RESPONSIBILITY: HOMERIC TOURS, INC. 17th fl., 55 EAST 59TH ST., NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10022 and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components (transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc.) of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result

from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passage contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. **ADDITIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF DELAY, CHANGE OF SCHEDULES, ILLNESS, WEATHER, STRIKES, HOSTILITIES, QUARANTINE, GOVERNMENT REQUISITION OF HOTEL SPACE, OR ANY OTHER REASONS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE TOUR OPERATOR OR TRAVEL AGENT, SHALL BE BORNE BY THE PASSENGER. TOUR OPERATOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUBSTITUTE HOTELS OF SIMILAR CATEGORY IF NECESSARY AND TO ALTER ITINERARIES.** Any and all disputes concerning this contract, the brochure, website or your trip shall be resolved solely by the courts of the city of New York, county of Manhattan.

BROCHURE PRINTING DISCLAIMER: The tour operator is not responsible for typographical or printing errors.

HOLIDAYS: During local or national holidays abroad, certain facilities such as museums, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited.

SUBSTITUTIONS: We reserve the right, in our discretion, to substitute cruise line, entertainment, hosts, entertainers, hotels, restaurants, party & banquet locations or other accommodations. We also reserve the right for good faith reasons to cancel any schedule tour. In such event, we cannot take responsibility for your having chosen to purchase a non-refundable airfare.

CRUISES: Cruise cabins are assigned within a general cabin category on run-of-ship basis. HT cannot guarantee a specific assignment. Dining room seating will be done by the maitre d'hotel on board. HT will accept requests for dining time preferences.

SHIP SUBSTITUTIONS AND ITINERARY CHANGES: Cruise Lines reserve the right to substitute ships on any cruise, even at the last minute, based on decisions made by their senior management staff. Itinerary changes on any cruise are the sole responsibility of the cruise line and they may be implemented at the last minute based on factors determined by existing weather or traffic conditions. Homeric Tours as the Tour Operator cannot take any responsibility for ship substitutions or itinerary changes decided by a cruise line.

HANDICAPPED/ELDERLY PASSENGERS: Tour participants who require any form of assistance must be accompanied by a helper who is capable of and totally responsible for providing such assistance. Please note that some of our tours require a lot of walking and moving around.

TIPPING: On land, tips are not included in any of the tour packages and are left at the discretion of each participant. We recommend \$10.00-\$12.00 dollar per day per person. Cruise tipping for Louis Cruises personnel is included in Homeric's group proposal unless otherwise stated.

TOUR DOCUMENTS: Final documents are mailed, provided we have full payment and a signed contract, generally 30 days prior to departure date. One set of documents will be mailed per reservation. Documents may be sent to additional addresses for a \$20 fee per address.

AIR-CONDITIONING: Please be advised that foreign air conditioning systems in public places, hotel and motorcoaches are not up to USA standards.

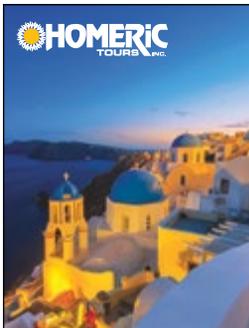
ACCEPTANCE: Payment of deposit or full payment shall be deemed as consent by the passenger/Group leader/agent to the above conditions.

WHEN AND HOW TO BOOK: Make your group reservations as early as possible in order to avoid disappointment. Reservations can be made through your local travel agent or by calling Homeric Tours group Dept:

HOMERIC TOURS, INC.
55 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022
Tel: (212) 753-1100 ext. 619 (800) 223-5570
Fax: (212) 753-0319



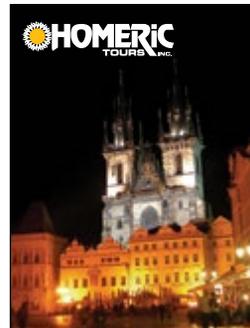
Homeric Also Offers Value Packed Tours To:



Greece



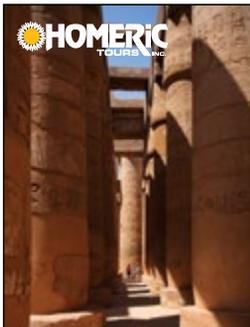
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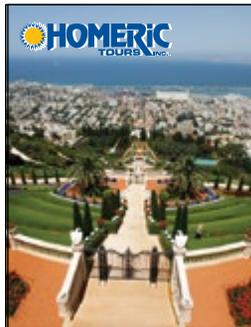
Central & Eastern Europe



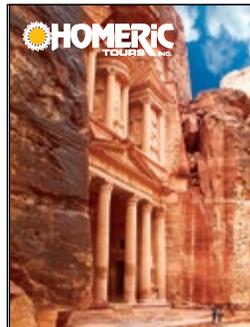
Italy



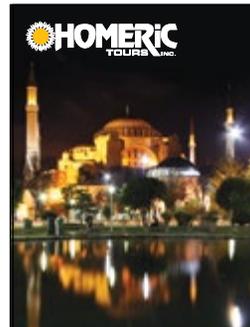
Egypt



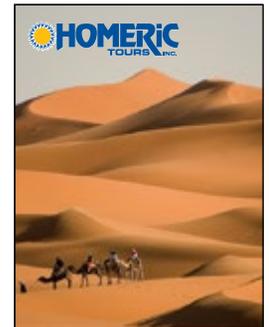
Israel



Jordan



Turkey



Morocco

CONSULT YOUR PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AGENT

Email: info@Homicours.com

Website: <http://Faith.HomericTours.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/HomericTours>

