

Passionist Family Pilgrimage 2005

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Saturday 2nd April -Australia/New Zealand to Turkey

Fly Singapore Airlines to Singapore with onward flight connection to **Istanbul**.

DAY 2: Sunday 3rd April - Arrive Turkey

Istanbul always was and still is one of the most exciting cities in the world but, more importantly, we have entered the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys. On arrival we will be transferred to our centrally located hotel.

Afternoon departure from our hotel for a half day **cruise on the Bosphorus** passing magnificent Ottoman Palaces, ancient wooden villas and the solid presence of Byzantine fortresses.

Istanbul overnight (D)

DAY 3: Monday 4th April - Istanbul

Full day tour visiting the **Blue Mosque; St Sophia Basilica; the Underground Cistern and Byzantine Hippodrome; Topkapi Palace** (special lunch) and **archaeological museum**. Later we may take the opportunity to shop for that bargain at the huge **Grand Bazaar** with its 4000 exotic tiny shops.

Istanbul overnight (BLD)

DAY 4: Tuesday 5th April - Istanbul to Kusadasi

This morning we drive to the Asiatic side of Istanbul to visit the **Mosque of Soliman the Magnificent** and **St Savior in Chora Church**, before being transferred to Istanbul airport in the afternoon for our short flight to Izmir.

Izmir was once the site of ancient **Smyrna**, one of the seven churches of Revelation (Ch 2:8-11) and later home to a lively Christian community under the pastoral care of its' bishop - the saintly **Polycarp**.

Late afternoon arrival at our hotel at the lively and colourful town of **Kusadasi**, embracing the Mediterranean.

Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 5: Wednesday 6th April- Ephesus Day

Today we come to **Ephesus**, the most famous of the seven churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third missionary journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and also succeeded in converting many away from worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived & preached, the **Ephesus Museum** and the **prison of St Paul**. Walk through the ancient marble streets

founded in the 10th century BC and see this most 'complete' Roman city providing us with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. We ascend the hill to the **House of the Virgin Mary** where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. After Mass here, we visit the restored remains of the **Basilica of St John** at Celcuk where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist.

Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 6: Thursday 7th April - Kusadasi to Canakkale

Today we will encounter more churches of Revelation as we firstly arrive at **Sardis**, the most picturesque of the seven Churches (Rev 3:106). This city was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom in the 6th century BC. We will walk on the remains of the **Royal Persian Road** and visit the **Synagogue** and **Temple of Artemis**.

Continue by coach onto **Pergamum** (Rev 2:12-17) where we explore the impressive **Acropolis**, **Temple of Athena** and experience the brilliant acoustics of the **Amphitheatre**.

Finally we travel to Homer's **Troy** made famous for its wooden horse and legendary tale, before arriving into Canakkale.

Canakkale overnight (BD)

DAY 7: Friday 8th April - Canakkale via Gallipoli to Kavala

After breakfast we set off to **Canakkale** and cross the **Dardanelles** waterway before arriving at the **Gallipoli Peninsula** where many Australian & New Zealand troops lost their lives in World War I. We embrace a holy time of pilgrimage here this morning through eight specified landmarks as we pay tribute and pray for the souls of the young heroes of those tragic months of 1915.

We continue our reflective day travelling westward passing into Greece and on to the biblical port city of **Neapolis** (now known as Kavala) where St Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke first arrived in Europe (Acts 16:11-12). Neapolis was the eastern terminus of the **Egnatian Way**, the most direct Roman military road linking Rome and the East.

Kavala overnight (BD)

DAY 8: Saturday 9th April - Kavala to Thessaloniki

We follow the footsteps of Paul as we continue this morning onto **Philippi** where he preached his first sermon and baptised the woman Lydia, Europe's first convert to Christianity. (Acts 16:11-15). We view the remains of two **early Christian Basilicas**; traces of the **Old Via Egnatia**; the **Roman Forum**; the **Acropolis** and the place where St Paul was imprisoned.

We continue to **Thessaloniki**, a bustling city and hub of Greece in the time of Paul. Although St Paul was eventually forced to flee Thessaloniki he did succeed in converting many to Christianity (1Thessalonians 1:9).

Thessaloniki overnight (BD)

DAY 9: Sunday 10th April - Thessaloniki via Beroea to Kalambaka

This morning our tour of Thessaloniki includes the **Arch of Galerius** built over the **Egnatian Way**, the neighbouring **Rotunda** (later called St George's Church), **ruins of the Ancient Forum** and the beautiful **churches of St Demetrius & St Sophia**.

We continue today to **Beroea** where St Paul preached the gospel to the Jews who welcomed the word of God and began to study the scriptures (Acts 17:10-12). We will view the 'hidden churches', a collection of about 20 Byzantine structures, camouflaged in the form of barns from the invading Moslem Turks. We continue onto the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of Meteora.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 10: Monday 11th April - Meteora Day

We will spend our leisurely day marvelling at a unique phenomenon of nature - 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of **Meteora**. We will be guided through the outstanding **Transfiguration monastery** and one other while viewing the extraordinary collection of priceless religious

frescoes and other treasures. We will also have the opportunity to visit the beautiful **Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary**.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 11: Tuesday 12th April - Kalambaka to Patras

This morning we journey south to the fascinating city of **Delphi** where we are rewarded with the view of this ancient site unsurpassed in natural beauty. We will be taken on a guided tour including the **Sanctuary of Apollo** and the **Museum** which houses important relics excavated here.

Onwards to the **Byzantine Monastery at Ossios Loukas**, considered the most important of its kind in Greece with mosaics thought to be masterpieces

Later we journey by boat across the Corinth Canal to Patras.

Part's overnight (BD)

DAY 12: Wednesday 13th April - Ancient Corinth & Athens

Travel today to nearby **Ancient Corinth** where the apostle Paul lived for almost two years teaching the people the word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the place where he preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**, the **Peirene fountain**, and the **6th century BC Temple of Apollo**.

We soon arrive in **Athens**, the thriving capital of Greece. When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city which worshipped pagan gods. Paul was taken before the city council, the **Aeropagus** (Hill of Ares) and it was from here that he preached the Gospel message.

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 13: Thursday 14th April - Athens

This morning we will enjoy our tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Aeropagus**, the **Ancient Agora**, **Pantheon** and the **Plaka** (Old Greece).

We will enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before a **dinner and show** at a vibrant Greek Taverna this evening.

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 14: Friday 15th April - Athens to Ovada

Early morning transfer to Athens airport for our flight on Alitalia Airlines from Athens to Milan.

We travel by coach to **Castellazzo**, the town where St Paul of the Cross, visiting the Church where St Paul of the Cross was inspired to write his first Rule before founding the Passionists. Later we take the short trip to **Ovada**, the town where St Paul of the Cross was born. After Mass in the family home of St Paul of the Cross, we transfer to our hotel for the night.

Ovada overnight (BD)

DAY 15: Saturday 16th April - Ovada to Monte Argentario Feast of St Paul of the Cross.

Departing Ovada today we head south along the coast along the Mediterranean coastline to **Monte Argentario**. On this mountain St Paul of the Cross built his first house, the **Retreat of the Presentation**. Here we will celebrate Mass in the crypt on this his feast day.

Monte Argentario overnight (BD)

DAY 16: Sunday 17th April - Monte Argentario

Today will be a day of rest and reflection on the Mountain, taking in the place Paul of the Cross called home.

Monte Argentario overnight (BLD)

DAY 17: Monday 18th April - Monte Argentario to Assisi

Travel this morning from Monte Argentario onto the medieval hillside town of **Assisi** and home of St Francis. St Paul of the Cross was influenced by some of the Franciscan spirit.

Our local guide will meet us for a afternoon tour through the town of **Assisi**. Highlights include: **Basilica of St Francis** housing the tomb of St Francis; **Cathedral of St Rufino** dating back to 1140 and containing the baptismal font where St Francis and St Clare were baptized, as well as St Gabriel Possenti **The Church of St Clare** (Santa Chiara), containing the famous crucifix venerated by St Francis; **St Damien's Church** (San Damiano), built on the site where St Francis heard the voice of Christ speaking through the crucifix "Go and repair my Church, which you see, is falling down"; **Basilica of St Mary of the Angels** where St Francis lived for most of his life and its **Portiuncula** (the nucleus of the first Franciscan monastery), the **Rose Garden** and the '**Capella del Transito**' place of his death in 1226. We conclude our tour with a visit. We visit the **Hermitage** (Eremo Delle Carceri), an oasis of peace and tranquility in the woods where St Francis often withdrew to spend many hours in prayer.

Assisi overnight (BD)

DAY 18: Tuesday 19th April - Assisi to Gran Sasso to Rome

This morning we awake to the atmospheric sounds of chapel bells, cobblestone footsteps and a tangible spirit of St Francis preserved within the walls of this holy town.]

After breakfast we travel all morning to the Passionist Shrine and **Basilica of St Gabriel Possenti** in the **Gran Sasso** Mountains. Each year 1.5 million Pilgrims visit the Basilica, among them many young adults. St Gabriel died as a student and is the Patron Saint of Youth.

Late in the afternoon we arrive in **Rome** for transfer to our accommodation. Time is then spent at leisure before dinner.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 19: Wednesday 20th April - Rome



After Mass at St Peter's Basilica this morning we will meet our local guide for a walking tour through the **Vatican Museums** as we wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's

Masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment. We continue back to awe inspiring **St Peter's Basilica**, the largest church in the world for an informative tour. Here among many treasures we view Michelangelo's moving '**Pieta**'.

Afternoon for rest and reflection, or self guided tour. The **Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore** (where Paul of the Cross made his first vow) is near the accommodation.

Rome overnight (B)

DAY 20: Thursday 21st April - Rome

After breakfast we travel to the Passionist mother house at the **Basilica of Ss John & Paul** near the **Colosseum**. We will celebrate Mass in the Chapel of St Paul of the Cross, where his body is revered. In Paul's time, this became the centre of the Congregation. In the early 1830's many missionaries went out from here to the Belgium, England, Bulgaria and to the Australian Aborigines at Stradbroke Island (Qld)

This afternoon we will continue our pilgrimage of Rome, including the **Colosseum**, outside view of the **Roman Forum**, **St Peter in Chains Church**, the **Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore** (where Paul of the Cross made his first vow), the **Holy Stairs** (Passionist Shrine) and **St John Lateran** (First Papal residence).

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 21: Friday 22nd April - Rome

In the afternoon, we continue our pilgrimage taking in the **Basilica of St Paul Outside the**

COSTS INCLUDE

- Economy class airfares from Australia
- Most meals: as indicated
- Quality 3-4 star hotels & establishments throughout
- Air conditioned luxury coaches for touring and transfers
- Most entrance fees to sightseeing listed
- Porterage of one suitcase per person at hotels only
- Professional Escort and local guides as required
- Fully escorted from Australia
- Comprehensive Harvest programme and sightseeing as stipulated
- Harvest cabin bag and renowned pilgrim's journey

All details of sightseeing listed and order of daily arrangements must remain subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances that may arise, or at the discretion of the pilgrimage leadership or tour operators.

Walls, Tre Fontane, Circus Maximus, and the **Catacombs**, underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews.

Afternoon for rest and reflection, or self guided tour.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 22: Saturday 23rd April - Rome to Australia

DAY 23: Monday 25th April - Arrive Australia/NZ (pm)

SIMPLE BOOKING PROCEDURES

- Phone Harvest Sydney to place your reservation, and, if known, any other extension plans
- Send \$300 deposit per person plus insurance payment with completed booking form to your Harvest office stated below
- Await Harvest letter of confirmation containing receipt and further details including any visa forms etc. (follow Harvest instructions.)
- Make balance of payment 6 weeks prior to departure date
- Await receipt of all tour documents, wallet, cabin bag and Pilgrim's Journal 2 weeks prior to departure

**HARVEST PILGRIMAGES: AUSTRALIAWIDE TOLL FREE
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