

# ST. PAUL'S JOURNEY THROUGH TURKEY

PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAIN: REV. FR. ARTURO ALBANO

JUNE 15 - 25, 2019

USD 3,978/pax on TWN / TPL

## JUN 15 (SAT) DAY 01 DEPART MANILA

## JUN 16 (SUN) DAY 02 ARRIVAL ISTANBUL, Turkey

Hosgeldiniz! Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel for breakfast and early check-in. Freshen up and prepare for Holy Mass. Commence on our tour by driving over the **Galata Bridge** spanning the Golden Horn. Visit the **Basilica Cistern**, a subterranean marvel and the largest of the long-forgotten palatial cisterns of the Byzantine Empire.

## JUN 17 (MON) DAY 03 ISTANBUL / KAYSERI / CAPPADOCIA

Proceed to the **Spice Bazaar**. Embark on a **cruise along the Bosphorous**, the natural waterway that divides Asia from Europe, while admiring the Ottoman palaces, mansions and fortresses along the way. Transfer to the airport to catch the flight to Kayseri.

## JUN 18 (TUE) DAY 04 CAPPADOCIA

Today we visit the incredible **Underground City of Kaymakli**, an 8-level labyrinth of passageways where early Christians lived in secrecy to survive and keep their faith. Picture stops at the natural fortress in **Uchisar** to capture a panoramic view of the beautiful plateau. Then proceed to **Goreme Valley** to explore the rock-carved churches hollowed out of volcanic ash. Lunch will be at **Avanos Village** with a glimpse of local pottery making and a carpet show. OPTIONAL: Pre-book your Hot Air Balloon Ride: USD 200

## JUN 19 (WED) DAY 05 CAPPADOCIA / KONYA

After breakfast, drive to **Konya** (ancient Iconium) which became an important Christian city following St. Paul's preaching. Mass at St. Paul Church.

## JUN 20 (THU) DAY 06 KONYA / YALVAC / PAMUKKALE

Early morning drive to **Psidian Antioch** (Yalvac) where St. Paul opened Christianity to the world.

## JUN 21 (FRI) DAY 07 PAMUKKALE / LAODICEA / HIERAPOLIS / PAMUKKALE

Drive to **Laodicea** where we see two **theaters**, a large **stadium**, a **water tower** and an **odeon**. On to **Hierapolis**, founded by Pergamon King Telephos and named after his wife Hiera. Visit the ruins of the **Roman health spa** and the **Calcified Terraces** (Cotton Castles) at Pamukkale.

## JUN 22 (SAT) DAY 08 PAMUKKALE / PHILADELPHIA / SARDIS / KUSADASI

Depart after breakfast for **Philadelphia**, an important Christian center during Byzantine times. Visit the ruins of the **Basilica** then proceed to **Sardis** whose history dates back to 12th century BC. See the **Synagogue**, the **Gymnasium**, the **Byzantine Church** and the **Temple of Artemis**. After lunch drive to **Izmir** to visit **St. Policarp church**.

## JUN 23 (SUN) DAY 09 KUSADASI / EPHESUS / KUSADASI

Today's highlight is **Ephesus**. We begin with the **Basilica of St. John** "the Evangelist" who came here with the Virgin Mary and wrote his Gospel. Highlights include the **Library of Celcius**, the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Fountain of Trajan**, the **Brothel** and the **Theater**. Not to be missed is the **House of Virgin Mary** where she is reported to have spent her last years until her death.

## JUN 24 (MON) DAY 10 KUSADASI / PERGAMON / TROY / CANAKKALE

Depart hotel and drive to **Bergama**. Take a **funicular to Acropolis** of the ancient site and see Asclepion Medical Center. Here is one of the seven churches where in the Book of Revelations there are messages to the angel of Pergamon. Lunch then proceed on to the city of **Troy**. Visit the ruins of Troia and see a replica of the **wooden horse**. St. Paul crossed to Samotrake Island from a town nearby called Alexandria Troya. Dinner and overnight in Canakkale.

## JUN 25 (TUE) DAY 11 CANAKKALE / ISTANBUL

Depart Canakkale and head back to Istanbul. Pass by the beautiful **Chora Church (Kariya Museum)**, with the best remaining examples of Byzantine mosaics and frescoes. At last we will browse around the exciting **Grand Bazaar**, a maze of over 4000 tiny shops selling gold, jewelry, leatherwork and fine

## JUN 26 (WED) DAY 12 ISTANBUL

We cap our journey with a visit to the **Topkapi Palace**, from where the Ottoman Empire ruled this part of the world for almost five centuries. Visit the **Hagia Sophia**, one of the great architectural marvels of the ancient world, then cross the street to the **Blue Mosque** with its beautiful Blue Iznik tiles and its 6 unique minarets. Continue on the **Hippodrome**, the sportive political center of the Old City and finally, a stop at the **Egyptian Obelisk**.

## JUN 27 (THU) DAY 13 DEPART ISTANBUL / ARRIVE MANILA, Philippines

### INCLUSIONS

- International and Domestic Airfares via Turkish Airlines
- Hotel accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Hotel Porterage
- FULLBOARD Meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- Transfers in an air-conditioned luxury coach
- All Airline Taxes
- Holy Mass daily
- Philippine Travel Tax
- Travel Insurance
- TIP FUND for drivers and local guides
- Pilgrimage Chaplain
- Filipino Tour Escort