

JOIN **FR. ROGELIO GONZALEZ** ON A PILGRIMAGE TO

Greece & Greek Isle Cruise

In the Footsteps of St. Paul



September 19-29, 2023

\$5,329 from San Francisco or Los Angeles

All Pricing Based On Double Occupancy

Optional Post Tour to Turkey | Sep 29 – Oct 02, 2023 | \$1,699 per person

Early Booking Discount of \$200 per person for reservation and deposit received **by February 28, 2023**

Promotional Code: **CRGR23**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: **Fr. Rogelio Gonzalez**

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www.pilgrimages.com/corareyes/greece

Sample Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1, Tue, Sep 19: Depart for Greece

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

Day 2, Wed, Sep 20: Arrive in Athens

Welcome to Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. Upon landing at Athens Airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Board the bus to transfer to your hotel. Enjoy some time to relax after check-in. After a delicious meal, overnight in Athens.

Day 3, Thu, Sep 21: Athens - Excursion to Corinth

After breakfast at the hotel, start with a tour of the oldest city in the world, Athens! Visit the rock that has dominated the panorama of Athens for twenty-five centuries, the Acropolis. At the Acropolis, you will see the ruins of the Parthenon, Erechtheum, and Propylaea. After, you will ascend Mars Hill of where Saint Paul spoke to the Athenians about the one and only God (Acts 17:22). While in this city, view the ancient Agora, the former public center of Athenian life. It held the focus of a political, commercial, social, religious, and cultural center. As you are in the former political center, proceed with a drive through the city to view the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square. Also, have the opportunity to view the University of Athens, the oldest higher education institute in Greece and, the National Library of Greece that holds 4,500 Greek manuscripts. Visit Panathenaic Stadium, the beautifully marbled multi-purpose stadium. It is home to the Olympian Zeus and the site of the first modern-era Olympics (1896). Following your visit to Athens, you will proceed to ancient Corinth. Under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, Saint Paul lived in Corinth for two years. While here, Saint Paul felt great grief over what the Gentile Church in Corinth has become. As a result, he wrote four letters, all with the overarching theme of love. In Corinth, have the opportunity to view the remains of the first century shops, the site of the Saint Paul's trial by Gallio, the Fountain of Peirene, and the Temple of Apollo. Following your visit to Corinth, return to Athens for a delicious meal and overnight.

Day 4, Fri, Sep 22: Athens - Start 3-day Cruise (Celestyal Cruises) to Mykonos

Following breakfast, proceed to the Piraeus port, where you will board your 3-day cruise. Your first stop will be the Island of Mykonos, the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands that attract visitors from all over the world. After docking, transfer to Hora, the capital of the island. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you on the narrow cobbled streets of the city. Pass by chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs, and white-washed houses to arrive in Alefkandra. This part of Mykonos, known as the "Venice of Mykonos", as homes have wooden balconies and are built on the sea. Historically, these homes were of the wealthy merchants and captains. Return to the cruise ship for dinner and overnight.

Day 5, Sat, Sep 23: Kusadasi - Ephesus (Mary's House) - Patmos

Enjoy breakfast on board in the lively Turkish port of Kusadasi. We then transfer to the small village of Mt. Koressos. Visit the stone chapel situated upon the site, where the Virgin Mary spent her last days following the crucifixion of Christ. Following this visit, walk through the Magnesian Gate to the ancient Ephesus. Enjoy a walking tour that will take you through the most magnificent excavations in the world. Some of the sites include the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the Scholastica, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrines, the Library of Celsus. The last stop on the walking tour is the Great Theatre. The largest ancient theatre with a capacity of 25,000 people and is a site where Saint Paul preached. Follow the exact route that Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession via the Arcadian Way. This main street runs from the Great Theatre to the city harbor. On your transfer back to Kusadasi, have the opportunity to view the Basilica of Saint John. In the sixth century, Emperor Justinian erected this structure over the grave of the evangelist, John. Upon arrival in Kusadasi, enjoy free time to explore on your own before returning to the ship. The cruise journey continues to Patmos, where you will transfer to the village of Chora. While in this capital, visit the monastery of Saint John the Theologian. This marvelous structure, built nine-hundred years ago, continues to be supported by the walls of a strong fortification. In addition to the stunning main church that contains outstanding frescoes, you will have the opportunity to view the beautiful courtyard, dining room, and bakery. Visit the small museum, where you will view priceless ecclesiastical treasures such as books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, textiles, vestments, and jewelry. Board the bus and transfer to the monastery. Visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse believed to mark the spot where

John of Patmos received his visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. The silver niches in the wall mark the pillow and ledge were used as a desk by the author. View the three-fold crack made by the voice of God, who emphasized the importance of honoring the Holy Trinity. Your day will culminate with a transfer to the port of Scala. While in this quaint and picturesque harbor, enjoy free time before returning to the ship.

Day 6, Sun, Sep 24: Heraklion - Santorini

This morning awaken and transfer to the largest city on the island of Crete, Heraklion. While in this administrative capital, visit the in 1899 discovered ancient ruins of the Palace of Knossos. The palace is currently partially reconstructed and believed to have been the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. Here is where Saint Paul met the owner/and captain of the ship and was warned by him of continuing his journey to spread Christianity in Rome. Following this historical visit, embark by ship to the idyllic island of Santorini. Santorini is definitively the most breathtaking island of all of the Greek Islands. Upon arrival in Santorini, visit Thira with its iconic white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes, and glittering boutiques that cling to cliffs. This evening enjoy your last dinner and overnight on the cruise ship.

Day 7, Mon, Sep 25: Athens Port - Delphi

This morning, following disembarkation you will leave the Athens for proceed to Delphi also known as the center of the ancient world (navel) of the earth. Its prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. Visit the site and the museum and continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, Tue, Sep 26: Delphi - Meteora

After breakfast, board the motorcoach for a short drive to the Meteora Monasteries. In the eleventh century, some monks settled within caves. However, as the Turkish occupation increased, the monks were forced to move their settlements higher upon the rocks until they were unreachable by any opposing enemy. These settlements became Monasteries by bringing building and lifting materials by ladders and baskets. Notorious for preserving the Hellenic religion as well as their academics and arts. During your visit, you will be able to view stunning Byzantine art, as well as the breathtaking scenery that surrounds the monastery. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka.

Day 9, Wed, Sep 27: Kalambaka - Thessaloniki City Tour

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel and then transfer to Thessaloniki. In the winter of 49-50 A.D., Saint Paul wrote two epistles to the Thessalonians. These letters urged Christians to "live blamelessly" and to refrain from living idly while they wait for the second coming of Christ. While in Thessaloniki, you will witness several ancient artifacts, such as the triumphal Arch of Galerius found at the start of Via Egnatia. Due to the convenient location, this arch was once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire and constructed to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius following the Roman victory over the Persians. Following the city-tour, check into Hotel and enjoy some free time before group gathers for wonderful dinner. Relaxing overnight in Thessaloniki.

Day 10, Thu, Sep 28: Thessaloniki - Philippi - Kavala - Thessaloniki

After breakfast, start your day with visit to Philippi. Philippi was the city where Saint Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and, he established the 1st church in Europe. "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). It is also the site where Saint Paul baptized a woman named Lydia, the first convert to Christianity in Europe. Visit the Roman Forum, where Saint Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling woman. View the prison (now in ruins) where Saint Paul and Silas were thrown into by the owners of the fortune-tellers. Continue to the modern port city of Kavala, which was once the ancient Neapolis. This port is where Saint Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy landed when they sailed into Europe. After enjoying this city by the sea, return to Thessaloniki for a delicious meal and restful overnight.

Day 11, Fri, Sep 29: Thessaloniki Airport - USA

Following breakfast, say your heartfelt farewells to a journey that will last in your memory forever. Transfer to Thessaloniki airport for your return flight(s) home .

Sample Day-by-day Itinerary & Inclusions

Or for pilgrims taking Post Tour to Turkey:

Day 11, Fri, Sep 29: Thessaloniki Airport – Istanbul

Morning Flight to Istanbul which once was the capital to two major Empires. Drive over Galata Bridge to the old town which was once known as Constantinople, continue to the Hippodrome, the center of activities during the Byzantine era and Ottoman Empire time for four hundred years. Here the chariots thundered the skies and grounds had been the scene to countless military and political dramas. See the Constantine Obelisk, the Serpentine Column which was a memorial, was brought from Greece and Egyptian Obelisk which was once located at the Karnak Temple in Luxor. Enter to the Blue Mosque (The Mosque of Sultan Ahmet I), world-renowned for the thousands of blue glazed tiles covering the walls. See the grandeur of a 17th Century old masterpiece. Later walk to St. Sophia which was a mighty church at the center of Byzantine Constantinople. The building dates to 535 AD and was built by Emperor Justinian. It was converted to a Mosque in 1452. Today it is a museum. See the largest cupola and fine Byzantine mosaics of the Church. Visit The Basilica of St Anthony of Padua the most prestigious Catholic Church in Istanbul. An imposing red brick building, it was originally built on this site in 1725, but was demolished in the early 20th Century, in order to make way for a tramway. However, the church was rebuilt by the architect, Giulio Mongeri and completed in 1912, and stands as a fine example of the Italian neo-Gothic and Tuscan-Lombard styles. Celebrate Mass and continue the day with a tour of Basilica Cistern, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns beneath the city that provided a water filtration system for the buildings nearby. Today it's popular tourist attraction. Dinner and overnight at your Hotel.

Day 12, Sat, Sep 30: Istanbul

Morning drive thru Golden Horn and visit Church of Chora. The first Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora (*as it was originally known*) was built during the reign of Justinian (527-565) on the site of a former chapel that was located just outside the first city walls (*but within the Theodosian Walls that still exist today*) that surrounded the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople. The word chora is the ancient Greek word for countryside – a reference to the fact that the original chapel was outside the city walls, in what would have been fields. The mosaics of the former Chora Church tell biblical stories, which can be followed like a graphic novel. On the North wall of the inner narthex there are 17 images depicting the life of the Virgin Mary, including her birth, first steps, and marriage. Next, visit Balat old Jewish neighborhood. Its name from the Greek word "palation", meaning Palace. Balat has unique architecture, churches, synagogues, trade guilds and social life. Visit Cathedral of Holy Spirit; the Cathedral, built in Roman style in 1845-46, has been the See for ten years, from 1934 to 1944, of the Apostolic Delegate Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, who later became Pope with the name of John XXIII. and in 2016 has been canonized. His portrait, on the left of the cathedral was painted in 2000, when his name was given to the street behind our cathedral. This cathedral is the main spiritual center for the Latin Catholics of the Vicariate of Istanbul, who is the Pastor (Apostolic Vicar – Bishop) of the Latin Community. The Holy Spirit Cathedral gave a warm welcome to four popes, whose names are written on the commemorative plaques on the church walls. Celebrate Mass. In the evening cruise Bosphorus between 2 continents, Europe and Asia. Dinner with Turkish show during the cruise. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 13, Sun, Oct 01: Istanbul

Start our day at Topkapi Palace, a huge walled complex hugging the Bosphorus. Built in 1468 by Mehmet the Conqueror, the imperial residence of Ottoman sultans is now a museum that houses the artifacts dating back six centuries. The extraordinary collection includes the imperial treasury, weapons, calligraphy, Chinese porcelain, art, artifacts and jewels. Arrive and visit famous Spice Market (Egyptian Bazaar) It is one of the oldest bazaars in the city dated 17th century. Spice market took its name from the fact that goods from the Far East and India arrived here from Egypt on the so-called Misir Kervani (Egyptian Caravan) Finally, you will be taken to the Grand Covered Bazaar, a bargain-hunters paradise with its tantalizing maze of nearly 4000. The narrow alleys are filled with shops offering jewelry, carpets, leatherware, copper goods, spices, herbs and more. This promises to be one of the most rewarding shopping experiences. Farewell dinner and restful overnight.

Day 14, Mon, Oct 02: Istanbul - USA

Following breakfast at your Hotel transfer to the Airport for your return flights Home

Your Trip Includes:

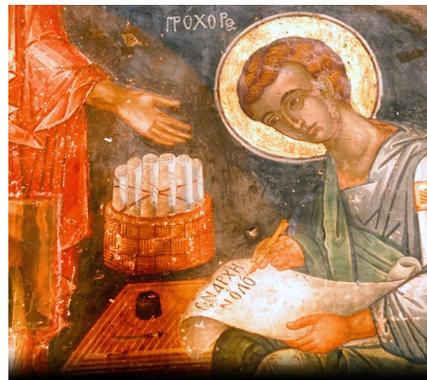
- † Round-trip airfare from San Francisco (SFO) or Los Angeles (LAX) on Turkish Airlines
- † Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- † 9 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
 - ~ 2 nights: Sep 20 – Sep 22: Electra Metropolis, Athens
 - ~ 3 nights: Sep 22 – Sep 25: Celestyal Cruise (top outside cabins with picture window, cat XC on higher decks 5 or 6)
 - ~ 1 night: Sep 25 – Sep 26: Hotel Amalia Delphi, Delphi
 - ~ 1 night: Sep 26 – Sep 27: Hotel Grand Meteora, Meteora
 - ~ 2 nights: Sep 27 – Sep 29: Deluxe MonAsty Hotel Autograph Collection by Marriott, Thessaloniki
- Optional Post Tour to Turkey:
 - ~ 3 nights: Sep 29 – Oct 02: Hotel Barcelo, Istanbul
- † Breakfast and Dinner daily
- † Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner while on Cruise
- † Wine and mineral water with dinners
- † Wine/beer/soft drinks with Lunches and dinners on board 3 day cruise
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- † Wireless headsets where needed
- † Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- † Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- † Port taxes & fees
- † All tips included while on cruise
- † Shore excursions while on ship include:
 - ~ Mykonos - Walking tour
 - ~ Kusadasi - Ephesus & the house of the Virgin Mary
 - ~ Patmos - Monastery of St. John & Grotto of Apocalypse
 - ~ Crete - Palace of Knossos
 - ~ Santorini – Thira (Fira) by cable car, walking tour, Mass at Santorini Cathedral
- † Bosphorus cruise with dinner and Turkish show during Post Tour
- † Flight bag & PDF digital confirmation of all travel documents

Additional Options:

- Business Class Upgrade: (*pending availability*)
 - Roundtrip: + \$4,400
 - One Way: + \$2,200
- Travel Protection: + \$363 (for trip costs between \$5,001 -\$5,500)
Travel Protection: + \$533 (for trip costs between \$7,001 -\$8,000)
- Cancel for Any Reason: + \$399
- Single Private Room: + \$1,949
- Post Tour to Turkey: + \$1,699
- Post Tour to Turkey in private room: + \$2,698

Not Included:

Lunches, Beverages unless mentioned, Tips to your guide & driver.



How to Book

How To Register

Booking online is fast, safe & easy! Simply visit this website and find the blue “**Let’s Book**” button to begin the registration process:

www.pilgrimages.com/corareyes/greece

Let's Book

During the Registration form, you will be asked to provide:

- † Departure City
- † Full Name as per Passport
- † Date of Birth
- † Contact & Mailing Info
- † Passport Number & Expiration
- † \$400 non-refundable deposit
- † Rooming Arrangements

Simply scan this QR Code with your smart phone to be taken directly to our web page with all details, pricing, options, and registration form!



What's Next?

- † After registering you will immediately receive a confirmation invoice via email.
- † Access your online portal to make payments or updates to your account.
- † Final payment is due by 90 days prior to departure: June 21, 2023
- † 3-4 weeks prior to departure you will receive:
 - † Flight Package (Backpack, nametags, luggage tag, portfolio, etc.)
 - † Digital Confirmations (Flight Confirmation, Instructional Documents)



Questions?

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Additional Information

www.travelinsured.com | 844-228-3679



For all details & to book visit:

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