



Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University

TOUR OF GREECE AND TURKEY

(Trip might be taken on its own or in conjunction with
Early Christianity: Pauline Texts and Places -THEO 298P/1)

May 6-21, 2012



**Accompanied by:
Dr. Matthew R. Anderson and TA: Sara Terreault,
Dept of Theological Studies Concordia University,
Montreal**

May 6, Sun: Departure Montreal

Departure from Montreal on a transatlantic flight with Air Transat to Athens.

May 7, Mon: Arrival Athens

After collecting your luggage, meet your guide at the waiting hall and board your bus we make our way to ancient **Corinth**, where the apostle Paul lived and preached. He wrote his first and second letters to the believers here. We will see also the archeological museum and the temples. This is the site where Paul established the first church made largely of gentiles. We stop to visit the two famous ancient ports of Cenchræan, and the Corinth Canal.

Continue to Athens. Overnight in **Athens**.

May 8, Tue: Athens Full day tour

Today after breakfast, we will tour Athens with its famous **Acropolis** with visits to the **Parthenon**, **Areopagus**, and **Mars Hill** where according to Acts the Apostle Paul delivered his well known sermon. Afterwards we take a panoramic tour to the rest of the sites of Athens: the library; the university; the parliament and many others of the famous places of the city. In the afternoon we will have free time to explore the ancient part of the city-Plaka.

Overnight in **Athens**.

May 9, Wed: Athens – Kalambaka

After breakfast we depart our hotel to **Kalambaka** where we will see the hanging Byzantine monasteries from the 14th century. There are 24 and only 6 are inhabited Overnight in **Kalambaka**.

May 10, Thu: Kalambaka, Veria, Vergina, Pella- Thessaloniki

After breakfast we will make our way to **Vergina**, the ancient capital of the Macedonian empire, we will see the Royal Tombs including that of Phillip II, father of Alexander the Great. Then continue to **Veria (Berea)** where St. Paul escaped the hostility he encountered at Thessaloniki. We will see the monument built to the Apostle at the southern part of the city, also known as the Bema. Then to **Pella** the capital of the Macedonian empire, to see the ancient houses where mosaics were found from the 4th century BCE.

Overnight in **Thessaloniki**.

May 11, Fri: Thessaloniki, Philippi, Kavala

After breakfast, we have a tour of the city and see the so-called white tower, the Arch of Galerius, and a few churches such as the Agios Demetrios. We then follow the ancient highway of Via Ignatia to reach **Philippi**. Philippi is now an archeological site only but has a glamorous history. Named after Philip II of Macedonia, Philippi was the gathering place of Paul's first Christian converts on European soil. We see some old section of the Via Ignatia, St. Paul's prison, and the archeological museum. After Philippi's visit, we travel to **Kavala**, ancient site of Neapolis. Here, we visit the harbor where St. Paul first landed in Greece. Overnight in **Kavala**, and the chance on your own time to visit the aqueduct built by Suleyman the Magnificent, as well as the castle overlooking the old city.

May 12, Sat: Kavala-Alexandropoli-Samothrace

Today we depart Kavala and drive to Alexandropoli to take the ferry across the Aegean sea to the **island of Samothrace**. Upon arrival we will have a panoramic tour where we will see the breathtaking church dedicated to the Virgin Mary "Panagia Kremiotissa" as well as the sanctuary of the Great Gods and the Archeological museum. Overnight in **Samothrace**.

May 13, Sun: Samothrace-Alexandropoli- Greek-Turkish Border / Canakkale / Assos

Morning drive to the Greek-Turkish Border. After passport formalities, we board our Turkish motor coach. Drive through the First World War Battlefields of Gallipoli and cross by ferry to the Asia Minor side – we are now in Asia. We overnight in **Assos** (Hotel on the beach)

May 14, Mon: Assos

Free day on the beach. Overnight in **Assos**.

May 15, Tue: Assos / Troy / Pergamom / Thyatira / Izmir

We continue today through the ancient city of **Troy**, with its 4000 year old history recalling the epic struggle of the Iliad, made famous in Homer's poems, as the center of the Trojan War. We then visit **Pergamom** where the first Christian was put to death by the Roman state, home to the invention of parchment and the church that John both affirmed and chastised (Rev. 2:12-17). Pergamom is also the site of the historical novel being studied by the class! We visit the Acropolis and the Asclepion (Temple to the God Asclepius) of the Hellenistic City of Pergamon. Overnight in **Izmir**.

May 16, Wed: Izmir / Ephesus / Izmir

Drive through the meandering Valley of **Ephesus**, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and our 7th Church of Revelation. It was here that Paul spent much time, and from where he wrote several letters; Ephesus was a centre of the early believers in Asia Minor and the ruins are magnificent. According to early Christian tradition the apostle John also brought Mary, the mother of Jesus, here. We will visit the **Basilica of St. John** and the ancient city of Ephesus. Then you will be heading up the hills behind Ephesus, where according to tradition the **Virgin Mary** was said to have spent the last days of her life. Overnight in **Izmir**.

May 17, Thu: Izmir / Istanbul

Drive from Izmir to Istanbul. En route, we visit **Thyatira**, a church praised in the book of Revelation for its increasing faith but criticized for its tolerance of Jezebel (Rev. 2:18-28). Overnight in **Istanbul**.

May 18, Fri: Istanbul

Visit of **Istanbul**, ancient Constantinople. This city of Constantine became the "Second Rome" in the fourth century CE. Ecumenical Councils held here played an important role in the first thousand years of the Christian Church. You will be escorted to the famed **Hippodrome Square** which was once the sporting and social centre of Constantinople. Istanbul boasts its monumental shrines of different faiths. The **Blue Mosque** is probably one of the most famed masterpieces of Ottoman religious architecture. Standing right across the Blue Mosque is the **Basilica of Saint Sophia** (the Hagia Sophia) that was built by the emperor Justinian the Great during 6th century. This massive structure will embrace you with surprise with its gigantic dome and fascinating history. In the afternoon visit the home of the Ottoman Sultans; **Topkapi Palace**. Located on the very cape of the peninsula where Constantinople was founded, Topkapi Palace was built as the center of administration of the Ottoman Empire. Overnight in **Istanbul**.

May 19: Sat: Istanbul

In the morning you will visit the church of **St. Saviour in Chora** and will be thrilled by the beauty of its gold-gilded mosaics of 13th century. Then you will be visiting one of the most impressive buildings of Ottoman Architecture. Continue to the old city to visit the **Spice Market** of 17th century, where you can still feel the profusion of oriental herbs and spices and the bustle of an oriental market. Later in the afternoon you will be wandering through the **Grand Bazaar and Nuru Osmaniye District** where you can find opportunities for fine shopping, especially for jewelry, leather products and many other handcrafted souvenirs. Overnight in **Istanbul**.

May 20 Sun: Istanbul

Free day in Istanbul. Overnight in **Istanbul**.

May 21 Mon: Departure from Istanbul

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Package fare: \$3,895/pers. (based on double occupancy)

Supplement for single occupancy: \$595/pers.

Price includes : Flights from Montreal-Athens and Istanbul-Montreal on Air Transat, all overnights in first class hotels (equivalent of 3* -4*), daily breakfast and dinner, all entrance fees for programmed sightseeing, all transportation in a/c bus, English-speaking guides, baggage transfer at hotels, Greek border crossing fees and all taxes.

The price does not include: Lunches throughout the program, drinks, tips for guides and drivers, Turkish Visa fees (currently USD 60), personal expenses

Registration deadline: 90 days before departure (February 06th, 2012)

To register: Please fill out the registration form and mail it together with a cheque of \$500.00 for deposit. Please register as soon as possible since there is a limit to the number of participants. We strongly recommend subscribing to travel insurance, which is to be taken at the time of the registration.

Number of participants: minimum of 15, maximum of 30

Required documentation: a valid Canadian passport is required for Canadians intending to visit Turkey and Greece. The passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of your expected departure from Turkey. A Tourist Visa for Turkey is required. The visa can be obtained upon entry to Turkey.



For information please contact:

Dr. Matthew R. Anderson or Sara Terreault
<http://theology.concordia.ca/> (514) 848-2424 #2475

or email:

GreeceTurkey2012@gmail.com



General Terms and Conditions

Reservations & Payments

A deposit of \$500.00 CAD is required along with your signed registration form. Include an additional amount equal to travel insurance, if required. Money orders and personal cheques (Canada only) are payable to **Spiritours**. The balance is due no less than 60 days before departure. The tour operator reserves the right to cancel your booking if payments are late. The following cancellation charges will apply.

Cancellation Charges

If you have to cancel, please notify us immediately. Cancellation penalty charges will apply based on the date the tour operator receives notice of cancellation as follows:

Up to 60 days prior to departure: \$500.-

Less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% Non-refundable

Spiritours reserves the right to cancel a tour if the minimum number of participants is not reached by the deadline or to change the dates if deemed necessary. In case of a cancellation called by **Spiritours**, the full amount paid for the tour will be reimbursed and this will represent the final settlement towards the client.

Insurance

We suggest that you take a trip cancellation or interruption insurance in case of sickness, hospitalization, death of the covered person or person's family members, disaster (fire, flood, etc.), loss of employment or any other major reasons. The cost for the insurance is non-refundable. It is the client's responsibility to read and understand the conditions, policies, and exclusions of the aforementioned insurance.

Claims

You are required to inform, as soon as possible, the representative of **Spiritours** of any eventual claim. Abroad, you must immediately contact the Blue Cross, or advise the guide or the Hotel Manager so that the appropriate steps are taken.

Prices

Unless otherwise specified, all prices are in Canadian dollars. Costs are dependent on fuel price, rates of exchange, taxation and other factors. Should these costs increase, the Tour Operator reserves the right to increase the price.

Compliance

The client agrees to comply with any reasonable instructions issued by the Tour Operator or its representative relating to the tour. The client waives any claim against the Tour Operator for loss, damages or injury for any reason or by any result of the rendering of any of the services included.

Tour Operator's Responsibility

The Tour Operator makes arrangements with airlines, local tour operators, wholesalers, hotels, coach companies, and other independent parties to provide you with travel services and other services required. Although the Tour Operator takes great care in selecting these suppliers, the Tour Operator is unable and does not have any control over them and, therefore, cannot be responsible for their acts or omissions. The Tour Operator shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, resulting from any delay, substitution of equipment, or any act, omission, negligence or commission by any party (including but not limited to agents, employees, subcontractors) supplying any of the products, services or accommodation herein, or for any claims, such as loss, damage, or injury, or from any cause that arises by reason of actions by parties other than the Tour Operator

Registration Form

Surname: _____ First name: _____

The names and first names must be exactly as in the passport.

Profession: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel. (home): _____ Tel. (office): _____

e-mail address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passport number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Destination: Greece and Turkey- Departure date: May 6th, 2012 - Return date: May 21st, 2011

I would like to share a room with another person:

Name of travel companion: _____

I would like to share a room with someone else from the group if possible. If Spiritours cannot find a roommate, Spiritours will assume the single supplement (for registrations made over 90 days prior to departure).

I would like a single room (supplement of \$595.00)

Person to contact in case of emergency: Name: _____ Tel: _____

Do you have any food restrictions or allergies? YES _____ NO _____

If you do, please specify: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Travel Insurance (Blue-Cross), write your initials close to the package you choose.

Rates per pers.	Emergency Medical Care _____	Package Plus _____ (medical care expenses, cancellation up to \$ 3,895 and baggage up to \$ 1,500)	Package Plus without medical care expenses____ (cancellation up to \$ 3,895 and baggage up to \$ 1,500\$)	I do not wish to purchase any travel insurance _____
0 -34 y. old	65\$	225.53\$	193.13\$	
35 - 60 y. old	78\$	225.53\$	193.13\$	
61 - 65 y. old	84\$	290.38\$	226.48\$	
66 - 70 y. old	94\$	362.59\$	255.49\$	

F.Y.I: if you are 71 years old or more please contact us.

Your signature implies that you have read the **Terms and Conditions** of *Spiritours*.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please bring this form with your **\$500** deposit cheque (to the order of Spiritours) to book your space, along with a post-dated cheque (March 6th, 2012) for the remaining balance to Dr. Matthew R. Anderson or Mrs. Sara Terreault.