



PILGRIMAGE TO ASIA MINOR

WITH FATHER LAWRENCE AND MATUSHKA ANN MARGITICH

SEPTEMBER 16-28, 2024

Day 1, Monday, September 16, 2024

Meals: Dinner.

Arrival in **Istanbul**, transfer to the hotel. Dinner and orientation. Overnight at the hotel in Istanbul

Day 2, Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Istanbul-Constantinople is in no need of introduction. We will start our tour of the glorious imperial city with a visit to what was once the heart of Eastern Christendom, the Cathedral of **Hagia Sophia**, Hippodrome, and its older "neighbor" **Church of Sergius and Bacchus**, known also as "Little Hagia Sophia". After the lunch break we will visit the church of **St. George of**





the **Greek Patriarchate** in the Phanar district, and the **Church of the Mother of God at Blachernae**, home of the famous miraculous apparition of the mother of God. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. .

Day 3, Wednesday, September 18, 2024

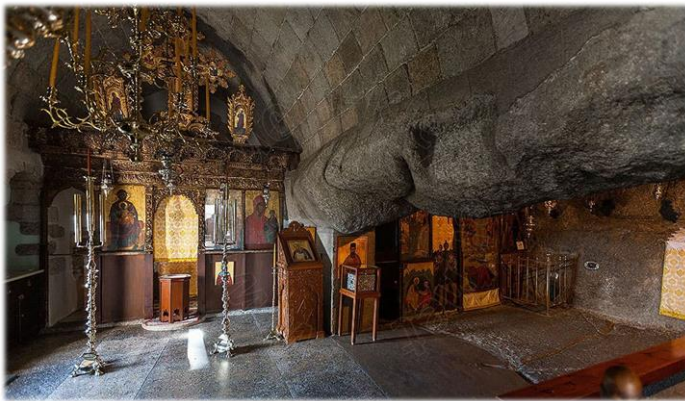
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

This morning we will start a visit to one of the oldest churches in the city, the basilica of **Hagia Irini**. From here we will proceed to the Archeological Museum and the Spice Market. Later in the afternoon we will board a boat for the cruise on the Bosphorus. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Day 4, Thursday, September 19, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

After a morning flight we will arrive at Izmir, ancient Smyrna. After an hour transfer we will arrive at the ancient city of **Ephesus**. It is impossible to overstate the importance of this city in the historical context. The city is closely associated with important New Testament and Early Church historical figures; two of the Seven Ecumenical Councils recognized by the Orthodox Church were conducted in this city. The antiquities of the city are very well preserved and in some sense rival those of Pompeii in Italy. Among many other sites, we will visit the site of **Artemision** (one of the 7 wonders of the world), the **Museum, Basilica Tomb of St. John**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi.



Day 5, Friday, September 20, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

The Island of Patmos is mentioned in the Book of Revelation that is ascribed by the earliest Christian tradition to St. John the Theologian. In the book it is stated that St. John was on the Island of Patmos when he received his revelation, and hagiography completes that account by stating that St. John was expelled to Patmos from the city of Ephesus where he resided and preached for a long time. The most important pilgrim destinations on the island are the **Cave of the Revelation** and the **Monastery of St. John**. We will visit both and then we'll stop for lunch

at a traditional Greek tavern at the port village. *Please note: our trip to Patmos is weather dependent. In case of inclement weather or high winds, a substitute land tour will be offered.* Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi.

Day 6, Saturday, September 21, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

After a morning transfer we will arrive at Pamukkale, or **Ancient Hierapolis**. Hierapolis, was renowned in antiquity for its natural hot springs. We will walk through the ancient colonnaded street and have a look at the beautiful

travertines. Those who would want to will be able to climb to the martyrrium built over the site where Apostle Phillip was executed. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 7, Sunday, September 22, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

In the morning we will celebrate Typica service and then visit the site of Ancient **Laodicea**. Among many other things, it is important as a host place of a Council that in the mid-4th century formulated rules specifying Biblical Canon. In recent years, an ancient house was excavated with a strange room which had been expanded for communal use. Some of the scholars believe that this is the remnant of the ancient house church, where the faithful were gathering for prayers and possibly Eucharistic meals. After a visit to the site, transfer to Kas [Ka-sh] a very pleasant seaside town in the ancient province of Lycia. Dinner and overnight in Kas



Day 8, Monday, September 23, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

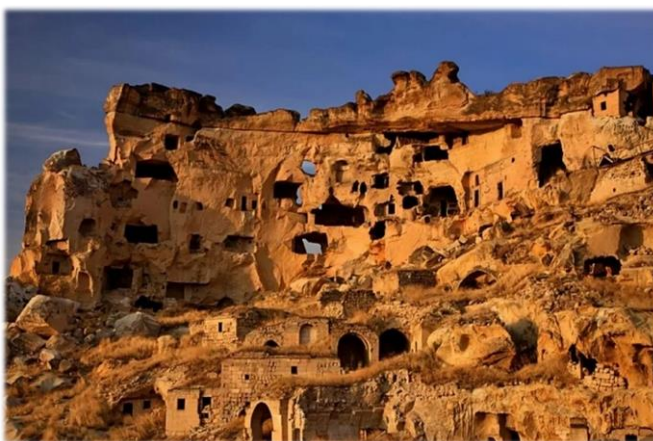


In the morning we will transfer to **Myra** (Demre), the town where **St. Nicholas** was bishop and where his relics rested till the time when his remains were taken away to Bari in Italy. The city of Myra was a very important historical center as in the day it was one of the prime cities of the province of Lycia. Later in the afternoon we will board a private boat for lunch and the exploration of the sunken city of Simena. The place that we will visit is truly unique. Stairs of ancient long-since-abandoned buildings descend straight into the water. More adventurous folks may take a swim in pristine turquoise waters of the little gulfs where the boat will be moored. For dinner and overnight we will transfer to Antalya

Day 9, Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

In the morning we will visit one of the best **archeological museums** in all of Turkey, boasting a magnificent collection of the artifacts found mainly at the sites of ancient cities of **Aspendos** and **Perge** that we will visit later in the day. Both cities are located some miles away from Antalya and both of them were considered important centers during the Roman and Byzantine periods. While Aspendos is known for its well-preserved theater and large aqueduct, Perge has some important surviving ancient monuments. It is known that Perge was visited by the Apostle Paul during his missionary journeys. Dinner and overnight in **Konya**.





Day 10, Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch.

This morning we will start our journey to the region of **Cappadocia**. Our first stop of the day will be at the **Mevlana Museum**, an interesting site dedicated to the renown medieval mystic and poet. Next stop will be at the **Agzikarahan Caravanserai**, build in the 13th century as the safe haven on the major trade route. Later in the afternoon we will visit Derinkuyu, an underground city. Such underground structures served as refuge for hundreds of locals and their livestock during the times of invasions. Many-level structures

were completed with kitchens, storage places, barns, and even chapels. For our dinner and overnight we will arrive to our hotel in Cappadocia.

Day 11, Thursday, September 26, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

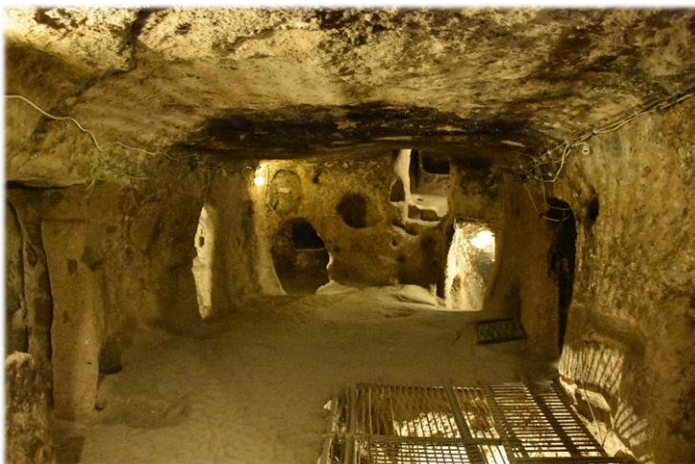
Today we will be exploration of one of the most interesting regions in Turkey – **Cappadocia**, which is also incredibly important in Christian history. In the morning we will drive to visit **Eskigumus Monastery**, the most impressive and most southerly of all Cappadocian monasteries, lost in history and rediscovered only in the mid-20th century. It is very well preserved and has some of the best-preserved frescoes in all of Cappadocia. As short drive from the Eskigumus monastery, there are remains of the church of St. Constantine and Helen. Remains of the Ancient Basilica and the walls of the medieval church still preserve wonderful Byzantine frescoes. In the afternoon we will visit the carpet shop. While under no obligation to buy anything, you are welcome to enjoy a wonderful presentation and to wonder at the skill of the local carpet weavers. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Cappadocia.



Day 12, Friday, September 27, 2024

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Optional **hot air balloon ride** early in the morning. Today we will visit **Urgup**, known as **Prokopi** to the Greek population. Urgup was a place of pious labors of **St. John the Russian**. We will visit a house with the stable where he worked and lived and the church where his relics were before they were taken to Greece by resettled local townfolk. Then on to the **Pasabagi Valley** with the cave hermit dwellings and the **Goreme Open Air Museum**. Many of the dwellings in this wondrous region were inhabited up until 1920s, monasteries were populated and churches were in use. The sad events of the early 20th century turned most of the once densely populated villages into ghost towns and “open air museums”. Later in the afternoon we will board our plane for a flight to **Istanbul**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul



Day 13, Saturday, September 28, 2024

Meals: Breakfast

Transfer to the airport. Departure back home



PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

Price include:

- Accommodations in 4-star/5-star hotels along the way
- All breakfasts and lunches or dinners (two meals daily)
- Two domestic flights
- Private bus transportation along the way
- Group transfers from the airport and from the hotel to the hotel in Kayseri and Istanbul
- Boat tour to Patmos
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guides
- English speaking guide/escort during the entire tour

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance
- Visa (can be obtained from <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>)
- Air tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport in Turkey if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.

- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal suggested amount per person is \$3 per day for bus drivers and \$5 for local tour guides. Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$ 3300per person, in double occupancy in a group of 30 participants; Single supplement: \$850 extra. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of local currency vs US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a credit card; domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

A deposit of \$800 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable,

unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is June 1, 2024. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, June 16, 2024. Failure to pay in full by June 16, 2024 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 61 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the

difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay

Turkish visa to be obtained online prior to travel: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

A certificate of a negative COVID test performed not more than 72 hours before arrival to Turkey or a recognized vaccination passport. Request for a vaccination passport may become a mandatory request by the time of travel.

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property, possible Covid quarantine and/or hospitalization and treatment
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to COVID hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.
- The US authorities expect travelers to pass a PCR test for COVID before boarding the plane bound for the US

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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Telephone: 001-607-797-1058

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**REGISTRATION FORM:
PILGRIMAGE TO ASIA MINOR WITH
FATHER LAWRENCE AND MATUSHKA ANN MARGITICH**

SEPTEMBER 16-28, 2024

*To register: please complete this registration form and return it along with
your deposit check (\$800.00) made to PALOMNIK, LLC to the following address:
Palomnik, LLC, 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850.
Please write "TURKEY SEPTEMBER 2024" on the memo line.*

Full Name (exactly as in your passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Nationality, Passport # :

Issue and expirations date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodation at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: