



PILGRIMAGE TO ASIA MINOR WITH FATHER JACQUES-JUDE LEPINE, PH.D. SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 4, 2025

Day 1, Monday, September 22, 2025

Meals: Dinner.

Arrival in **Istanbul**, and connecting flight to **Kayseri (ASR)**. Arrive to **Kayseri**, meet with the guide and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 2, Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Today we will be exploring 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. From here we will continue to visit the **Soganli Valley**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 3, Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Optional **hot air balloon** early in the morning. Today we will visit **Urgup**, known as Prokopi to the Greek population. Urgup was a place of the 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 onto 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 the 1920s, monasteries were populated and churches were in use. The sad events of the early 20th century turned most of the once densely populated cave cities into ghost towns and "open air museums". Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 4, Thursday, September 25, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

This morning will be our last day in the region of Cappadocia. Our first stop will be at **Derinkuyu**, an underground city. Such places served as refuge for hundreds of locals and their livestock during the time of invasion. Multi-level structures were completed with

kitchens, storage places, barns, and even chapels. As we continue our journey to **Konya**, the Iconium of old, we will visit the **Agzikarahan Caravanserai**, built in the 13th century as the safe haven on the major trade route. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Konya.

Day 5, Friday, September 26, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Today we will visit two archeological parks – those of **Aspendos** and **Perge**. 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 was known for its well-preserved theater and large aqueduct, Perge has some important surviving Christian monuments. It is known that Perge was visited by the Apostle Paul during his missionary journeys. Dinner and overnight in Antalya.





Day 6, Saturday, September 27, 2025

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 descent 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 return back to Antalya.

Day 7, Sunday, September 28, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

In the morning we will attend local Orthodox Church for the Divine Liturgy, and after the service we will visit one of the best Archeological museums in all of Turkey, boasting a magnificent collection of the artifacts found in the region. In the afternoon we will transfer to Pamukkale, a town built in close proximity to Ancient Hierapolis, famous for its hot water springs and



travertines. People in Antiquity believed that the hot springs have healing properties, and were coming to the Hierapolis for treatments from afar. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.



will be able to climb to the martyrion built over the site where Apostle Phillip was executed. Our next stop will be Ancient Laodicea. Among many other things, it is important as a host place of a Council that in mid-4th century formulated the biblical Canon. In recent years, an ancient house was excavated with a strange room that was expended for communal use. Some of the scholars believe that this is the remnant of the ancient house

Day 8, Monday, September 29, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

First stop of the day will be at Ancient Hierapolis, located just a short drive from our hotel. We will walk through the ancient colonnaded street and have a look at the beautiful travertines. Those who would want to





church, where faithful were gathering for prayers and possibly Eucharistic meals. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 9, Tuesday, September 30, 2025

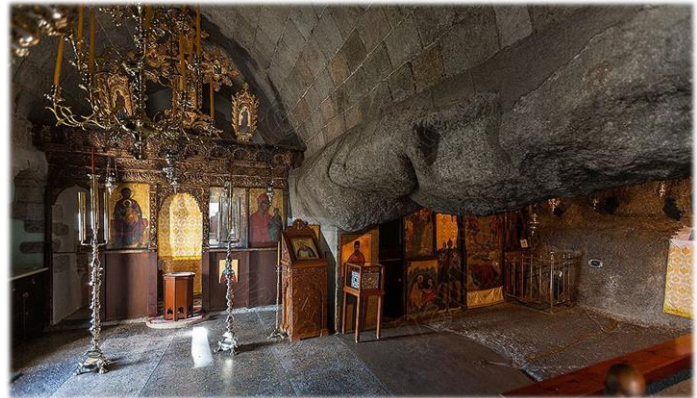
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

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 in one of the villages.

(Please note that travel to Patmos is weather dependent. Under unlikely, but possible circumstances of coast guard not allowing chartered boat to travel from Kusadasi to Patmos due to high winds or inclement weather, an alternative excursion to Miletus and Didyma will be offered).

Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi



Day 10, Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Today we will spend a full day exploring 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 the Artemision (one of the Seven Wonders of the World), the Museum, and Basilica Tomb of St. John the Theologian. Our dinner will be enroute to the airport. Evening flight to Istanbul (about one hour). Transfer to the hotel.



mosaics and frescoes. Overnight at the hotel in Istanbul.

Day 11, Thursday, October 2, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner. Istanbul-Constantinople is in no need of introduction. We will start our visit of the glorious imperial city with a visit to what was once the heart of Eastern Christendom, the Cathedral of **Hagia Sophia**, and its older "neighbor" the church of **Hagia Irini**. We will continue the exploration of the city with the most beautiful **Chora Church** (if it will be reopened by the time of our visit open) with its world-famous

Day 12, Friday, October 3, 2025

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today we will continue our exploration of the Great City with the visit to **Church of the Mother of God at Blachernae**, famous for the miraculous apparition of the Mother of God, celebrated during the Feast of Protection and the **church of Sergius and Bacchus**, known also as "Little Hagia Sophia". We will make a stop at the Spice Market and will finish our day at the Archeological Museum. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul.



Day 13, Saturday, October 4, 2025

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure back home



PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

Price include:

- Accommodations in "****/*****" hotels along the way*
- All breakfasts, all dinners and a lunch
- 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
- Bus transportation, guide and entry fees on Patmos
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guide
- English speaking escort during the entire tour

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance
- Air tickets (international or domestic, except a ticket from Izmir to Istanbul)
- 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
- Drinks with meals
- Tips: Minimal suggested amount per person is \$10 per traveler per day
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$3450 per person, in double occupancy in a group of 26 participants; Single supplement: \$1000 extra and subject to availability. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to nearly unprecedented spikes in fuel prices that negatively impacted the economies of the most countries in the region. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away. We do apologize for any inconvenience in that regard and appreciate your understanding of the difficult circumstances of the current challenging environment.

All payments should be made by check to:

"Palomnik, LLC", and mailed to: 668 Pittsburg Road, Butler, PA 16002. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. If you'd like to register and to pay via the credit card, you can do so via this link:

<https://tri.ps/xohye>. Please beware of the extra credit card fees that are charged by the banking institution. If you'd like to pay by Zelle, please use ortours@gmail.com e-mail address. If you'd like to make a bank deposit or need info for a banking wire, please contact us directly.

A deposit of \$1000 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 strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is June 22, 2025. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, June 22, 2025. Failure to pay in full by June 22, 2025 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

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs 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 financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to 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

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

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Telephone: 001-878-221-7041

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**REGISTRATION FORM:
PILGRIMAGE TO ASIA MINOR
WITH FR. JACQUES-JUDE LEPINE, PH.D.**

SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 4, 2025

*To register: please complete this registration form and return it along with
your deposit check (\$1000) made to PALOMNIK, LLC to the following address:*

668 Pittsburg Road, Butler, PA 16002.

Please write "Asia Minor 2025" 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 accommodations 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: