

# THE WAY OF ST. PAUL AND ST. JOHN IN GREECE AND TURKEY

**Stephen J. Binz, Pilgrimage Leader**  
**Fr. John Marconi, Chaplain**

**11 Days – April 6-16, 2024**



**For More Information Contact:**

**Select International Tours**

**800-842-4842**

**rebecca@select-intl.com**

**selectinternationaltours.com**





## Pilgrimage Leader: Stephen J. Binz

*Stephen J. Binz is a Catholic biblical scholar, award-winning author, and popular speaker, offering keynotes, missions, and education for pastoral leaders. Following graduate work at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem, he has developed Bible studies and offered pilgrimages to sacred places. His books have earned awards from the Catholic Media Association and the Association of Catholic Publishers. He now lives with his wife Pamela in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. To see his publications, speaking events, and pilgrimages, or to contact him, visit [www.Bridge-B.com](http://www.Bridge-B.com).*

### Dear Pilgrims,

I invite you to travel with me on a biblical journey in the way of St. Paul and St. John. Paul is the author of 13 letters in the New Testament, and John is the author of a gospel, 3 letters, and Revelation. We read about both of these apostles in the Acts of the Apostles. We will visit the most important places associated with their apostolic ministries and inspired writings.

The New Testament will come alive as we explore the sites where these faithful evangelizers established and shepherded Christianity's earliest churches. We will see synagogues, city markets, prisons, rivers, temples, mountains, harbors, and islands where Paul and John traveled in the name of Jesus Christ. Like them, we will journey by land and by sea, but unlike them, we will travel in a luxury coach and a cruise ship. Along the way we will experience the arts, scenery, churches, and monasteries of these beautiful lands.

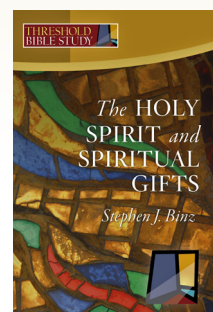
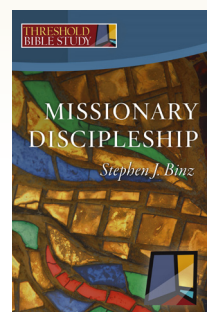
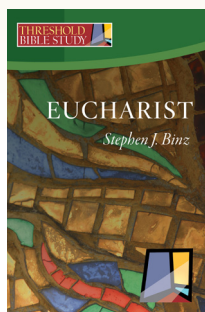
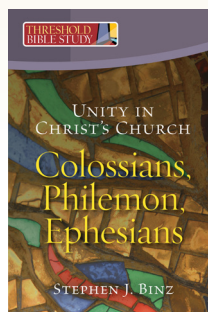
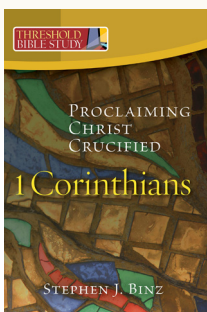
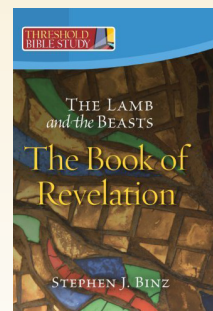
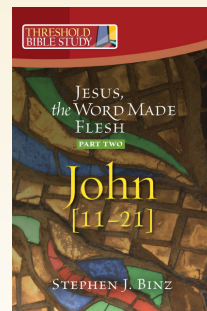
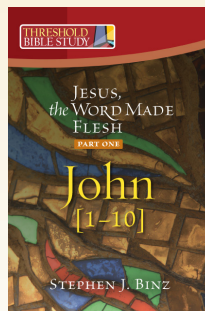
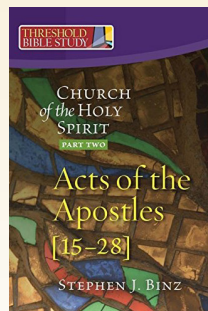
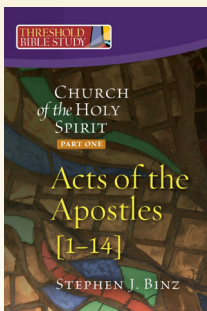
We will be joined by Fr. John Marconi, a seasoned pastor and spiritual director, and my friend of many years. He is a native of Arkansas and serves as a priest in the Diocese of Little Rock. In addition to enjoying the pilgrimage with us, he will be offering Mass and homily for us throughout our pilgrimage and blessing us with his insights and prayer.

Be assured that we will share an ideal combination of sightseeing, biblical commentary, quiet reflection, prayer, and certainly fun. We will stay in quality hotels and dine on a wonderful variety of delicious meals. I have used Select International as my travel company for many years and find their service outstanding. I have never had any concerns about safety, accommodations, or amenities in all my years of leading tours.

Paul and John have been a focus of my biblical teaching and writing for many years. You will see below some of the books I would recommend for your reflection in preparation for this pilgrimage. But don't worry: there will be no quizzes, only relaxed teachings, meditations, prayers, and casual chats.

Please help us spread the word about this pilgrimage by sending this link to your friends, email lists, and social media. Space is limited to one bus, so please sign up soon by sending your registration and deposit soon. I sure hope you can be a part of this life-transforming pilgrimage.

### *In the Joy of the Gospel,* Stephen J. Binz





# WHAT'S THE COST?

Land Only  
**\$3995.00**

Group Air  
**\$1000.00**

Total Trip Cost  
**\$4995.00**

Solo Traveler  
(Additional Cost)  
**\$1195.00**

Prices are per person

\*Group Air Price based on a minimum of 10 passengers

Prices are valid only if the deposit is received no later than December 7, 2023

Final payment due February 8, 2024

Trip Code: 24RS04GRSB



This active program  
requires walking twelve  
to fifteen thousand steps  
daily, often on uneven  
surfaces, cobblestones,  
and some stairs.



## DAILY ITINERARY

### ✚ Saturday, April 6, Day 1: DEPART FOR THESSALONIKI, GREECE

We depart from Little Rock Airport to connect to our international flight to Greece. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. Quotes for Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available upon request.

### ✚ Sunday, April 7, Day 2: ARRIVE IN THESSALONIKI

Upon landing at Thessaloniki Airport Macedonia, we make our way to the baggage claim area, collect our luggage, and proceed to the arrival hall, where we will be greeted by our English-speaking tour guide and assisted to the bus. St. Paul preached in the main synagogue of Thessaloniki and wrote two letters to the Thessalonians. Here we see the triumphal **Arch of Galerius**, constructed to honor the Roman Emperor Galerius following his victory over the Persians, spanning the ancient Via Egnatia. We also visit the Byzantine **Church of Hosios David** and the **Rotunda of St. George**, with its early Christian mosaics. After celebrating Mass, we settle into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (D.)

### ✚ Monday, April 8, Day 3: THESSALONIKI – VERGINA – VERIA

During our walking tour, we explore the architecture, churches, and monasteries of Thessaloniki's Byzantine tradition, including the **Church of Hagia Sophia** with its eighth-century mosaics, the small **Church of St. Panteleimon**, the **Church of Acheiropoietos**, the **Church of Panagia Chalkeon**, and the **Church of St. Demetrius**, patron saint of the city. Following lunch, we depart for **Vergina** (ancient Aigai), the first capital of Macedonia. Here Phillip II was assassinated in 336 B.C. making Alexander the Great the leader of the Macedonian Kingdom. We explore the remarkable underground **Museum of the Royal Tombs**. Next, we visit **Veria** (Biblical Beroea), a charming town with a Jewish quarter and dozens of Byzantine churches. Paul visited here twice, and both Jews and Greeks eagerly received his message. We visit the **"bema" where Paul preached**, marked with a monument of mosaics and a nearby statue of Paul. We will celebrate Mass at holy sites on most days of our pilgrimage. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (B.D.)

### ✚ Tuesday, April 9, Day 4: PHILIPPI – KAVALA – THESSALONIKI

We travel to Philippi, where Paul established the first Christian community in Europe. We will celebrate **Mass at the river**, where Paul spoke to a group of women and baptized Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth as the first European convert. We then visit the **Roman Forum**, where Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling woman, and the ruins of the prison, where Paul and Silas were held in chains and miraculously released. We will also visit the new **Baptistry of St. Lydia**. After his stay, Paul wrote a letter filled with joyful gratitude to the Philippians. We continue on to the city of Kavala, which was the ancient **Port of Neapolis**. After being urged to travel to Macedonia, Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy crossed into Europe, arriving by sea at this port. At the **Church of St. Nikolaus**, we view a monument entitled "The arrival of the Apostle Paul in Neapolis of Philippi," honoring his first steps in Europe. After enjoying this city by the sea, we return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight. (B. D.)

### ✚ Wednesday, April 10, Day 5: THESSALONIKI – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

We travel through the Greek countryside, past Mount Olympus, legendary home to the Greek gods, to the **Meteora Monasteries**. Hiding in caves from the Ottoman invaders in the 11th century, the monks were forced to move their settlements higher upon the rocks until they were unreachable by the invading armies. Meteora means "suspended in the air," as the beautiful monasteries were established by bringing building materials and food supplies by ladders and baskets. The Byzantine monasteries perched on top of steep rocks enclose priceless manuscripts, artifacts, and paintings. While visiting the monasteries, we will enjoy the breathtaking scenery surrounding them. (Reaching the monasteries requires walking over uneven terrain and many steps.) In the afternoon, we visit an **icon workshop** in the area, where we will see how icons are made. We will enjoy a delicious Greek dinner and overnight stay in Kalambaka. (B. D.)

### ✚ Thursday, April 11, Day 6: DELPHI – ATHENS

We drive to **Delphi**, the center of the world for the ancient Greeks and the "navel" of the earth. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, we follow the Sacred Way to the ruins of the **Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios**. Here people came from many lands to seek oracles from the god about what courses of action they should take in particular circumstances. After visiting the various ruins of ancient Delphi, we continue on to Athens. Here Paul arrived at one of the most glorious cities in the world, though he was deeply distressed to see it full of idols. He preached to the Jews in the synagogue and debated with philosophers in the marketplace. See-

ing an altar dedicated “to an unknown god,” Paul announces that he is proclaiming the God whom they worship as unknown. We view the **ancient Agora**, the political, commercial, social, religious, and cultural center of Athenian life in the first century. Driving through the modern city, we view the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, then **Panathenaic Stadium**, the beautifully marbled multi-purpose stadium and site of the first modern-era Olympic Games in 1896. Dinner is at our leisure tonight and an opportunity to taste Greek foods in one of the many local restaurants near our hotel. Overnight in Athens. (B)

### ✚ Friday, April 12, Day 7: DEPART ON THE AEGEAN CRUISE – MYKONOS

We proceed to the Piraeus port to board our 3-night cruise. Our first stop will be the island of **Mykonos**, the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands. After docking, we transfer to Hora, the island’s capital, where we enjoy a walking tour that will take us on the city’s narrow cobbled streets. Pass by chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs, and white-washed houses to arrive in **Alefkandra**, known as the “Venice of Mykonos,” as the homes have wooden balconies and are built on the sea. Historically, these homes were of wealthy merchants and captains. Return to the cruise ship for dinner and overnight. (B. L. D.)

### ✚ Saturday, April 13, Day 8: KUSADASI – EPHESUS – PATMOS

We enjoy our breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day on board. In the morning we arrive at the lively Turkish port of **Kusadasi**. We then enjoy a private tour of the small village of Mt. Koressos, where we visit the **House of Mary**, a stone chapel on the site where the Virgin Mary lived as she was cared for by the apostle John. We then walk through the Magnesian Gate to the ancient Ephesus, where Paul lived for nearly three years. The walking tour takes us through the most magnificent excavations in the world, including the Odeon, the Fountain of Trajan, the Temple of Hadrian, and the **Library of Celsus**. We then view the **Great Theatre**, the largest ancient theatre with a capacity of 25,000 people. Here a riot against Paul was led by the silversmiths who made a living by making silver statues of the Mother Goddess Artemis. We will also view the ruins of the **Church of St. Mary**, where the Council of Ephesus was held, declaring Mary the Theotokos. Finally we travel to the ruins of the 6th century **Basilica of St. John**, honoring the apostle and author of the Gospel of John. We view the ancient baptistry and the altar where John was buried. From here we can view the one remaining pillar of the **Temple of Artemis**, one of the ancient wonders of the world. In the afternoon our ship sails to the **Island of Patmos**, where we enjoy another private tour (provided weather conditions allow the ship to dock). We disembark and transfer to the village of Chora to visit the **Monastery of Saint John the Theologian**. In addition to the stunning main church and its frescoes, we see the beautiful courtyard, dining room, and bakery. Our tour continues to the small museum, where you will view priceless ecclesiastical treasures such as books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, textiles, vestments, and jewelry. We then journey up the hill to the **Monastery and Grotto of the Apocalypse**. Here we pray at the site where John wrote the Book of Revelations. The silver niches in the wall mark the seat and ledge that were used as a desk by St. John. We walk down the hill to the village of Patmos to board our ship in the late afternoon. We enjoy dinner and overnight on board. (B. L. D.)

### ✚ Sunday, April 14, Day 9: CRETE – SANTORINI

This morning, we explore **Heraklion**, capital of the island of Crete. We visit the ruins of the **Palace of Knossos**, site of the Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. Crete is the site where Paul met the owner and captain of the ship, who warned him against continuing his journey to Rome. Paul later ordained his companion Titus as bishop of Crete (Tit 1:5). The **Church of St. Titus** contains the skull of St Titus, venerated in a silver reliquary. In the afternoon, we dock at the idyllic island of **Santorini**. We enjoy its breathtaking views, iconic white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes, and glittering boutiques that cling to cliffs. This evening we return to the ship for our last dinner of the cruise and overnight on board. (B. L. D.)

### ✚ Monday, April 15, Day 10: ATHENS – CORINTH

We disembark from the ship and transfer to ancient **Corinth**. Under the shadow of the towering Acropolis, Paul lived in Corinth for two years. Here we view the remains of the first-century shops, the site of Paul’s trial by Gallio, the Fountain of Peirene, and the Temple of Apollo. Paul’s letters to the Corinthians express the concerns of a loving pastor. Following our visit to Corinth, we return to **Athens**. We ascend Mars Hill, where Paul stood in front of the **Areopagus** and addressed the Athenians about the one Lord of heaven and earth. We then visit the Acropolis, viewing the ruins of the Parthenon, Erechtheum, and Propylaea. Tonight, we have a festive dinner in the Plaka section of the city. (B. Special Dinner)

### ✚ Tuesday, April 16, Day 11: RETURN TO THE USA

This morning we are transferred to Athens airport for our return flights home. Full lunch and a snack are served on the plane. We return with memories and inspiration that will last a lifetime. (B)

#### YOUR COMPREHENSIVE TOUR INCLUDES

- Round trip airfare from Little Rock to Thessaloniki/Athens (subject to change until the time of booking)
- Airline surcharges, fuel, and airport taxes are subject to change until the time of ticketing
- Accommodations in first-class hotels for 6 nights
- Buffet breakfast daily and dinners as per the itinerary
- Wine with dinners
- Private Air-conditioned bus
- Parking fees for busses
- Private English-speaking tour manager on the land program
- Local guide for the Athens tour
- 3-night cruise with all the meals on the ship
- Private shore excursion to Ephesus and Patmos
- Other optional shore excursions may be purchased on the ship
- Outside Cabins on the cruise
- Port Taxes
- Farewell dinner in Athens in a restaurant with wine and Greek music
- All entrance fees or sites listed in the itinerary
- Private visit to Corinth
- Local hotel taxes
- Select International Tours Travel Portfolio
- Baggage handling for one suitcase per person only included at the hotels
- Private Mass daily
- We recommend you consider purchasing CFAR Travel Protection

#### TIPPING

- **For the convenience of the pilgrims \$220.00 tip fund will be invoiced and collected in advance. Tip fund covers gratuities for the guide, driver, baggage handling, and restaurants for included meals**

#### RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

- Personal expenses
- All admission charges as per the itinerary (Entrance fees)
- Medical insurance
- Private English Speaking Tour Manager on the ship
- Any items not specifically mentioned in the listed inclusions
- Beverages at meals unless otherwise noted
- Mass donations

#### BAGGAGE CHARGES NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COST:

- Any airline baggage charges
- Baggage handling at train stations, airports, and hotels in excess of one suitcase per person
- Any charges incurred due to excessive luggage including the cost of an additional baggage vehicle or porterage charges

**DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT:** A **deposit of \$500.00** per person by check should accompany the enrollment form and a copy of your passport picture page by **December 7, 2023. Final payment is due by February 8, 2024. A late payment fee of \$100 will be charged per person for all payments received after the final payment date. Please mail your payment to: Select International Tours, 85 Park Ave., Flemington, NJ 08822 Attn: Rebecca Stoker, 800-842-4842, rebecca@select-intl.com.**

**Your passport must be valid through October 16, 2024. Reservations will not be processed until we have passport copies.** Prices quoted are based on payments by check. Prices: **\$3,995.00** for land only (air not included); **\$1,000.00** for group air; **\$4,995.00** for land and air; **\$1,195.00** for solo traveler, additional cost, (in room by yourself). For credit card prices add 4%

**PILGRIMAGE PRICES:** Prices are based on minimum 20 passengers. Prices may be adjusted in the event of fewer than 20 passengers, changes in currency conversion rates, or amendments in local government taxes and/or fuel surcharges. Prices are in US dollars. For European travel an exchange rate of US \$1.10 per Euro is assumed.

**SOLO TRAVEL:** A limited number of single rooms are available. Prices are based on two people per room. We do not guarantee roommates but will do our best to connect you with a someone willing to share.

**LAND ONLY OPTION:** Land only services start and end at the hotels and do not include any airfare. You are welcome to transfer from the airport with the group if you arrive at the same time, otherwise, transfers are not included.

**TOUR CANCELLATION POLICY:** Individual deposits are refundable except for a **\$350.00 per person handling fee for cancellations made 90 days or more before departure. A \$500.00 non-refundable fee will be assessed if the reservation is canceled between 90 and 60 days prior to departure. Within 60 days of departure all payments are non-refundable regardless of reason for cancellations. All airline tickets are non-refundable once issued. All cancellations must be in writing. Unused portions of the trip are not refundable. If a roommate cancels, the cost of a solo supplement will be added to your invoice. You may be eligible for a refund through your travel protection. Refer to the U.S. Policy by State on our website.**

**TRIP CANCELLATION PROTECTION:** We strongly encourage you to purchase a **Travel Protection Plan**, for the protection of your travel investment. Please consider purchasing this plan at the time of initial deposit in order to be covered for pre-existing conditions.

Visit [www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47406&p=SEL21](http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47406&p=SEL21) or call **844-440-8133** for details and costs for the Select International Travel Protection Plan with optional Cancel for any reason (CFAR). Please note that CFAR is not available in NY State. The plans contain insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. The plans also contain non-insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization.

**AIRLINE, SEATING AND SPECIAL REQUESTS:** To best accommodate our pilgrims, we often utilize Group Air Reservations. These allow more predictable transfer and tour schedules. However, when booking Group Air, the airline (not

Select International Tours) controls seating assignments. If you require very specific seats, we suggest that you book your own airfare and take advantage of our "Land Only" options. You may communicate directly with the airline to request seating changes, provide mileage program information, or change passenger contact information once you receive ticket numbers—approximately three (3) weeks prior to departure. We work with instant purchase airline tickets and or group rates. If you switch from air and land to land only within 90 days from departure you will be charged a **\$100 service fee in addition to any airline charges.** All special needs and requests due to medical or dietary restrictions must be requested in writing at least 60 days prior to departure. Business class and Premium Coach seats are available upon written request; as are additions from your hometown airport. If you require very specific airlines or schedules, we suggest that you book your own airfare and take advantage of our "Land Only" options.

**WALKING:** Our trips require daily walking, sometimes up or down slopes, steps, and uneven terrain. We recommend preparing oneself, by walking before the trip. Anyone needing assistance is required to be accompanied by a qualified and physically-able travel companion. We are not responsible for any medical condition that occurs prior, during or after the trip.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES:** Select International Tours has undertaken a reasonable inquiry, with all the suppliers (including airlines, hotels, bus companies and other service providers) used on our trips to ensure they have instigated the best available procedures regarding the pandemic- protective policies advised by local government and health authorities. The client understands and agrees that the supplier(s) may not apply those policies as diligently as the policies suggest. In addition even if the supplier makes a good faith effort to enforce its good practices, some travelers may simply refuse to cooperate. Therefore the client agrees not to hold Select International Tours or group leaders responsible should they or anyone on the trip contract COVID-19 or any other illness during or after the trip

**RESPONSIBILITY:** By accepting this confirmation, you agree that the Group Leaders and Select International Tours, Inc. have no responsibility for any acts or omission of the travel suppliers in your itinerary and during your trip. We have no special knowledge regarding the financial conditions of the suppliers, unsafe travel conditions, health hazards, or weather hazards at locations traveled. We are not responsible for flight delays or cancellations or any charges incurred due to unforeseen circumstances. Unused portions of the trip are non-refundable. For information about destination climate, risks, and safety please consult the appropriate on-line resources. For health information consult the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. You are responsible for checking passport, visa, vaccination, or other entry requirements of your destinations. Itineraries are subject to change. We are not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen articles. We are not responsible for any sickness, injury, or death during or after the trip. Travel documents will be mailed out approximately three (3) weeks before departure. Please review them carefully for any errors.

**SHIPPING & HANDLING:** \$15.00—not included in package price—will be added to each invoice. Your invoice will confirm the trip registration.

## The Way of St. Paul and St. John in Greece and Turkey with Stephen J. Binz and Fr. John Marconi

Trip Code: 24RS04GRSB

April 6-16, 2024

### THE BENEFITS OF REGISTERING ONLINE FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE:

Over the last several years, our clients have requested more control over the trip booking process, payments, and, most importantly, communication about the trips. Our response to these comments and requests had taken two years to implement, but we are happy with the results. Select has committed to a major financial and time investment in building an online reservation system that is easy to navigate using your home computer, tablet, or smartphone. We have addressed most of the requests and suggestions provided by clients. The benefits of the new system to you are a simplified registration process, the ability to access your information at your convenience, review your payment history and get trip information while easily communicating with your Account Manager and group leader.

When you register online, you will receive regular email updates about your trip and useful tips and tricks for making your international travel more comfortable and enjoyable. And best of all, you can register online even if you prefer to pay by check or wire transfer; just choose that option upon checkout.

We understand that some people are not comfortable with technology and prefer to register via mail-in paper registration, regardless of the many benefits of registering online. To make that easy, we have created a generic registration form on our website at <https://selectinternationaltours.com/register-online/>. You may download and print the form, fill it out and mail it with your check to Select International Tours. However, before you choose to register by mail, please know that we cannot communicate with people who do not register online as frequently and seamlessly. And you may miss some important communication regarding balances and trip preparation, as well as communication from your group leaders. We want you to be in charge and be comfortable with the registration process; our job is to inform you so you can choose the best system for you.

To learn how easy it is to register online, please view THIS SHORT 6-minute VIDEO that explains the process at <https://selectinternationaltours.com/register-online/>.

#### Secure Your Spot!

Register online\* ✓

Pay the deposit ✓

Complete the tasks in your online profile ✓

\*See how easy it is to register online:



[selectinternationaltours.com/easy/](https://selectinternationaltours.com/easy/)