

ADULT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE (35+)

19
DAYS

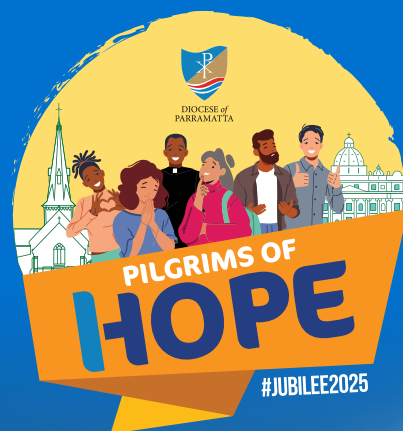
St Paul & the Early Church Jubilee Pilgrimage

Athens to Rome

Every 25 years, the Church declares a Holy Year, a profound gift of grace and mercy for all believers. In this dedicated Jubilee year, experience the journeys of renowned saints, from St Paul and his companions who ardently spread God's word, to St Peter in Rome. Enter the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing in the Eternal City.

DEPARTS SUNDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2025 • 19 DAYS / 16 NIGHTS

Athens (2 nights) • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (2) • Meteora • Izmir (1)
• Pamukkale (2) • Kusadasi (1) • Ephesus • Island of Patmos (2) • Island of Samos (1)
• Rome - Jubilee (5)



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



Athens



Patmos



Meteora

SYMBOLS: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

Itinerary

DAY 1: SUNDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2025 – DEPART FOR GREECE

DAY 2: MONDAY 08 SEPTEMBER – ARRIVE ATHENS

Athens today is the thriving capital of Greece, but, more importantly, we have entered into the world of the New Testament where St Paul and his companions established the first Christian communities throughout his four missionary journeys.

On arrival in **Athens** we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel. This evening, we will celebrate our first Mass together.

Athens overnight (D)

DAY 3: TUESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER – ATHENS AND ANCIENT CORINTH

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city which worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21).

We begin our pilgrimage with a tour of **Christian Athens** including the **Acropolis**, the **Areopagus** where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of “the Unknown God” (Acts 17:15-34). View the Ancient Agora and the **Plaka** (Old Greece) and explore the **Parthenon**.

This afternoon we journey out to **Ancient Corinth** where the apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. We visit the ancient ruins and see the site where he

preached the Gospel from the **Rostrum**. See the **Peirene fountain**, and the 6th century BC **Temple of Apollo** before an outdoor Mass in this stunning pilgrimage setting. Finally we come to **Cenchreae**, the ancient port from where St Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18).

Athens overnight (BD)

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER – VIA HOSIOS LOUKAS MONASTERY TO METEORA

Today we depart Athens, travelling west to the remarkable Byzantine **Monastery of Hosios Loukas**, built in the 11th century on the slopes of Mt Helikon. In 1990 UNESCO included this site on their World Heritage List. On arrival, we will celebrate Mass in the grounds of the Monastery and be taken on a guided tour of the **Churches, crypt and surrounds** where we admire the amazing frescoes and mosaics.

We continue north this afternoon to the small town of **Kalambaka** built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of **Meteora**.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 5: THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER – METEORA EXPLORATION

We spend some time today marvelling at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their Monastic community of **Meteora**. We will visit some of these living monasteries and view the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes and other treasures that will make this a remarkable day.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

Kalambaka overnight (BD)

DAY 6: FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER – METEORA TO IZMIR VIA ATHENS

This morning we will return to Athens airport for our flight to **Izmir**.

Izmir overnight (BD)

DAY 7: SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER – SMYRNA AND SARDIS

After breakfast we visit the site of ancient **Smyrna**, one of the **Seven Churches of Revelation** (Rev 2:8-11). This was home to a lively Christian community under the pastoral care of its bishop – the saintly Polycarp.

This afternoon we continue on to **Sardis**, the most picturesque of the seven churches (Rev 3:106). This city was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom in the 6th century BC. Here we will walk on the remains of the **Royal Persian road** and visit the ruins.

We then continue onto **Pamukkale** to check in to our hotel.

Pamukkale overnight (BD)

DAY 8: SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER – PHILADELPHIA AND LAODOCIA

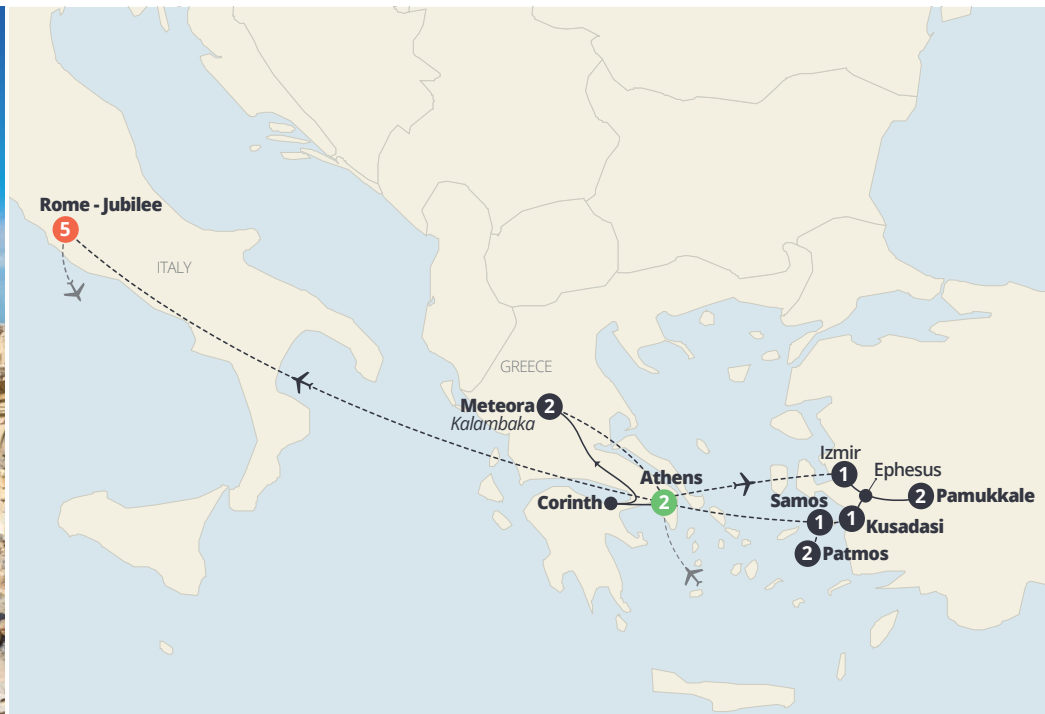
This morning, we visit the site of **Ancient Philadelphia**, today known as Alasheir. This is the second of the seven churches (Rev 3:7-17). Here we will view the remains of a Byzantine Basilica.

We then continue on to **Laodicea** another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Laodicea was an early Christian community with some serious spiritual concerns (their faith neither being hot nor cold) – see Revelations 3:14-21.

Pamukkale overnight (BD)

DAY 9: MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – EPHESUS

We travel to **Ephesus** this morning, the most famous of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third missionary



journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his greatest and most challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and succeeded in converting many away from worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit today will include the ruins where St Paul lived and preached, see the **prison of St Paul**; walk through the ancient marble streets founded in the 10th century BC and see this most 'complete' Roman city providing us with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. Pass the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Library of Celsus**, the enormous **amphitheatre** (Acts 19:29-31), and finally come to the ruins of the **Christian Basilica** where the Third Ecumenical Council took place in 431AD, and where Our Lady was proclaimed "Mother of God".

We ascend the hill to the **House of the Virgin Mary** where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. We celebrate our group Mass here in one of the chapels. Finally, we visit the restored remains of the 6th century **Basilica of St John at Celcuk** where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist.

Kusadasi overnight (BD)

DAY 10: TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER – KUSADASI TO PATMOS

Today we travel by ferry to the Dodecanese island of **Patmos**, where St John wrote the Book of Revelation. Lying between the islands of Leros and Ikaria is the 'ascetic shaped' Patmos, called the 'Jerusalem of the Aegean' due to the overwhelming atmosphere of the island during the great celebrations of Christianity.

Island of Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER – PATMOS EXPLORATION

We begin our day with a walking tour of the main square of the village of **Chora**. This

is the traditional settlement and capital of Patmos, where the narrow streets were designed to ward off pirates over the centuries. Ascend to the **Monastery of St John the Beloved**, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, for a visit and celebration of Mass.

Our exploration of this living monastery will culminate with time in the actual **Cave of Revelation** where God chose to reveal to St John the mysteries of the last book of the Bible - the Apocalypse. The cave is now at the foot of the monastery, which houses priceless icons and manuscripts, sacred relics, vestments embroiled with silver or gold threads and bejeweled with precious stones.

Later continue to the active **Convent of Evangelismos (Annunciation)** built by the hieromonk Nikiphoros who was cured from the plague after praying to St Luke the Evangelist. Visit the **Convent of Zoodochos Pigi** with icons dating from the 16th to the 18th century. Finally we will enjoy a short scenic tour of the island.

Island of Patmos overnight (BD)

DAY 12: THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER – PATMOS TO SAMOS

Today, we depart Patmos by ferry and make our way to the scenic Island of Samos.

Island of Samos overnight (BD)

DAY 13: FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER – SAMOS TO ROME*

Today we will take the final leg of our pilgrimage to Samos airport for our flight via Athens to **Rome**, the Eternal City, rich in the traditions of our church.

Upon arrival in Rome, we will be met and transferred to our accommodation.

The Jubilee Year is a time for the faithful to renew their commitment and strengthen their relationship with God. It is also a time for Catholics to come together as a community

pilgrim highlights

- + Visit Athens' Areopagus Hill, where St Paul preached, and explore Corinth's ancient ruins, including the site of his transformative teachings.
- + Discover the breathtaking Byzantine monasteries perched atop towering cliffs in Meteora and admire their rich frescoes and relics.
- + Explore ancient Smyrna, Sardis, and Laodicea, pivotal Christian sites from the Book of Revelation.
- + Experience the serene setting of Mary's final earthly home in Ephesus, where she is honored as the Mother of God.
- + Visit the sacred cave in Patmos where St John wrote the Book of Revelation and tour the Monastery of St John.
- + Witness iconic landmarks in Rome like the Colosseum, Vatican Museums, and St Peter's Basilica, and celebrate Mass at historic basilicas.
- + Walk the Appian Way, visit St Paul Outside the Walls, and descend into the ancient Catacombs for a profound spiritual journey.

and to celebrate their faith. The 2025 Jubilee Year is sure to be a memorable and meaningful event for people around the world, to be blessed and refreshed for the mission that lies before us.

**Please note the itinerary in Rome is dependent upon the Jubilee circumstances and activities and may be subject to change.*

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 14: SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER – ROME*

This morning, we will enjoy a tour of the

CONTINUED →



Colosseum



Vatican Museums

Historical centre of Rome. See some of the most famous sites in the Eternal City - the **Pantheon (outside)**, the **Spanish Steps**, **Trevi Fountain**, **Piazza Navona**, **Piazza Venezia**.

In the afternoon we enter the most visited attraction in Rome - the **Colosseum**. In 1749, Pope Benedict XIV declared the Colosseum a sacred site, as it was a place where early Christians had been martyred. View also the Circus Maximus and the Roman Forum en route.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 15: SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER – ROME*

This morning, we make our way to St Peter's Square for a memorable **Angelus** with Pope Francis as we join with pilgrims from around the world.

(Subject to the Pope's presence in Rome)

In the afternoon, visit the impressive **St Mary Major Basilica**. Onwards to the **Basilica of St John in Lateran** (First Papal residence). Adjacent to the Basilica we view the **Holy Stairs** brought from Jerusalem to Rome in 326AD by St Helena.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 16: MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER – ROME: THE VATICAN & MAJOR BASILICAS*

Commence our day with **Mass** at **St Peter's Basilica** before coming to the nearby **Vatican Museums**. Wander the spectacular chambers leading to the **Sistine Chapel** to view Michelangelo's masterpieces, including the magnificent fresco of the Last Judgment. Continue through to the awe-inspiring St Peter's Basilica, the largest church in

the world for an informative exploration. Our guided tour will feature among other highlights Michelangelo's stunning **Pietà**, the **tomb of Pope St John Paul II**, the **great Confessional** and the **Crypt** containing the tombs of several Popes.

Afternoon at leisure.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 17: TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER – ROME: ST PAUL'S & THE CATACOMBS*

Journey this morning out to the majestic **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls**.

Originally consecrated in 324, the saint's tomb is visible now under the Papal Altar. We will celebrate a wonderful **Mass** here as a special tribute to the Church's greatest evangelist.

Continue then along the ancient **Appian Way**, the oldest road from Roman times to the **ancient Catacombs** for a memorable guided tour to marvel at these underground burial tunnels for Christians and Hebrews.

Rome overnight (BD)

DAY 18: WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – DEPART ROME*

After celebrating our final **Mass** together this morning, we make our way to the airport for our homebound flights or ongoing travel connections. (B)

DAY 19: THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV25108
STARTS	Sun 07 Sept 2025
FINISHES	Thur 25 Sept 2025
AIR & LAND	AUD \$10690 (Twin Share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2650 Supplement
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$255 Per Person
PARRAMATTA MERCHANDISE	AUD \$200 Per Person

* Costs have been based on prices as at December 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, airfare or tax increases or minimum group size factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details.

INCLUDED

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on reputable local 3-4 star superior hotels or quality religious houses as applicable • Meals as specified in Itinerary

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: International Economy Class group airfare Sydney-Athens/Rome-Sydney • One-way Economy Class group airfare Athens-Izmir / Samos-Athens-Rome • Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees

OTHER: Fully Escorted by Priest Chaplain • Porterage at hotels (where available) • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet

NOT INCLUDED

Other meals not listed • Passport and Visa Costs (if applicable) • Items of a personal nature including phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc. • Travel insurance • Prepaid Tipping

Harvest Journeys

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journeys