

**AT THE
SOURCES
OF FAITH**
PILGRIMAGES

TURKEY

*In the Footsteps of Saint Paul
and the First Christians*

From May 20 to 31, 2027

(12 days / 10 nights)

*Tour in partnership with Novalis / Living With Christ

 **Living with Christ**


spiritours
SOULFUL
JOURNEYS

Holder of a Quebec permit



In the Footsteps of Saint Paul and the First Christians

Explore the biblical lands of Turkey, the cradle of the Church. Follow in the footsteps of one of the greatest witnesses to the Christian faith through the places that shaped his life and mission. From Tarsus to Ephesus, from Antioch in Pisidia to Istanbul, discover exceptional archaeological sites while deepening your understanding of St. Paul's writings and legacy. Through prayer, celebrations, and moments of reflection, let yourself be inspired by his boldness, his trust in God, and his missionary zeal. Also, connect with the legacy of the early Christian communities that welcomed and passed on his message, and experience a pilgrimage where culture, history, and faith come together to illuminate your own path.

**Trip organized in partnership with Novalis / Living with Christ.*

Highlights

- Follow in the footsteps of St. Paul's missionary journeys through Asia Minor
- Discover the enchanting landscapes of Cappadocia
- Pray at the major sites of early Christianity

Extras

- Mass in Antioch of Pisidia, a key site of Paul's mission
- Time for meditation at the House of the Virgin Mary
- Visits to Ephesus, Miletus, and other cities

 **Living with Christ**



Accompanied by



Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, CR

Born in São Miguel, Azores and grew up in North Bay, ON. He has been a Resurrectionist since 1986 (presently serving at the Vicar-Provincial) and a priest since 1992. He holds several degrees in Theology. He has been a pastor, math teacher, consultant with the Archdiocese of Toronto and Director of Liturgy for World Youth Day 2002. Currently, he is the Board Chaplain for the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic School Board, North Bay. Over the years, he has accompanied many groups to the Holy Land and in the footsteps of St. Paul in Turkey.



Emilie Cabouat

Emilie Cabouat is Communications Manager and Executive Assistant to the General Manager at Bayard Canada. French and Canadian, she lived in New York before settling in Montreal with her husband and their two children. Organized, curious, and open to the world, she enjoys learning, exploring, and meeting people from different backgrounds. A passionate traveler, reader, and culture enthusiast, she spent several months backpacking through Southeast Asia. Raised in the Catholic faith, she is deeply committed to Christian values and will accompany this pilgrimage with a spirit of sharing, attentive listening, and openness to others.

The profile of your trip



Christian Pilgrimage

The origin of these tours is based on the Christian tradition, and they are often accompanied by a theologically trained priest or guide. The program includes the possibility of attending mass every day (free of charge).



Cultural trip

These trips will enable you to discover sites of particular cultural and historical interest (museums, archaeological sites, historic monuments, religious heritage), take part in important cultural events or meet the local population to learn more about their culture (customs and habits).



Spiritual Walk

Indicates that the program includes walking in natural settings (mountains, deserts, fields) and sometimes in towns and villages. These are contemplative walks that we suggest you take in silence to foster inner reflection.



Easy

Relatively flat terrain, only 1 to 2 hours of walking per day.

Itinerary

DAY 1 | THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2027

DEPARTURE FROM TORONTO

In the evening, depart from Toronto for Istanbul to begin your pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul and the early Christians. Meals and overnight on board.

DAY 2 | FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2027

ISTANBUL – KAYSERI

Arrival in Istanbul and welcome by your guide. Connecting flight to Kayseri, gateway to Cappadocia. Check in at the hotel and enjoy some time to rest before beginning your discovery of the lands where the first Christian communities took root. Dinner included. Overnight in Kayseri.

DAY 3 | SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2027

KAYSERI – GÖREME – UÇHISAR – PAŞABAĞI – CAPPADOCIA

Breakfast. Discover the spectacular landscapes of Cappadocia: Göreme and its rock-cut churches, Uçhisar, Paşabağı, Pigeon Valley and Devrent Valley. These extraordinary formations, sculpted over time, create a landscape unlike anywhere else in the world. Lunch in a historic caravanserai. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Cappadocia.

DAY 4 | SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2027

CAPPADOCIA – ÇATAL HÖYÜK – KONYA

Breakfast. Visit Çatal Höyük, one of the oldest known human settlements. Continue to Konya, ancient Iconium, where St. Paul proclaimed the Gospel. Lunch en route. Discover the Mevlana Museum and the heritage of the Whirling Dervishes. Mass at St. Paul Church. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Konya.

DAY 5 | MONDAY, MAY 24, 2027

KONYA – ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA – PAMUKKALE

Breakfast. Travel to ancient Antioch of Pisidia, an important site from St. Paul's first missionary journey. Visit the archaeological site and celebrate Mass. Lunch during the visit. Continue to Pamukkale, recalling the cities associated with the letters of St. Paul. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Pamukkale.

DAY 6 | TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2027

PAMUKKALE – LAODICEA – HIERAPOLIS – PAMUKKALE

Breakfast. Visit Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation, followed by the celebration of Mass at the site. Return to Pamukkale to discover its famous white travertine terraces and the ancient ruins of Hierapolis. Lunch during the visit. Time for prayer at the Martyrium of St. Philip. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Pamukkale.

DAY 7 | WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2027

PAMUKKALE – PRIENE – DIDYMA – MILETUS – KUSADASI

Breakfast. Discover Priene and its remarkable ancient urban planning. Lunch in Didyma, followed by a visit to the Temple of Apollo. Continue to Miletus, where St. Paul said farewell to the elders of Ephesus. Time for prayer at the site. Continue to Kusadasi and celebrate Mass at the hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Kusadasi.

DAY 8 | THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2027

KUSADASI – EPHEBUS – HOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY – KUSADASI

Breakfast. Today is devoted to Ephesus, the great ancient city where St. Paul spent more than two years. Visit the House of the Virgin Mary and celebrate Mass. Lunch during the visit. Discover the major archaeological remains of Ephesus, the Basilica of St. John and the site associated with the ancient councils. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Kusadasi.

DAY 9 | FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2027

KUSADASI – IZMIR – ISTANBUL

Breakfast. Transfer to Izmir Airport for your flight to Istanbul. Lunch in the city. Discover the great chapters in the history of Byzantium, Constantinople and the Ottoman Empire: the Hippodrome, Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. Mass at a Catholic church in Istanbul, followed by a cruise on the Bosphorus. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 10 | SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2027

ISTANBUL – NICAEE – ISTANBUL

Breakfast. Travel to Nicaea, the city of two renowned ecumenical councils. Discover Hagia Sophia, the ancient city walls, the Green Mosque and the Nilüfer Hatun Museum. Lunch during the day. Return to Istanbul. Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, followed by a gathering and reflection on the Council of Chalcedon. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 11 | SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2027

ISTANBUL

Breakfast. Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Visit Topkapi Palace, the former residence of the Ottoman sultans, followed by the Walls of Theodosius and the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, renowned for its Byzantine mosaics and frescoes. Lunch during the visit. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 12 | MONDAY, MAY 31, 2027

ISTANBUL – TORONTO

Breakfast. Mass at the Chaldean Church and meeting with the local community. Depending on the flight schedule, transfer to Istanbul Airport for your return flight. Meals on board. Arrival in Montreal with treasured memories of this pilgrimage through the lands of St. Paul.

*** Itinerary subject to change – Exclusive tour, all rights reserved ***



Information

Prices

Early bird discount*:

- 6 579 \$ / pers. (double/twin occupancy)
- 7 505 \$ / pers. (single occupancy**)

*100\$ discount if you register before January 20, 2026.

Regular price:

- 6 679 \$ / pers. (double/twin occupancy)
- 7 605 \$ / pers. (single occupancy**)

**Subject to availability, limited quantities.

**Spiritous offers the possibility of pairing, but Spiritous cannot assume the additional costs for single occupancy if we are unable to pair you. You will be billed for the difference between 30 and 60 days prior to departure if Spiritous is unable to pair you.*

* All prices are based on the exchange rate in effect on October 10, 2026.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Round-trip flights from Toronto to Istanbul with British Airways (or similar)
- Domestic flight between Istanbul and Kayseri
- 10 nights' accommodation based on double occupancy in 4-star hotels (local standards) in twin rooms.
- Three meals per day from breakfast on Day 3 through breakfast on Day 12.
- Transportation by private, air-conditioned coach according to the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours listed in the itinerary, including admission fees
- Services of a spiritual leader and a Spiritous tour leader
- Services of an English-speaking local guide for the duration of the trip
- Rental of audio guides/headphones for guided tours
- All taxes

THE PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel insurance (see the registration form)
- Beverages, including water
- Tips and donations for Masses (approximately \$15 per day)
- Personal expenses
- Luggage handling
- Contribution to the Travel Agent Customer Compensation Fund (currently free of charge)

Registration

Registration deadline March 20, 2026

(60 days before departure or when the maximum number of passengers is reached). It may be possible to register after this date, but a surcharge may apply.

To register

You can register on our website (see top right of the trip webpage) or download and complete the PDF form and send it to us with your \$750 deposit. Please register as soon as possible, as places are limited. Please include a photocopy of your passport with your registration (international travel only).

Travel insurance

For travel insurance, contact us to find out your premium.

Number of participants

Minimum 20 - Maximum 30

Required documentation

All Canadian travelers visiting Turkey must have a passport valid for at least 150 days from the date of entry. Tourist visa: not required for stays of 90 days or less within any 180-day period.

For more information, please contact:

Eric Ramirez

(514) 374-7965, ext. 202

eric.ramirez@spiritours.com

What is the weather like in Turkey at this time of year?

In May, temperatures generally range from 10 °C to 23 °C in Istanbul and Cappadocia, while they can reach 25 °C to 27 °C in the Pamukkale and Kuşadası regions. Mornings and evenings can be cool, especially in Cappadocia.

What is the local currency, and what are the recommended payment methods?

The official currency of Turkey is the Turkish lira (TRY). Canadian and U.S. dollars can be exchanged locally at currency exchange offices. We recommend that you bring a few \$CAD or \$USD bills with you and exchange them for Turkish lira as needed.

Most Canadian ATM cards work in Turkey. Check with your bank before you leave. Visa and Mastercard credit cards are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, and stores. However, we recommend that you always carry some Turkish lira in cash, especially for smaller shops.

The exchange rate for the Turkish lira is approximately 1 CAD = 35.1 TRY / 1 TRY = 0.0285 CAD (indicative rate as of September 4, 2026).

How much should I allocate to additional expenses?

We suggest a budget of approximately \$250 to \$400 per person to cover meals, drinks, bottled water, tips, and personal expenses (souvenirs, calling cards, drinks, postcards, optional activities).

SUGGESTED TIPS

- National guide: \$5 to \$7 per person
- Driver-guide: \$2 to \$4 per person per day.
- Housekeeping staff at hotels: \$1 to \$2 per person per day.
- For included meals, tips are already included, but it is customary to leave \$1 per meal.
- Spiritual guides and leaders are not paid. If you wish, you may leave them a tip or other token of appreciation, at your discretion.

In the case of exceptional service, you are free to give more... and conversely, in the case of poor service!

Is the trip guaranteed to depart? If not, will you receive a refund if Spiritours does not reach the minimum number of participants?

A trip is guaranteed to depart as soon as the minimum number of participants is reached. As soon as this condition is met, we promptly notify all travelers, and the trip status is also updated on our website.

If the minimum number of participants is not reached by the registration deadline, we will contact all affected travelers. In some cases, when our suppliers offer us the necessary flexibility, we may extend the registration period up to approximately 45 days before departure to maximize the chances of keeping the trip.

In the event of a trip cancellation due to insufficient registrations, all amounts paid will be refunded in full. Additionally, to thank you for your trust, Spiritours will offer you a \$50 travel credit applicable to a future trip.

We encourage you to register before the deadline. Early registration directly helps confirm trip departures and allows our team to finalize reservations with our partners more quickly.

Finally, rest assured: on average, more than 90% of the trips organized by Spiritours take place as planned, which attests to the popularity of our trips and our solid experience in organizing group travel.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit and payment

A deposit of \$750 for air travel or 25% of the total amount for bus travel is required at the time of booking, as well as the cancellation insurance premium, if desired. The balance must be paid in full at least 60 days before departure for air travel and 45 days before departure for bus travel. In the event of late final payment, please note that the reservation will be automatically cancelled, incurring the cancellation fees mentioned above.

Important note: certain trips and special events may be subject to special booking, deposit and final payment conditions.

Cancellation fees

For air travel

Up to 60 days before departure: \$750 penalty.

Less than 60 days before departure: no refund.

Name change: \$100 to \$500 penalty, depending on carrier's conditions. Within 60 days of departure, all changes will be considered as cancellations.

For bus travel

Up to 45 days before departure: 25% of the total amount.

From 45 to 21 days before departure: 50% of the total amount.

Less than 21 days before departure: no refund.

Name change: \$100 penalty.

Important note: certain trips and special events may be subject to special booking, deposit and final payment conditions.

Spiritours reserves the right to cancel a trip if the number of participants is not reached by the deadline. A full refund will represent final settlement with the passenger. Spiritours also reserves the right to extend the deadline to 45 days prior to departure, or to change travel dates or airlines if necessary. If for reasons of force majeure the trip must be suspended by Spiritours, the latter reserves the right to postpone to later dates or to cancel, but will not be liable for non-refundable sums already paid to suppliers. Spiritours cannot be held responsible for any difficulties between the authorities of a country and a member of the group who has not complied with the laws, customs, regulations and traditions of the host country.

Insurance

Travelers are advised to take out cancellation insurance in case, for major reasons (illness, injury or death of themselves or a family member), they have to cancel their trip before departure or change the itinerary en route. We also strongly recommend that you take out medical insurance. The cost of insurance is non-refundable. Travellers should consult their insurance contract for details of the nature of the cover, the risks insured, the exclusions, limitations and reductions in cover, and the cancellation procedures contained in the insurance product.

Claims

You must notify the Spiritours representative of any claim as soon as possible. When abroad, you must immediately contact your travel companion or the hotel management so that the situation can be rectified.

Prices shown

Unless otherwise indicated, all prices are in Canadian dollars. Prices are subject to change up to 30 days prior to departure in the event of a fuel price increase imposed by the carrier or an exchange rate increase of more than 5% since the date of publication of the trip price. If the change in the price of your trip is equal to or greater than 7% of the original price, you may request a refund or exchange your trip for a similar one.

Spiritours' liability

Spiritours cannot be held responsible for acts, omissions, errors or events, losses, damage or accidents during the trip, nor for delays or cancellations due to a transportation company. Spiritours cannot be held responsible for any damage suffered by the traveller due to illness, injury, loss, inconvenience or anxiety. Spiritours also declines all responsibility for any damage resulting from government action, political unrest, strikes or acts of God. Spiritours will not make any refunds under any circumstances for premature return or non-completion of a portion of a tour, nor for services not used by travelers. Spiritours' liability for failure to provide any service or benefit described herein is limited to the cost of such service or benefit.

Traveler's liability

It is the traveler's responsibility to find out about the entry and exit requirements of the country he/she plans to visit. In the event that the traveler does not possess the required documentation, he/she may be refused passage by the authorities. The traveler agrees to accept any reasonable instructions relating to the package issued while the passenger is abroad. In the event that a passenger engages in conduct prejudicial to other travellers or service providers, and persists in such conduct despite a formal warning from the service provider or its representative, the passenger will be expelled from the group and will be liable for all costs incurred as a result of such conduct, including any additional costs the passenger may incur for accommodation, food and transportation.