

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE JUBILEE OF YEAR 2025 JOIN *FR. CARLOS SERRANO*
IN A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY AND GREECE WITH CRUISE IN THE GREEK ISLANDS**

A 12 days 10 nights pilgrimage from September 7-18 of 2025

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Fresno, CA, USA

Sept. 7: USA – ROME (ITALY) *Sunday*

Sept. 8: ROME (ITALY) *Monday*

Arrival at Rome International Airport. Meet with your and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 09: ROME *Tuesday*



Buffet breakfast. Transfer to St. Peter Square and meet with your local guide to begin a tour to the Vatican Museums starting by Pigna Square, the Galleries of Roman Busts, the Candelabra, the Tapestries, and the World Map Gallery. Then to the Immaculate Room, the Sistine Chapel with the Universal Judgment of Michael Angelo, the interiors of the Basilica of St. Peter with the statue of LA PIETA. The tour ends at Piazza St. Peter with a visit to the Basilica. In the afternoon we will have a panoramic city tour of the eternal Capital passing by the Colosseum, the Roman Arena Theater. Then to Vittorio Emmanuele Memorial Monument. Walk through the ancient streets to the Piazza Spagna (Square of Spain), the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and many other monuments and squares. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 10: ROME – ASSISI – ROME *Wednesday*



Buffet breakfast. Leave for Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis. Walk through the city and visit the Basilica of St. Francis with the Crypt which hosts the Tomb of the Saint. Also visit the Church of St. Mary where the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis is located inside. since January 2007. Return to Rome, dinner and overnight.

Sept. 11: ROME – ATHENS (GREECE) *Thursday*

Buffet breakfast and transfer to Rome International Airport to board your flight to Athens (Greece). Arrive, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 12: *CRUISE THROUGH THE GREEK ISLANDS* – MYKONOS *Friday*

Buffet breakfast. Transfer to the port of Lavrio. Arrival and embarkation on the 3-night cruise to Mykonos. Lunch. Arrival, disembarkation, and free time to enjoy this cosmopolitan island on your own. We recommend getting lost in its narrow streets to discover different corners and some of the most beautiful places in the city, such as the old town, Little Venice, the Windmills, and the port. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 13: KUSADASI – PATMOS *Saturday*



Arrival in Kusadasi for a visit to Ancient Ephesus, related to the apostolic activities and preaching of St. Paul and St. John. Also, according to tradition, the city hosts the House of St. Mary. It is the best-preserved ancient city of Asia Minor, an authentic open-air museum. We will visit the Temple of Hadrian, the Roman Baths, the Library, the Odeon, and the Theater. Return to the ship. Lunch and departure for Patmos. Arrival at the sacred island of the Apocalypse, disembarkation, and visit to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian and the Cave of the Revelation where the evangelist wrote his prophetic book. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 14: CRETE (HERAKLION) – SANTORINI *Sunday*

Arrival at the port of Heraklion, the capital of this beautiful southern Greek island called Crete. Disembarkation and free time to enjoy the historic center on your own, with its most emblematic places such as the Venetian Castle, the Lions Square, the Town Hall, the Church of St. Titus, the Cathedral of St. Minas, the beautiful Loggia building, the old port, and the Archaeological Museum considered the largest museum of Minoan art or participate in one of the optional excursions. Return to the ship, lunch, and departure for Santorini. Arrival at this beautiful island and free time to enjoy the capital (Fira) on your own, practically carved into the gray rock, one of the most cosmopolitan places in the Mediterranean with beautiful views of the bay or participate in one of the optional excursions. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 15: LAVRIO PORT – ATHENS - ANCIENT CORINTH *Monday*



Early breakfast on board and disembark from the Cruise Ship. Meet with your guide and start the visit to Athens: the cradle of European culture, the source of arts and ideas, pride of the Ancient Age. Founded in the 15th century BC, when the Apostle entered its streets around 50 AD, it had been under Roman rule for two centuries. Overwhelmed and astonished by the luxurious buildings, Paul mingled with the people and ascended to the Acropolis, where he finally discovered the wonder of the Temple to the Patron of Athens. It is presumed that he did not enter the Temple and left the sacred site head down and thoughtful, sure that "his spirit was consumed seeing the city full of idols" (Acts 17:16). We will visit the ACROPOLIS. This hill, fortified during the Minoan period, was transformed into a sanctuary around the 5th century BC, becoming the heart of all Greek culture based on the worship of the gods. We will admire the majesty of the PARTHENON and the elegance of the ERECHTHEION. We will end with the AREOPAGUS, a hill existing below the Acropolis, where Paul addressed the Athenians, speaking to them and presenting the new doctrine of which he was a bearer and minister. Then we will pass by the PANATHENAIC STADIUM, the TEMPLE OF ZEUS, SYNTAGMA SQUARE with the ROYAL PALACE

In the afternoon, departure for Corinth: On the third day of arduous and long walking, Paul reached the isthmus of Corinth, now crossed by a 6-kilometer canal. Coinciding with the Apostle's death, Emperor Nero, fifteen years later, gave the first blows with a golden mattock. Paul must have been greatly impressed, not only by its artistic beauty but also because the date of its construction coincided with the destruction of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem by the King of Babylon. Paul spent two years with the Corinthians, leaving among them one of the most flourishing Christian communities he founded. Continue to the famous Corinth Canal, a Roman work of the first century to connect the Ionian Sea with the Aegean Sea. Return to the hotel in Athens, dinner, and accommodation.

Sept. 16: ATHENS – DELPHI – KALAMBAKA *Tuesday*



Buffet breakfast. Leave for Delphi, Visit. One of the world's most interesting archaeological sites. This town owed its fame in antiquity to its Oracle, which already existed in 1500 BC. The ruins we will visit were discovered in 1860: the TEMPLE OF APOLLO, the THEATER, the STADIUM, the SACRED WAY, the TREASURY OF THE ATHENIANS, and the famous bronze statue of the CHARIOTEER. We will visit its MUSEUM, which houses a very relevant collection of the discoveries made in Delphi. Departure for the OSSIOS LUKAS monastery. Visit. Impressive monastery built in the 10th century, comprising two churches and monks' cells. The main church, built on the model of the Basilica of Constantinople, houses precious mosaics and imposing marble columns. Continue to Kalambaka. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 17: MONASTERIES OF THE METEORA *Wednesday*



Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Tour begins with a visit to the METEORA monasteries. An austere monastic center since the 11th century, it not only serves as an ideal place for prayer but also attracts visitors to admire this unique "forest of rocks," inviting peace and tranquility. This place called many to withdraw from the world, giving rise to the METEORA MONASTERIES. We will make a complete visit to this site with its monasteries suspended from the sky. Built on the most whimsical and steep peaks, of the 21 existing monasteries, only six are inhabited. Inside, we can see beautiful frescoes, original icons painstakingly worked by the monks themselves, and art everywhere. We will have the opportunity to visit three of these monasteries: the MONASTERY OF TRANSFIGURATION, the MONASTERY OF SAINT STEPHEN, and the MONASTERY OF HOLY TRINITY, which can be substituted depending on closure days. Return to Athens. Dinner and overnight.

Sept. 18: ATHENS – USA *Thursday*

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Athens International Airport to board your flight back to the USA.