

## Welcome All Travelers!

You are invited to participate in a unique experience of a rich artistic tradition – a pilgrimage tour of the museums, churches, and monasteries of Turkey, Greece, and Republic of Macedonia, devoted to the study and appreciation of Byzantine iconography and architecture.

Tourists, artists, students, and pilgrims alike are offered a singular opportunity to learn the history, technique, symbolism, and Orthodox Christian theology of Byzantine frescos, mosaics, icons, and architecture. Our expert guide is **Father Patrick Doolan** of Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery. Father Patrick is an accomplished iconographer, teacher, lecturer, and author.

The IkonTour is fully escorted by a full-time, professional Tour Manager. Local bilingual guides provide an insider's knowledge of local history and culture. The tour is limited in size to ensure a relaxed pace and an easy exchange of questions and answers.

## Visit the Byzantine Treasures of . . .

- Constantinople**
  - Ayia Sofia
  - Basilica Cistern
  - Holy Saviour in Chora
  - Theotokos Pammakaristos
  - Istanbul Archaeology Museum
- Thessaloniki**
  - Ayia Sofia
  - Ayia Theodora
  - Ayioi Apostoloi
  - St. Gregory Palamas
  - Panayia Acheiropoietos
  - Ayios Dimitrios
  - Ayios Yioryos
  - Ayios Nikolaos Orfanos
  - Osios David
  - Ayioi Apostoloi
  - Museum of Byzantine Culture
- Stobi**
  - Stobi Archaeological Site
- Skopje**
  - Sveti Gjorgi
  - Sveti Nikita
  - Sveti Panteleimon
  - Macedonian Museum Icon Gallery
- Rostuse**
  - Sveti Jovan Bigorski
- Ohrid**
  - Sveta Bogorodica (Sveti Klimint)
  - Sveta Sofija
  - Sveti Jovan
  - Sveti Naum
  - Ohrid Icon Gallery
- Kurbinovo**
  - Sveti Gjorgi
- Meteora**
  - Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin
  - Ayios Nikolaos Anapaphsas
  - Varlaam
  - Roussanou
  - Ayiou Stefanou
  - Megalo Meteoro

**16 nights - \$2,884 per person**

### Fully-escorted tour price includes:

**15 nights' accommodation  
in 3-star or better hotels**  
all rooms with private  
toilet and shower or bath,  
twin share

**1 night's train  
accommodation**  
two people sharing a  
sleeping compartment

### Daily breakfast

**Ground transportation**  
public tram and charter bus;  
overnight train, Dostluk/  
Filia Express, Istanbul  
to Thessaloniki; airport  
transfer on departure

### Also included

professional Tour Manager;  
guidebook, souvenir tote  
bag, and luggage tags; and  
highlights described below

### ☎ Reservations +1-520-881-5545

Land Only Price: \$2,884\*\*

*Price is per person quoted in  
US dollars based on two  
people sharing hotel rooms  
and sleeping compartment  
on the overnight train.*

Single supplement: \$428

Passenger Minimum: 14

Passenger Limit: 24

### IkonTour Highlights

- ▶ Iconographer/Lecturer  
Father Patrick Doolan
- ▶ Local bilingual guides
- ▶ Entry to 30+ Byzantine  
sites of importance,  
including monasteries,  
churches, museums,  
and monuments
- ▶ Bosphorous Cruise
- ▶ Covered Bazaar (Istanbul)
- ▶ Lake Ohrid Boat Ride
- ▶ Farewell Supper on the  
last night of the tour



*\*\*The tour price does not include international air travel  
to Istanbul and return from Thessaloniki.  
However, we can assist you in arranging your flights.*

*With the blessings of  
His Eminence, Moses, Metropolitan of Portland and the West  
and His Grace, Sergios, Bishop of Loch Lomond*

# IkonTour 2008

**The Byzantine Treasures of  
Turkey, Greece, and  
Republic of Macedonia  
October 6 - 23**

*Sponsored by*

*SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Mission Parish, Inc.  
PO Box 42816 • Tucson, AZ 85733-2816*

*in partnership with*

*Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery  
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## 6 Oct (Mon)

Travel day.

## 7 Oct (Tue) Constantinople

Arrive Constantinople (Istanbul).

*(Istanbul, Hotel Erboy, 3 nights)*

## 8 Oct (Wed) Constantinople

*"We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We only know that God dwells there among men, and their service is fairer than the ceremonies of other nations."* With these words, envoys of pagan Russian Prince Vladimir in the year 987, sent to search for the true religion, recorded their impression of Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral of **Ayia Sofia** (Holy Wisdom) in Constantinople. The awesome church, built by Emperor Saint Justinian in the years 532-537AD, is the supreme masterpiece of Byzantine architecture. The **Basilica Cistern**, a backup water supply for periods of drought or siege, was first constructed by Emperor Saint Constantine and later enlarged to its present form by Emperor Saint Justinian using 336 marble columns recycled from Hellenistic ruins in and around the Bosphorous. The **Istanbul Archaeology Museum** is housed in three buildings just inside the first court of Topkapi Palace. Exhibits from Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire, and the many civilizations of Anatolia and ancient Egypt, cover 5,000 years of history with artifacts gathered from all over Turkey and the near east.

## 9 Oct (Thu) Constantinople

**Holy Saviour in Chora** was built in the 4th century as part of a monastery complex outside the **City Walls**. The present structure dates to the 11th century, the magnificent decoration dates to the early 14th century, and about 50 mosaic panels survive. The interior of **Theotokos Pammakaristos** (Joyous Mother of God) contains the restored remains of a number of Byzantine mosaic panels equal in artistry to those in Holy Saviour. The Bosphorous, a 32-kilometer-long strait joining the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea, separates the continents of Europe and Asia. Our **Bosphorous Cruise** hugs the shore through the heart of Istanbul, past several palaces, two fortresses, forested hills, and villages.

## 10 Oct (Fri) Constantinople

The **Covered Bazaar** is a labyrinth of more than 58 streets covered by painted vaults, lined with more than 4,000 shops whose keepers are relentless in their quest for a sale. Don't forget to bargain! We depart this evening for Thessaloniki on the overnight Dostluk/Filia Express.  
*(Dostluk/Filia Express Train, 1 night)*

## 11 Oct (Sat) Thessaloniki

The 9th-century **Ayia Sofia** was inspired by Emperor Saint Justinian's Cathedral of Ayia Sofia in Constantinople. Some original mosaics have survived, including some from the

8th-century iconoclastic period. The beautifully frescoed **Ayia Theodora** contains two reliquary chapels, one of Saint Theodora and the other of Saint David. The new church of **Saint Gregory Palamas** contains his relics. Standing below the level of the modern-day street is **Panayia Acheiropoietos** (Mother of God Made without Hands), its 5th-century mosaics restored. **Ayios Dimitrios** is the site of the martyrdom of Saint Dimitrios. Some of its 5th- to 7th-century mosaics have survived. Vespers. *(Thessaloniki, Hotel Olympic, 3 nights)*

## 12 Oct (Sun) Thessaloniki

**Divine Liturgy**. Artisans and archaeologists have worked – and continue to work – with literally millions of tesserae to restore the dazzling mosaics in **Ayios Yioryos**, a pagan mausoleum converted to a church in the 4th century by Emperor Saint Theodosius. The **Museum of Byzantine Culture** is one of Greece's preeminent Byzantine museums, covering the 1,100-year development of Byzantine culture from its early beginnings in the Roman world through the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

## 13 Oct (Mon) Thessaloniki

**Ayios Nikolaos Orfanos** is an unprepossessing brick-and-stone church holding an astonishing treasure of well-preserved frescoes of the 14th century, the zenith of Thessaloniki's artistic excellence. Nothing about **Osios David's** simple exterior can prepare you for the glorious mosaic of the vision of Ezekiel inside – there is no finer in the city. The great diversity in the architectural arrangement of **Ayioi Apostoloi** has produced a variety of surfaces that have been decorated with frescos and mosaic masterpieces of the Paleologan art.

## 14 Oct (Tue) Stobi

On our way to Skopje, the **Stobi Archaeological Site** offers sweeping views of the central Macedonian plain and contains early Christian ruins with extensive and ornate mosaic floors. *(Skopje, Hotel WIP, 3 nights)*

## 15 Oct (Wed) Skopje

The best room of the **Macedonian National Museum** is the **Icon Gallery**, housing a priceless collection of icons, the most famous of which is the *Bogorodica Pelagonitisa* painted for the iconostasis of Zrze Monastery. The ethereal 14th-century **Sveti Gjorgi** in Staro Nagoricane is richly decorated with frescoes painted from 1317-18 by Mihajlo and Eftihije, two of the greatest painters in the Byzantine Balkans.

## 16 Oct (Thu) Skopje

In a monastery complex on Skopje's Black Mountain, **Sveti Nikita** dates from the early 14th century and contains many important and unique frescos by the renowned Balkan painters Mihajlo and Eftihije. The frescos of **Sveti Panteleimon** in the village of Nerezi are outstanding

examples of Macedonian medieval monumental painting in the later 12th century.

## 17 Oct (Fri) Ohrid

The incredible hand-carved iconostasis of **Sveti Jovan** (the Forerunner) in **Bigorski Monastery** has over 200 human figures and 500 animals. **Sveta Bogorodica** (Holy Mother) Perivlepta (known as **Sveti Kliment**) is one of the most beautiful churches in Ohrid, above all, for its frescos. *(Ohrid, Hotel Klimetica, 3 nights)*

## 18 Oct (Sat) Ohrid

Among the many icons exhibited in the **Ohrid Icon Gallery** are at least thirty estimated as masterworks. **Sveta Sofija** (Holy Wisdom) is famous for its 11th- and 12th-century frescos.

## 19 Oct (Sun) Ohrid

Overlooking Lake Ohrid is the church dedicated to **Sveti Jovan** (the Theologian) with its unique architecture and 13th-century frescos. The Monastery of **Sveti Naum** occupies a commanding position on a promontory overlooking Lake Ohrid. The frescos of the church containing the tomb of Saint Naum date from the first half of the 18th century. A **Boat Ride** around the springs feeding into Lake Ohrid is a wonderfully peaceful experience.

## 20 Oct (Mon) Kurbinovo

On our way to Kalambaka, on the slopes of beautiful Mount Pelister near the blue waters of Lake Prespa, we stop near the village of Kurbinovo to visit a monastery church dedicated to **Sveti Gjorgi**. It is known for its 12th-century frescos, pearls of the medieval art of Macedonia. The **Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin** is a 12th-century basilica with frescos from the 12th to 16th centuries. Of special interest is the rare, early marble *ambo* in the center of the church, as well as the marble *ciborium* and *synthronium*. *(Kalambaka, Hotel Famissi Eden, 2 nights)*

## 21 Oct (Tue) Metéora

The **Metéora Monasteries** crown pillars of stone that rise precipitously out of the plain of Thessaly. The topography is the most unique and fascinating in all Greece. Between today and tomorrow, we visit five monasteries dating from the 14th to the 16th centuries, all still occupied by a small number of monks or nuns.

## 22 Oct (Wed) Metéora & Thessaloniki

The best-known of the Metéora Monasteries, the **Great Meteoron**, contains some of the most beautiful frescos and post-Byzantine mural art that can be found in Greece. We return to Thessaloniki this afternoon. **Farewell Supper**. *(Thessaloniki, Hotel Olympic, 1 night)*

## 23 Oct (Thu) Travel Day

Transfer from hotel to airport for flights home.