

FATHER SIMON DOOLAN
IKONTour GUIDE/LECTURER

Father Simon Doolan graduated in 1979 from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in painting. Thereafter, he studied with a number of American iconographers until 1981, when he was accepted as a pupil by the Master Iconographer Leonide Ouspensky. Father Simon was to spend several months of each year in Paris, studying with the Master until Ouspensky's repose in 1987.

While living in Thessalonica, Greece (1983-84), Father Simon studied the major iconographic monuments of Greece, Turkey, Macedonia, Serbia, Sinai, and Western Europe. In 1987, he was able to study the major icon collections of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. He studied fresco painting technique at L'École de Beaux Arts in Paris in 1987, and at San Francisco State College in 1990.

Father Simon taught Fresco Painting at the Roehampton Art Institute in Wimbledon, England, and has lectured widely across the United States since moving to California with his monastic brotherhood in 1983. In 1987, he taught at the Valamo Academy, New Valamo, Finland, lecturing and teaching icon painting. From 1993-99, he worked as Adjunct Professor of Sacred Art at the Orthodox Institute (Graduate Theological Union) in Berkeley, California, lecturing on the History and Theology of Iconography and Church Architecture.

An iconographer since 1980, Father Simon oversees the Workshop at Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery where icons commissioned by churches and individuals are produced in the ancient medium of egg tempera, as well as other media, including wood, cast-metal, mosaic, and textile. The Workshop's wall murals are done in true fresco technique, painted directly onto freshly applied plaster. Father Simon is currently engaged in painting frescoes in the Church of Saints Gregory and Anastasia in France, and Saint Seraphim's Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, California. Images of these churches, as well as examples of portable icons of the Workshop, may be seen on the Monastery's web site at www.gsinai.com.

Father Simon is the author of *The Rediscovery of the Icon, The Life and Work of Leonide Ouspensky*, published in French by Editions de Cerf, Paris, as *La Redecouverte de L'Icone*. An American reviewer of the French edition of the book wrote, "In the . . . volume listed here, photographed and edited by Father Simon Doolan, an American monk-iconographer from St. Gregory of Sinai Monastery in California, we have a stunning documentation of the entire sweep of Ouspensky's oeuvre . . . his commentary enhances one's appreciation of the beauty of the icons without excessive detail." [*St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 83-4.] An English edition of the book is expected to be published in the United States in 2006 or 2007.

14 days/12 nights from \$2,458

WHAT'S INCLUDED

THE BYZANTINE TREASURES OF GREECE

- Athens museums, churches, and monuments
- Oinoussis Monastery of the Annunciation
- Chios Monastery of Nea Moni
- Thessaloniki museums, churches, and monuments
- Kalambaka Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin
- Meteora Monasteries
- Monastery of Osios Loukas

FEATURES

- Airport transfers
- Eleven nights' three-star hotel accommodation
- One overnight at the Monastery of the Annunciation
- Breakfast daily
- Air-conditioned touring coach with driver
- One-way ferry Pireaus/Chios
- Round-trip ferry Chios/Oinoussis
- One-way domestic flight Chios/Thessaloniki
- Expert Guide/Lecturer Father Simon Doolan
- Professional Tour Manager on tour
- IkonTour guidebook and personal travel diary
- IkonTour souvenir tote bag and luggage tags

DATES AND RATES

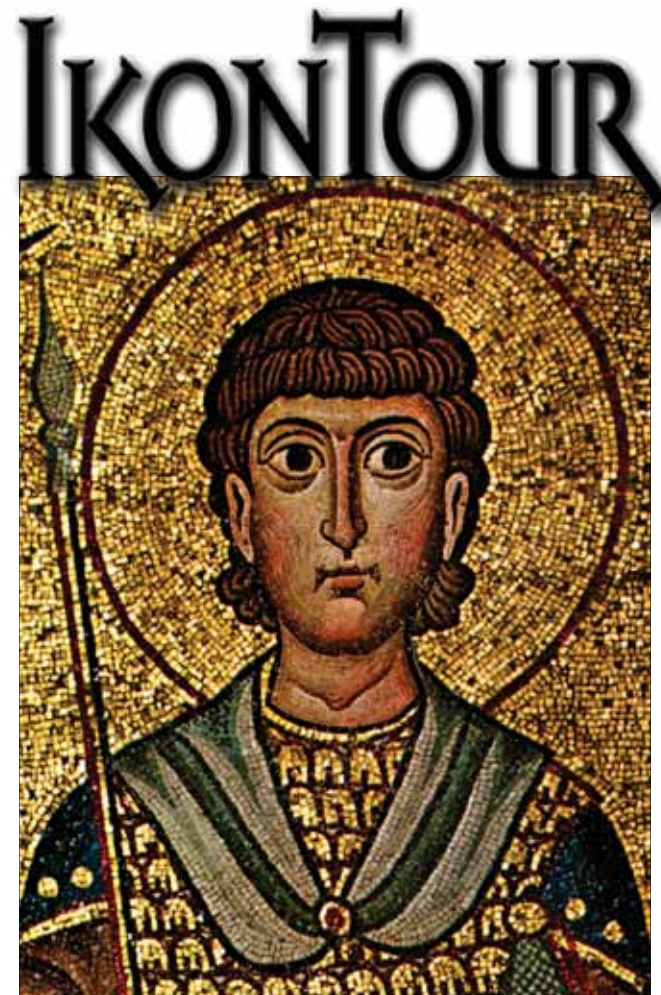
- Departs on: **Tue, 10 April 2007**
- Returns on: **Mon, 23 April 2007**
- Land Only Price: \$2,458
- Air: *Please Inquire*
- Single room supplement: \$320
- Passenger Limit: 20



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HIS EMINENCE, MOSES, METROPOLITAN OF PORTLAND
AND HIS GRACE, SERGIOS, BISHOP OF LOCH LOMOND



THE BYZANTINE TREASURES
OF GREECE
10-23 APRIL 2007

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10 Apr (Tue) Flight to Athens

Depart USA for overnight flight to Athens.

11 Apr (Wed) Arrive Athens

Transfer to hotel. Optional visit to the Acropolis.
(*Hotel Philippos, Athens, 2 nights*)

12 Apr (Thu) Byzantine and Christian Museum; Benaki Museum; Monastery of Kaisariani; Ancient Agora

A remarkable collection of Byzantine icons is exhibited in the **Byzantine and Christian Museum**. Displays also include reconstructed church interiors illustrating various periods of Byzantine architecture, as well as ecclesiastical objects of intricate workmanship. A highlight is the *epitaphios* of Thessaly, a 14th-century embroidery. A museum devoted to the medieval and oriental (as opposed to classical) heritage of the Greeks, the **Benaki** holds a marvelous collection of textiles, icons, ceramics, silver and gold jewelry, wooden carvings, and illuminated manuscripts from the Byzantine and post-Byzantine periods. The Byzantine monastery of **Kaisariani**, built in the 11th century over the ruins of a 5th-century Christian church, is a tranquil place with late Byzantine frescoes and a fine distant view of the Acropolis. As a marketplace and public meeting site, the **Agora** formed the hub of urban life in ancient Athens. St. Paul spoke here. The Stoa of Attalos, the Theseum, and the medieval church of Agii Apostoli stand in the archaeological area.

13 Apr (Fri) National Archeological Museum; Kanellopoulos Museum; Church of Panaghia Kapnikarea

One of the main highlights of Athens, the **National Archeological Museum**, contains one of the world's most important collections of Greek antiquities representing all the cultures that flourished in Greece. Afternoon shopping. Ferry boat from Piraeus to Chios. (*Hotel Chandris, Chios, 1 night*)

14 Apr (Sat) Village of Pyrgi; Oinoussis

Pyrgi is known for a rare technique of geometric decoration called *Ksisti*. Every available surface of every building is banded with horizontal decorations in a remarkable variety of motifs. Archaeologists are fairly certain the place where St. Paul's ship pulled in "over against Chios" and overnighted, is the beach front of the **Monastery of the Annunciation** on Oinoussis. Here we have an excellent opportunity to see the modern application of the ancient Byzantine style. **Vespers** (*in English*).
(*Monastery of the Annunciation, 1 night*)

15 Apr (Sun) Thomas Sunday

Divine Liturgy (*in English*) at the Monastery of the Annunciation. We ferry back to Chios this afternoon.
(*Hotel Chandris, Chios, 1 night*)

16 Apr (Mon) Nea Moni; Village of Mesta

The 11th-century **Monastery of Nea Moni** is one of the great architectural and artistic treasures of Greece. Within the eight niches supporting the dome of the katholikon are a sequence of extraordinary mosaics, among the finest examples of Byzantine iconography. **Mesta** is the best-preserved medieval village on Chios, a maze of narrow streets and dark covered passages. We depart for Thessaloniki this evening.
(*Hotel El Greco, Thessaloniki, 3 nights*)

17 Apr (Tue) Museum of Byzantine Culture; Markets of Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki's **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. The new **Church of Saint Gregory Palamas** nearby contains the relics of the Saint. We spend the afternoon exploring the colorful **Modiano, Kapani, or Bezesteni Markets**, wonderful places to eat, browse, and feel transported into an Asian bazaar.

18 Apr (Wed) Churches of Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki's churches are a clear case of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts. Among the churches we visit this morning are: **Ayios Nikolaus Orfanos**, 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's no finer in the city. According to local lore, the mosaic spent several centuries hidden beneath a calf's skin, which prevented the Turks from finding and destroying it. By tradition, the little **Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul** at **Vlatodon Monastery** was built on the spot where Saint Paul preached when he visited Thessaloniki in AD50. This afternoon we visit **Ayios Yioryos**, a pagan mausoleum converted to a church in the 4th century by Byzantine emperor Theodosius the Great. 20-foot-thick walls were ornamented with mosaics, many of which were destroyed by the Turks when they converted the church into a mosque. Artisans and archaeologists worked, and continue to work, with literally millions of tesserae to restore the dazzling mosaics.

19 Apr (Thu) More Churches of Thessaloniki; Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin

The 9th-century **Ayia Sofia** was inspired by the emperor Justinian's famous 6th-century Church of Ayia Sofia in Constantinople. It has an astonishingly large and astonishingly technical dome supported by ornately carved marble columns. Some original mosaics have survived, including some from the 8th-century iconoclastic period. Some of the 5th- to 7th-century mosaics in the Church of **Ayios Dimitrios** have survived. It is the site of the martyrdom of Saint Dimitrios. After lunch, we depart for Kalambaka. If it is open, we visit the **Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin**, a 12th-century basilica with frescoes from the 12th to 16th centuries.
(*Hotel Kaikis, Kalambaka, 2 nights*)

20 Apr (Fri) Monasteries of Metéora

A half-dozen monasteries stand perched on top of vertical pillars of rock at **Metéora**, one of the most fascinating sights in all Greece. They date mostly from the 14th to the 16th centuries, and are still occupied by a small number of monks or nuns.
(*Not recommended for those who suffer from acrophobia or for those unable to climb the steep flights of stairs cut into the rock faces.*)

21 Apr (Sat) Monastery of Osios Loukas

After a morning's travel to Arachova, we visit the Byzantine **Monastery of Osios Loukas**. The monastery was erected around 1030 in the wilderness of Mount Helicon, around the hermitage of Holy Luke, a local hermit and healer. The mosaics of the main church, the work of imperial artists from Constantinople, are the most important in Greece after those of Daphne. We return to Athens late this afternoon. **Reader Vespers**.
(*Hotel Philippos, Athens, 2 nights*)

22 Apr (Sun) Myrrh-Bearers Sunday

Typika service. Then we visit the private **Kanellopoulos Museum**, exhibiting an eclectic collection of icons, folkloric items, a vast array of archaic and classical small objects, vases, and jewelry. The medieval **Church of Panaghia Kapnikarea**, remarkably set in the middle of a busy commercial street, is a double church, with two chapels dating respectively from the 11th and 13th centuries. Twentieth-century Kontoglou frescoes and wall paintings are housed here.

23 Apr (Mon) Return to USA

Very early morning transfer to Athens Airport for return flights to USA.