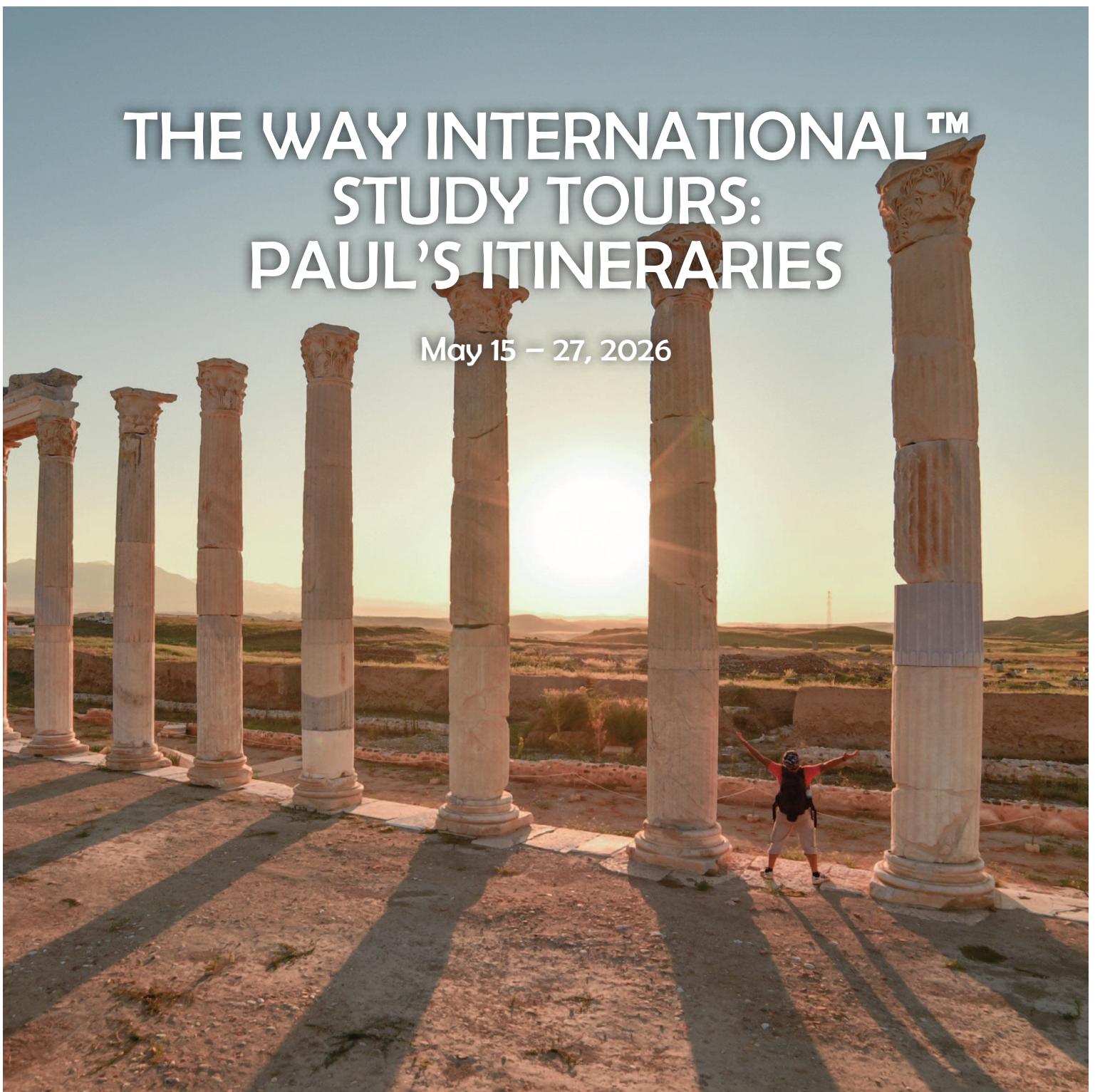


# THE WAY INTERNATIONAL™ STUDY TOURS: PAUL'S ITINERARIES

May 15 – 27, 2026



StudyTours@theway.org

## Information & Reservations

[www.theway.org/StudyTours](http://www.theway.org/StudyTours)

For graduates of The Way International's Foundational Class and their invited guests.



*Itinerary subject to change while touring for the best interest of the group.*

#### **Day 1: Departure from U.S. (May 15)**

Today we embark on our journey to the lands of ancient treasures and Christian history with an overnight flight to Turkey. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience. Get some rest on the flight—tomorrow you will be walking in the land where the Apostle Paul walked!

#### **Day 2: Arrival in Istanbul (May 16)**

We transfer to our hotel in Istanbul, Turkey, for the next two evenings.

#### **Day 3: Istanbul (May 17)**

The tour today will be an unusual combination of Roman Empire, Ottoman Empire, and modern-day Islam. We will visit the hippodrome, and go inside the famed Blue Mosque and St. Sophia Church. After lunch we visit the fascinating Topkapi Palace housing the many priceless treasures and colorful stories of Ottoman sultans. We return to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

#### **Day 4: Istanbul, Konya, Lystra, Iconium, and Çatalhöyük (May 18)**

After breakfast, we head to the airport to board our flight to Konya. Upon arrival, we will visit Lystra, where Paul preached on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:6-22). Next is our visit to Konya (ancient Iconium). Nearly two thousand years ago, Paul and Barnabas visited Iconium during Paul's first missionary journey. As he preached to the city, God worked in Paul to bring many Judeans and Gentiles to Christ (Acts 14:1-6). We will also visit the excavations of Çatalhöyük before transferring to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Konya.

#### **Day 5: Konya, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Colossae, and Pamukkale (May 19)**

After breakfast, our travel continues west. Hierapolis, meaning "sacred city," was an ancient center for pagan cults until it was transformed into a Christian center in the first century. According to tradition, the Apostle Philip lived and was martyred in Hierapolis. The contrast between the hot springs of Hierapolis and the cold mountain springs near Colossae helps illustrate the reference to the Laodiceans as being "lukewarm" (Revelation 3:14-22). The proximity of the three cities lies behind Paul's reference to Hierapolis and Laodicea in his epistle to the Colossians (Colossians 4:13). Laodicea contains many acres of ruins to visit, including a stadium and remnants of a sophisticated water system. Nearby Colossae is well-known as the church to whom

Paul's letter to the Colossians was first addressed. Today, the town has fallen into obscurity and nothing remains. Our dinner and overnight will be in Pamukkale.

#### **Day 6: Pamukkale, Philadelphia, Sardis, Thyatira, and Izmir (May 20)**

Today we are departing our hotel in Pamukkale. Our next stop is nearby Philadelphia, referenced in the Book of Revelation. Not much is left of the city except for the ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica in the modern city of Alasehir. Then, we travel to Sardis. Here coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated. We'll visit the gymnasium and synagogue. Next, we travel east to Thyatira viewing the ancient roadway and period columns. Thyatira was once a busy trading center and famous as a "seller of purple," also noted in Acts 16:14 as the home where Lydia the seller of purple was from. We continue south to Izmir, which is the third largest city in Turkey and a longtime center for Judeans and Christians. In Paul's day, Izmir was known as Smyrna. We'll see Polycarp's Church and visit the ancient Roman agora (an ancient market place). Our lodging this evening will be in Izmir.

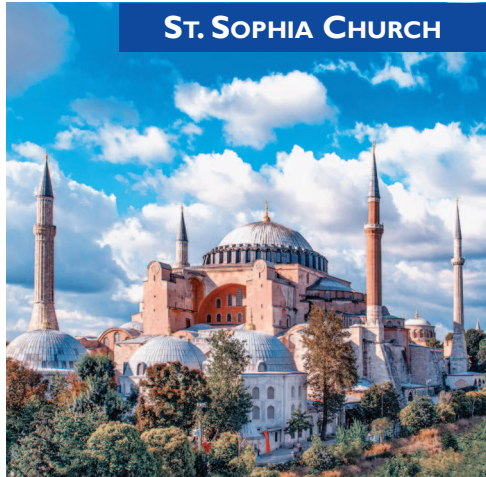
#### **Day 7: Izmir and Ephesus (May 21)**

We travel to the nearby town of Selçuk for a visit of ancient Ephesus. Ephesus was once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. Today you can still see the spectacular excavations of the major streets in this ancient city. We view the library, agora, theater, colorful mosaics in the aristocratic terrace houses, and a panoramic outlook of the surrounding ancient port area (including a wealth of church history and cultural insight). Then we continue with a visit to the basilica Church of St. John, which houses an immersion baptismal and is believed to be the resting place of John. From here we have an excellent overview of the Ephesus harbor, the mosque of Jesus, and see the site of the temple of Artemis, which is listed as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Dinner and overnight will be in Izmir.

#### **Day 8: Izmir, Pergamum, Alexandria Troas, Troy, and Çanakkale (May 22)**

After breakfast today, we drive to Pergamum, in the north of Turkey. We'll visit the fabled acropolis, pass through the royal gates, view the foundations of the altar of Zeus and visit the ruins of the library (which once held 200,000 volumes). We continue toward Çanakkale, eventually passing through the region of Troas, a place imbued with Biblical significance. It was here that the Apostle Paul had a vision during his second missionary journey, where he was called to Macedonia (Acts 16:8-13). Later, Paul spent a week in Troas preaching, and it was in Troas where

**ST. SOPHIA CHURCH**



**EPHESUS**



## CORINTH



Eutychus was miraculously revived after falling from a window (Acts 20:6-12). A highlight of your journey will be a visit to ancient Troy, renowned for its archaeological treasures. Excavated in 1873 by Heinrich Schliemann, Troy offers a glimpse into the ancient past that has captivated imaginations for centuries. Be sure to capture a photo atop the iconic Trojan horse before you continue to your nearby lodging for the evening, reflecting on the rich history and experiences of the day. Dinner and overnight will be in Çanakkale.

### **Day 9: Çanakkale, Turkish/Greek Border, Philippi, Amphipolis, and Thessaloniki (May 23)**

After breakfast this morning, we drive north to the Turkish/Greek border where we will meet our Greek guide and driver. We continue our adventure as we travel west toward Philippi, where Paul first preached on European soil. We will view the traditional baptismal site along the river, where Lydia and her family may have been born again, and we will visit a crypt dating from the Roman period that is thought by some to have served as a prison for Paul when he was there. Next, we observe the famous acropolis, the marketplace, basilica, and the theater. This afternoon, we will make a brief stop in Amphipolis to view the famous lion statue, a tomb monument from the fourth century B.C. that Paul would have likely walked past on his way to Amphipolis. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel in Thessaloniki.

### **Day 10: Thessaloniki, Berea, and Apollonia (May 24)**

This morning, we will visit the old city rampart, the newly excavated Forum, and the St. George Church (an ancient Roman monument which was transformed into a church). Next, we will drive to Berea to view the ancient synagogue where Paul spoke, as well as the bema surrounded by mosaics of Paul and the plaque of scripture regarding the “more noble” church. After lunch, we will drive to Apollonia, a town where Paul and Silas passed through on their journey. Dinner and overnight will be in Thessaloniki.

### **Day 11: Thessaloniki and Athens (May 25)**

This morning, we will embark on our journey southward to Athens. Upon arrival this afternoon, we will enjoy a city tour of Athens. Additional sites include the agora (ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life), the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Olympic Stadium, and the Presidential Palace. A short walk from your hotel is the famous Plaka with a multitude of shops and cafés. Our lodging is in Athens for the next two evenings.

### **Day 12: Athens, Corinth, and Cenchreae (May 26)**

This morning, our travels continue in Athens, the foundation

## ATHENS



of democracy. We visit the acropolis, the Parthenon and Erechtheum before viewing Athens from atop Mars Hill, where Paul stood and preached the truth to the Gentile nation. Next, we will travel out of the city to explore the amazing sight of Corinth. We will stop for a rest stop and photos at the Corinth Canal and then travel to the ancient city of Corinth, another treat for the New Testament scholar (Corinth is where Paul wrote the epistles of I and II Thessalonians and Romans). We will see the archaeological museum, the marketplace, the bema, and the temples. The ruins of this important cultural center are fascinating as we walk along stone paths that the Apostle Paul walked. The engineering skill and intellect of these people are evident in the water systems that still flow from ancient to modern day. Our guide will be sure to show you the room dedicated to the medical care of that period. Before returning to Athens, we will visit Cenchreae, the ancient port region of Corinth. Acts 18:18 states the Apostle Paul stopped at Cenchreae during his second missionary journey, where he had his hair cut to fulfill a vow.

### **Day 13: Depart for home (May 27)**

## **PRICE PER PERSON:**

**BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ON THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE OF \$1.09 TO 1 EURO AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

### **Airfare out of JFK or Dulles:**

**\$4,500-\$5,300**

### **Land only:**

**\$3,000-\$3,800**

### **Additional Charge for Single Occupancy:**

**\$908.00**



## RESERVATIONS

A \$300 per person US Dollar deposit is required to secure a reservation. Your reservation is not considered confirmed until Pilgrim Tours has received both the deposit and completed reservation form. Reservations are due January 25, 2026 and can be sent to: Pilgrim Tours PO Box 268 Morgantown, PA 19543.

## FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment will be due March 6, 2026. Payment can be made by check, Visa, Discover, or Master Card. Payments not received on time will be subject to a minimum \$200 per person penalty and may result in reservation cancellation without refund. Reservations made after the final payment deadline may result in additional administrative fees and are at the discretion of Pilgrim Tours.

## INCLUDED

11 nights lodging in 4-star hotels, Breakfast and dinner daily, Full-time English-speaking Turkish and Greek Tour Guide, Porterage at Hotels (1 Bag), Tips to drivers, guides, and hotel staff, Services of long-distance deluxe motorcoach as appear on itinerary, All guides, entrances and transportation as appear on itinerary, Pilgrim Payment Processing / Including Credit Card Processing, Estimated Air Arrangements From JFK or Dulles (pricing and schedules available late June 2025)

## NOT INCLUDED

Lunches, Optional Travel Insurance (US Residence Only)

## CANCELLATION

Cancellation in writing must be received by Pilgrim Tours for appropriate refund minus the following fees and any nonrefundable services purchased. Air penalties are not part of the percentages below and vary based on the airline policy. Travel insurance is non-refundable.

- Prior to Dec. 15, 2025: \$100 per service fee
- Dec. 16 – March 15, 2026: Deposit Amount lost
- March 16 – March 30: 45% of tour cost lost
- March 31 – April 14: 65% of tour cost lost
- April 15 – May 7: 85% of tour cost lost
- May 8 - 15: 100% of tour cost lost

\*Cruise cancellation policies vary. Please see individual itineraries for details.

## Pilgrim Tours service fee structure:

When signing up for a tour offered by Pilgrim Tours, a deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Part of the deposit for the advertised tour includes a minimum of \$100 per person service fee assessed by Pilgrim Tours that is non-refundable and non-transferable. The reason for not traveling can be either the traveler cancelling or the tour being postponed, suspended or cancelled due to but not limited to "Acts of God" (natural disasters), war, terrorist acts, political unrest, epidemics, pandemics, or government imposed travel restrictions. In registering for a tour, a tour member agrees to the service fee as well as all terms and conditions as outlined on the tour reservation form.

## PRICING

Quoted tour prices include planning, handling and operational charges and are based on the current rate of exchange and tariffs. In the event of a marked change in foreign exchange rates, fuel costs or tariff rates, tour costs are subject to revision. Such increases will be added to the final billing. Pilgrim Tours reserves the right to vary itineraries and prices, and to substitute facilities and hotels of equal or better quality if necessary.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

These tour programs are operated by Pilgrim Tours and Travel, Inc., 3071 Main Street, Morgantown, Pennsylvania 19543. In common with other companies, Pilgrim acts only as an agent for tour members in arranging vacation services offered on this web site, including transportation, sightseeing, and accommodations through independent contractors. Air carriers, accommodations, and other suppliers (including but not limited to trains, cruises, ferries, motor coaches, hotels, tour guides, and restaurants) providing these services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, servants, or joint ventures of the Company or its affiliates. All travel documents for services issued by the Company are subject to the terms & conditions specified by the contracted supplier and the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. Tours postponed, suspended, or cancelled due to but not limited to "Acts of God" (natural disasters), war, terrorist acts, political unrest, epidemics, or pandemics are subject to service fees by Pilgrim Tours and any supplier penalties. In registering for a tour, tour members agree to the terms and conditions for the tour they have registered for. Pilgrim Tours reserves the right in its sole discretion to make changes in the itinerary and is not responsible for expenses, loss of time,

money, or other incidents resulting from a change of tour scheduling made for tour members. Pilgrim Tours is not responsible for any losses or damages of personal property, injuries, thefts, or unforeseen expenses incurred by any tour member.

## AIR TRANSPORTATION

For your convenience, Pilgrim Tours is happy to book your airfare as part of a group air contract which allows the group to fly together at a set price. A group air contract requires a minimum of 10 passengers flying roundtrip from the same city, on the same air schedule, and on the same dates. Pilgrim Tours does not have the ability to guarantee assigned seating when making group air arrangements. Air carriers are responsible for seat assignments, and most group air contracts assign seats at the airport check-in on the day of departure. Once ticketed, group air tickets are not upgradable to premium economy or business class, and mileage credit is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of each airline. **If interested in an upgrade, please notify Pilgrim Tours at time of deposit and no later than 100 days before travel.** All taxes, fuel charges, and security fees are subject to change based on the ticketing date. Passengers wishing to cancel or change their air reservations may be subject to change fees or cancellation penalties. Pilgrim Tours is not responsible for unforeseen flight delays or changes due to war, political unrest, "Acts of God" (natural disasters), epidemics, or pandemics. Air schedules may be subject to change at the discretion of the airline. Pilgrim Tours does not accept liability in the case of any passenger being denied boarding by any airline carrier due to the carrier's overbooking of a flight.

## TOUR MEMBERSHIP & MOBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Tour membership is available to all travelers and will not be withheld if the tour operator can furnish the requirements that an individual may need. Because most of our Retail Tour sightseeing schedules require Tour Members to walk 1-2 miles at a time using a moderate pace and sometimes navigate uneven terrain, we cannot accept persons who cannot do that and instead require special assistance. Should any Tour Member's participation somehow materially add to the tour operator's cost, the Tour Member will be expected to pay any additional costs. The Tour Director retains the right to require any non-sufficiently mobile persons to stay behind when deemed necessary, and also terminate the membership of any member displaying disruptive behavior, delaying or endangering fellow members and/or interfering with the operations of the tour. Private group tours vary in regards to mobility standards.

## PROOF OF US CITIZENSHIP, PASSPORT, VISA & MINOR CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

All international tours require a current passport. Entrance to most countries requires your passport be valid for 6 months after your return date. Your passport information must be recorded by a Pilgrim Tours agent when making your reservation. Names on airline tickets must appear as shown on passport. Photocopies are not acceptable forms of identification. Minors traveling with either one parent or no parents must have a certified letter of permission from the parent or parents who is/are not traveling. If requested, this letter must be presented. **Non U. S. Citizens are responsible to fulfill appropriate entry requirements of the destination country. Contact the local Consulate of the countries you plan to visit and transit for entry requirement information.**

## BAGGAGE

Although every effort is made to handle passengers' luggage as carefully as possible, Pilgrim Tours is not responsible for and does not assume liability or accept claims for loss of or damage to luggage due to breakage, theft or wear and tear through hotel, group carrier or airline handling. There are limitations by coach and air carrier as to the number and size of bags which can be carried onboard and in bulk storage. However, during the tour, passengers are permitted one checked suitcase and one carry-on bag unless otherwise noted. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact the airline or refer to the airlines website for detailed information regarding checked baggage policies. This is a fee levied by the airlines, not Pilgrim Tours, and may be subject to change.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE - AVAILABLE FOR ALL PASSENGERS THAT ARE U.S. RESIDENTS

Pilgrim Tours strongly suggests purchasing a travel insurance plan. Be sure to check with your health insurance provider as many US medical coverage plans may not cover you outside of the country. Insurance costs are based on the total tour cost, including air taxes and charges listed under "Not Included." These charges are added to the final billing. Approximate amounts can be given at time of reservation in order to purchase the appropriate amount of insurance. Travel Insurance is non-refundable.

For a full explanation of Pilgrim Tours Terms and Conditions please visit <https://www.pilgrimtours.com/company/policies.htm>

## ALLIANZ TRAVEL INSURANCE

Choose between the following two insurance plans

### ODYSSEY PLAN: 7.95% OF TOUR COST

Maximize your coverage. To make sure you are eligible for existing medical conditions, purchase your Odyssey Plan at or before final payment.

Benefits Included	Amount of Coverage
Trip Cancellation/Interruption	Trip Cost
Trip Delay	\$1,000 (no receipts: \$200)
Missed Connection	\$500
Baggage Loss/ Damage	\$1,500
Baggage Delay	\$500 (no receipts: \$100)
Emergency Medical & Dental	\$50,000 (\$750 in dental coverage)
Emergency Medical Transportation	\$250,000

### ODYSSEY WITH CANCEL ANYTIME: 10.85% OF TOUR COST

Odyssey with Cancel Anytime must be purchased on date of reservation. This plan will not be available after that date.

Benefits Included	Amount of Coverage
Odyssey Plan Coverage	Odyssey Plan Limits
Cancel Anytime Plan	up to 80% of trip cost



### POLICY QUESTIONS

ALLIANZ representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Toll Free at 1.800.284.8300 and refer to ACCAM - F201757.

**Odyssey Plan is available for purchase at the time of final payment and does not need to accompany the registration deposit.**  
**Odyssey with Cancel Anytime must be purchased on the date of your reservation.**