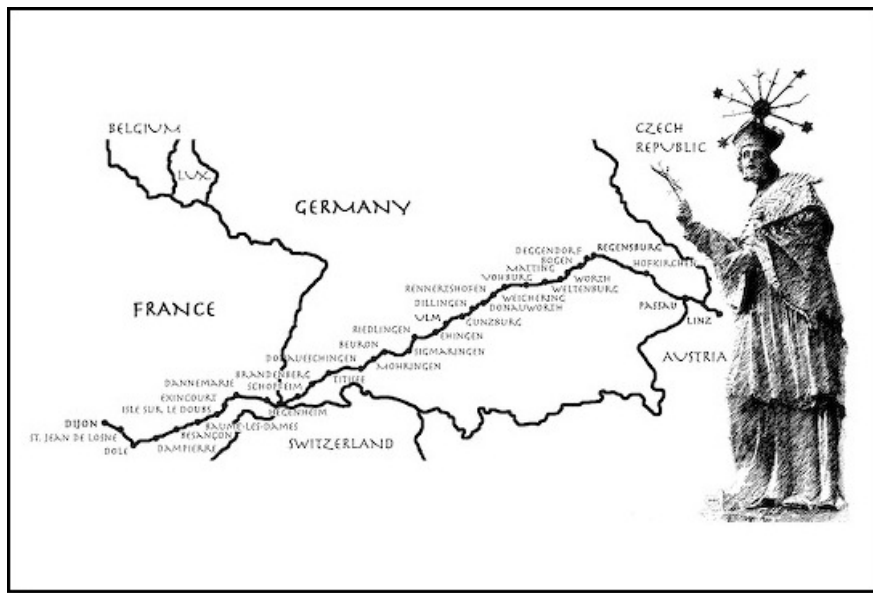


THE TEMPLAR TRAIL

France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary,
Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Cyprus and Israel to Jerusalem

In April 2006, on a quest to pioneer this important trail for modern pilgrims, Brandon Wilson (52), an American, and Georges Labrousse (67), a Frenchman, set off on a sojourn of peace and discovery to Jerusalem. The Templar Trail is a modern adaptation of the route followed during the First Crusades (The Way of Charlemagne) in 1096 by Godfrey de Bouillon and his 40,000 troops from France to liberate the Holy Land. It stretches across eleven countries and two continents.



Where does today's Templar Trail begin?

Pilgrims follow canal paths in eastern France from Dijon, France thru Switzerland to Donaueschingen in southern Germany, the source of the Danube River. Traveling simply, pilgrims may stay in monasteries, pensions, or bed and breakfasts. As always, packing light is important. Some recommend carrying just 10% of your body weight.



In Bavaria, pilgrims connect with the *Donau radweg*, or Donau bicycle path, that follows the Danube River to Linz and Vienna, Austria, then through Bratislava, Slovakia and into Hungary. As this is a popular cycle route, facilities are readily available. Depending on the lodgings, Wilson and Labrousse averaged 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) a day—spending about \$30 a day per person in 2006.



After reaching Budapest, the trail heads south still following the Danube Valley on smaller bicycle paths and roads to Belgrade and onward to Nis, Serbia.



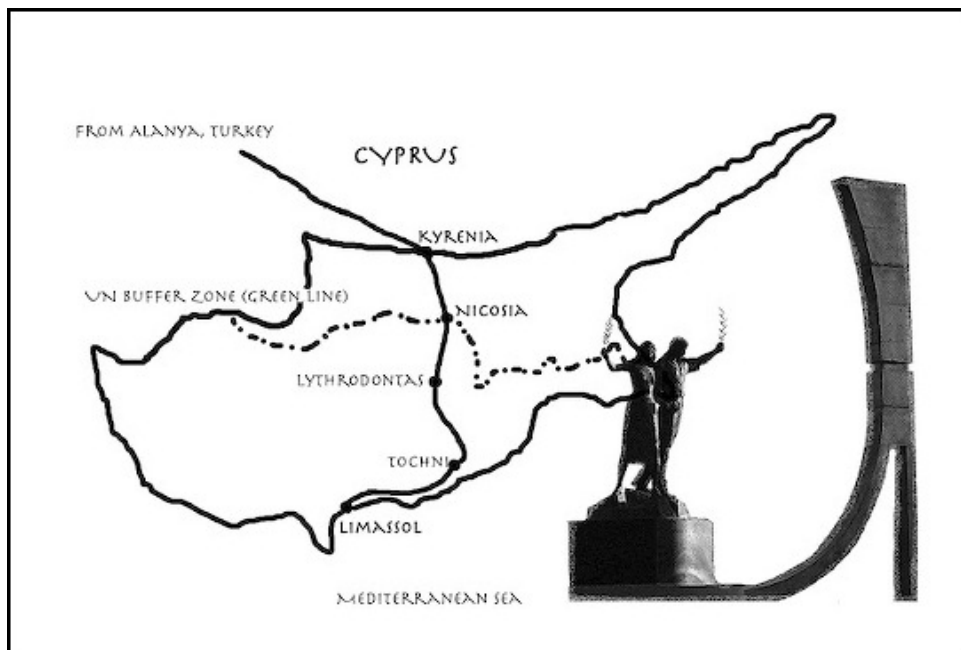
Upon their 2006 arrival in Belgrade, the Middle East erupted in war. Nevertheless, the men decided to continue walking to Istanbul where they would decide if, how, and where they would continue.



Today's Templar Trail connects with the ancient Roman *Via Militaris* through picturesque Sofia and Plovdiv (ancient Philippopolis, Thracia), Bulgaria to Istanbul, Turkey.



As Wilson and Labrousse walked to Istanbul, an attempted attack was made on the US Embassy in Damascus, and important choices had to be made.



They had originally planned to hike east across Turkey thru Syria and Jordan. However, with the growing tensions and Labrousse's sudden illness and unexpected return home, Wilson made a tough decision.

The border between northern and southern Cyprus had just recently opened after thirty years. In order to avoid hiking through war zones, he walked to Alanya, made the short passage from the Turkish coast to Cyprus, then trekked across that country to the port at

Limassol, home to a famous Templar fortress and steeped in the history of Richard the Lionhearted in the Third Crusade. Given the mounting Syrian tension at that time, and more so in recent years, this diversion remains a practical and safer choice for today's pilgrims to Jerusalem. It was, in fact, a route followed in later Crusades.



After a short Mediterranean crossing by cargo ship, Wilson connected with the Israel National Trail, a new, well-marked footpath that begins from outside Haifa and leads nearly all the way to Jerusalem. Along the way, as in the ten other countries, he was aided by "angels" who shared their hospitality regardless of nationality, culture or religion. He arrived in the Holy City in late September.

How long did it take to reach Jerusalem?

160 days total; 137 of those were walking days. The trail they re-blazed was approximately 4191 kilometers/2604 miles (4641 kilometers/2884 miles, including two sea stages).

Why is it named the Templar Trail?

Historically, it took First Crusade troops four years to reach the Holy City. From those soldiers, nine were selected to become the first Poor Knights of Christ of the Temple of Solomon—or the first Knights Templar. These warrior monks were honored with the duty of protecting Jerusalem, future pilgrims, and the Temple of Solomon. Legend has it that they also guarded the Holy Grail. The trail is named in their honor.

Why walk the Templar Trail?

The men dreamed to make a pilgrimage as they had done when they first met on the legendary Camino Santiago across Spain in 1999. Wilson went on to follow the St. Olav's Way across Norway and Sweden, and Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome. In doing so, they wanted to open this path as a safe, fascinating, historic option to future pilgrims hearing the call of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They were, at the same time, determined to walk for peace and remind people of the necessity to choose non-violent paths to settle our differences.

In fact, as word of their unique pilgrimage spread, major media came to interview them on the trail, spreading their message of peace to millions.

Pilgrimage paths are truly transformative; a portal. An inner peace is attained and then shared with pilgrim's families, colleagues, and communities. Wilson believes that each of us can make a difference in the world. After a thousand years of conflict and destruction, the world is ready for peace—and peace begins within.

As he says, “We are all pilgrims, each on their own path, each with their own story to tell. Walking is only a first step, but one we each can take to discover the peace within. In that way, eventually, war will become unconscionable. Darkness will be dispelled with light—one person, one step at a time.”

His account of their journey, *Along the Templar Trail: Seven Million Steps for Peace*, a Lowell Thomas Gold Award-winning book, contains details for those who dream of following in their footsteps. Available in English and German.

Visit the Templar Trail online at on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TemplarTrail/>, for photos, advice and updates. Or visit <http://www.brandonwilsonauthor.com>.

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Templar Trail

stage	approx. distance	GPS Coordinates	
Dijon, France			
St. Jean de Losne, France	30 km.	47° 19' 19.369" N	5° 2' 29.328" E
Dole, France	23 km.	47° 6' 8.158" N	5° 15' 46.102" E
Dampierre, France	21 km.	47° 9' 14.1" N	5° 44' 19.6" E
Besançon, France	40 km.	47° 14' 16.184" N	6° 1' 26.594" E
Baume les Dames, France	34 km.	47° 21' 9.659" N	6° 21' 42.343" E
Isle sur le Doubs, France	34 km.	47° 27' 4.518" N	6° 34' 45.102" E
Exincourt, France	27 km.	47° 29' 52.091" N	6° 49' 59.815" E
Dannemarie, France	27 km.	47° 37' 48.284" N	7° 7' 13.184" E
Hegenheim, France	35 km.	47° 33' 49.302" N	7° 31' 39.187" E
Schopfheim, Germany	25 km.	47° 39' 6.696" N	7° 49' 24.856" E
Brandenberg (Totnau), Germany	28 km.	47° 49' 50.376" N	7° 56' 43.681" E
Titisee Lake, Germany	28 km.	47° 53' 41.3" N	8° 9' 1.1" E
Donaueschingen, Germany	40 km.	47° 57' 7.747" N	8° 29' 52.606" E
Möhringen, Germany	32 km.	48° 43' 25" N	9° 8' 45.6" E
Beuron, Germany	34 km.	48° 3' 1.714" N	8° 58' 12.234" E
Sigmaringen, Germany	29 km.	48° 5' 28.651" N	9° 13' 43.003" E
Riedlingen, Germany	33 km.	48° 9' 34.736" N	9° 28' 16.806" E
Ehingen, Germany	37 km.	48° 17' 34.44" N	9° 39' 40.446" E
Ülm, Germany	30 km.	48° 24' 3.895" N	9° 59' 15.389" E
Günzburg, Germany	28 km.	48° 27' 10.228" N	10° 16' 39.047" E
Dillingen, Germany	25 km.	48° 34' 44.731" N	10° 29' 38.486" E
Donauwörth, Germany	43 km.	48° 43' 6.899" N	10° 46' 40.094" E
Rennertshofen, Germany	34 km.	48° 45' 30.071" N	11° 2' 47.8" E
Weichering, Germany	30 km.	48° 42' 59.418" N	11° 19' 17.735" E
Vohburg, Germany	26 km.	48° 46' 5.61" N	11° 37' 8.62" E
Weltenburg, Germany	26 km.	48° 53' 55.115" N	11° 49' 11.604" E
Matting, Germany	31 km.	48° 48' 33.563" N	12° 35' 38.364" E
Worth an Danau, Germany	38 km.	48° 59' 55.406" N	12° 24' 23.162" E
Bogen, Germany	31 km.	48° 54' 33.89" N	12° 41' 32.28" E
Deggendorf, Germany	27 km.	48° 50' 27.064" N	12° 57' 26.924" E
Hofkirchen, Germany	27 km.	48° 40' 37.852" N	13° 7' 15.175" E
Passau, Germany	33 km.	48° 34' 0.25" N	13° 25' 55.009" E
Engelhartzell, Austria	29 km.	48° 30' 25.276" N	13° 43' 55.481" E
Aschach, Austria	32 km.	48° 21' 50.771" N	14° 1' 9.804" E
Linz, Austria	33 km.	48° 18' 24.984" N	14° 17' 8.988" E
Au on der Donau, Austria	28 km.	48° 13' 46.996" N	14° 34' 56.91" E
Grein, Austria	28 km.	48° 13' 41.585" N	14° 51' 36.695" E
Ybbs, Austria	23 km.	48° 10' 35.116" N	15° 4' 55.51" E
Melk, Austria	31 km.	48° 13' 35.292" N	15° 20' 59.856" E
Oberloiben, Austria	23 km.	48° 23' 11.544" N	15° 31' 50.196" E
Zwentendorf, Austria	30 km.	48° 20' 39.185" N	15° 54' 38.038" E
Greifenstein, Austria	24 km.	48° 20' 34.116" N	16° 13' 52.68" E
Vienna, Austria	25 km.	48° 12' 29.426" N	16° 22' 25.748" E
Schönau (Eckartsau), Austria	35 km.	48° 8' 45.953" N	16° 47' 46.435" E
Hainburg, Austria	24 km.	48° 8' 42.176" N	16° 56' 32.629" E
Bratislava, Slovakia	20 km.	48° 8' 54.946" N	17° 6' 27.893" E
Dunakiliti, Hungary	31 km.	47° 57' 57.452" N	17° 17' 17.75" E
Lipót, Hungary	27 km.	47° 51' 41.713" N	17° 27' 37.271" E
Győr, Hungary	29 km.	47° 41' 14.845" N	17° 39' 1.429" E
Bábolna, Hungary	33 km.	47° 38' 28.37" N	17° 58' 43.612" E
Tata, Hungary	33 km.	47° 38' 44.941" N	18° 19' 49.087" E
Tarján, Hungary	20 km.	47° 36' 30.838" N	18° 30' 34.7" E
Zsámbek, Hungary	22 km.	47° 32' 50.633" N	18° 43' 16.943" E
Budakeszi, Hungary	19 km.	47° 30' 49.05" N	18° 55' 40.217" E
Budapest, Hungary	26 km.	47° 29' 52.483" N	19° 2' 24.846" E
Szigetszentmárton, Hungary	35 km.	47° 13' 37.618" N	18° 57' 30.974" E

Szalkszentmárton, Hungary	33 km.	46° 58' 31.775" N	19° 1' 1.567" E
Dunaföldvár, Hungary	25 km.	46° 48' 22.327" N	18° 55' 0.437" E
Paks, Hungary	22 km.	46° 36' 21.859" N	18° 51' 16.859" E
Kaloçsa, Hungary	18 km.	46° 31' 41.243" N	18° 59' 2.537" E
Baja, Hungary	42 km.	46° 10' 54.462" N	18° 57' 15.498" E
Bezdan, Serbia	42 km.	45° 50' 34.634" N	18° 57' 58.752" E
Sombor, Serbia	18 km.	45° 46' 23.862" N	19° 6' 54.529" E
Odzaci, Serbia	35 km.	45° 30' 52.772" N	19° 16' 34.507" E
Backi Petrovac, Serbia	36 km.	45° 21' 24.39" N	19° 37' 2.323" E
Novi Sad, Serbia	25 km.	45° 16' 1.686" N	19° 50' 0.78" E
Beska, Serbia	28 km.	45° 8' 11.324" N	20° 4' 55.434" E
Batajnica, Serbia	30 km.	44° 54' 22.075" N	20° 16' 29.338" E
Belgrade, Serbia	18 km.	44° 47' 11.645" N	20° 26' 56.119" E
Grocka, Serbia	32 km.	44° 40' 3.468" N	20° 43' 37.002" E
Lozovik, Serbia	48 km.	44° 27' 52.729" N	21° 4' 59.527" E
Markovac, Serbia	27 km.	44° 14' 33.756" N	21° 8' 19.212" E
Jagodina, Serbia	34 km.	43° 58' 39.824" N	21° 15' 26.179" E
Pojate, Serbia	35 km.	43° 44' 53.808" N	21° 27' 3.139" E
Aleksinac, Serbia	39 km.	43° 32' 27.564" N	21° 43' 6.128" E
Nis, Serbia	36 km.	43° 19' 15.247" N	21° 53' 44.732" E
Bela Palanka, Serbia	44 km.	43° 12' 57.11" N	22° 19' 0.851" E
Pirot, Serbia	26 km.	43° 9' 20.524" N	22° 35' 8.452" E
Dimitrovgrad, Serbia	25 km.	43° 1' 6.37" N	22° 46' 55.024" E
Slivnitsa, Bulgaria	28 km.	42° 51' 7.106" N	23° 2' 16.339" E
Sofia, Bulgaria	20 km.	42° 41' 51.749" N	23° 19' 18.725" E
Intiman, Bulgaria	50 km.	42° 26' 21.858" N	23° 49' 13.354" E
Kostenets, Bulgaria	18 km.	42° 17' 60" N	23° 52' 0.001" E
Pazardzhik, Bulgaria	46 km.	42° 11' 33.954" N	24° 20' 0.838" E
Plovdiv, Bulgaria	38 km.	42° 8' 7.469" N	24° 44' 43.044" E
Parvomaj, Bulgaria	40 km.	42° 5' 48.862" N	25° 13' 13.667" E
Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria	38 km.	42° 3' 16.218" N	25° 35' 40.29" E
Simeonovgrad, Bulgaria	25 km.	42° 2' 5.95" N	25° 49' 51.604" E
Ljubimec, Bulgaria	34 km.	41° 50' 50.55" N	26° 5' 7.93" E
Kapitan Andreevo, Bulgaria	22 km.	41° 43' 14.628" N	26° 19' 3.925" E
Edirne, Turkey	28 km.	41° 40' 37.668" N	26° 33' 20.574" E
Havsa, Turkey	27 km.	41° 32' 55.918" N	26° 49' 17.436" E
Babaeski, Turkey	27 km.	41° 25' 52.766" N	27° 5' 30.473" E
Lüleburgaz, Turkey	17 km.	41° 24' 9.871" N	27° 21' 56.326" E
Çorlu, Turkey	47 km.	41° 9' 20.923" N	27° 48' 49.435" E
Silivri, Turkey	30 km.	41° 4' 25.241" N	28° 14' 52.325" E
Kumburgaz, Turkey	40 km.	41° 2' 17.754" N	28° 27' 57.449" E
Küçükçekmece, Turkey	30 km.	41° 0' 31.169" N	28° 46' 31.231" E
Istanbul, Turkey	20 km.	41° 0' 29.657" N	28° 58' 42.092" E
Tuzla, Turkey	35 km.	40° 53' 53.628" N	29° 21' 35.561" E
Hereke, Turkey	30 km.	40° 47' 37.565" N	29° 37' 33.686" E
Izmit, Turkey	30 km.	40° 45' 55.588" N	29° 56' 26.912" E
Sapanca, Turkey	35 km.	40° 41' 22.848" N	30° 15' 41.141" E
Geyve, Turkey	35 km.	40° 30' 31.086" N	30° 17' 24.958" E
Osmaneli, Turkey	41 km.	40° 21' 30.24" N	30° 0' 48.24" E
Bilecik, Turkey	38 km.	40° 8' 33.263" N	29° 58' 45.588" E
Bözöyük, Turkey	38 km.	39° 54' 24.9" N	30° 2' 25.2" E
Ilica, Turkey	57 km.	39° 34' 60" N	30° 2' 60" E
Kütahya, Turkey	26 km.	39° 25' 11.838" N	29° 59' 8.635" E
Altintas, Turkey	40 km.	39° 3' 28.789" N	30° 6' 30.802" E
Afyon, Turkey	47 km.	38° 45' 24.786" N	30° 32' 19.334" E
Sandikli, Turkey	59 km.	38° 27' 54.644" N	30° 16' 21.461" E
Dinar, Turkey	52 km.	38° 7' 52.421" N	30° 17' 50.712" E
Keçiborlu, Turkey	27 km.	37° 56' 35.009" N	30° 18' 4.896" E
Burdur, Turkey	35 km.	37° 43' 6.01" N	30° 16' 56.399" E
Bucak, Turkey	45 km.	37° 27' 23.573" N	30° 35' 23.402" E
Dagbeli, Turkey	35 km.	37° 11' 43.343" N	30° 30' 12.258" E
Antalya, Turkey	52 km.	36° 53' 48.808" N	30° 42' 47.963" E

Serik, Turkey	42 km.	36° 55' 2.636" N	31° 6' 16.009" E
Manavgat, Turkey	35 km.	36° 47' 12.728" N	31° 26' 28.615" E
Avsallar, Turkey	32 km.	36° 37' 21.169" N	31° 46' 2.147" E
Alanya, Turkey	25 km.	36° 32' 39.995" N	31° 59' 43.469" E
Kyrenia, Cyprus (by ship)	179 km.	35° 19' 56.215" N	33° 19' 10.373" E
Nicosia, Cyprus	27 km.	35° 11' 8.038" N	33° 22' 56.194" E
Lythrodontas, Cyprus	32 km.	34° 56' 55.626" N	33° 18' 3.265" E
Tochni, Cyprus	32 km.	34° 46' 6.478" N	33° 19' 13.994" E
Limassol, Cyprus	35 km.	34° 42' 25.668" N	33° 1' 21.421" E
Limassol-Haifa, Israel (cargo ship)	274 km.	32° 47' 38.566" N	34° 59' 22.456" E
Ataturk Park (Carmel Park), Israel	24 km.	32° 45' 15.588" N	35° 1' 0.563" E
Beit Hananya, Israel	24 km.	32° 31' 46.214" N	34° 55' 36.242" E
Netanya, Israel	32 km.	32° 19' 17.249" N	34° 51' 11.506" E
Tel Aviv, Israel	33 km.	32° 5' 7.08" N	34° 46' 54.365" E
Mazor, Israel	32 km.	32° 3' 2.513" N	34° 55' 52.943" E
Latroun, Israel	32 km.	31° 49' 57.799" N	34° 58' 47.316" E
Kibbutz Tzuba, Israel	21 km.	31° 47' 3.667" N	35° 7' 4.627" E
Jerusalem, Israel	15 km.	31° 46' 5.948" N	35° 12' 49.356" E