

Turkey - Footsteps of Paul

This Sample Itinerary is Dynamic and Flexible

Contact St. Cecilia Tours, to Further Personalize your Experience

St. Cecilia
TOURS



Roundtrip Airfare

Deluxe Hotels

Daily Breakfast

Executive Coach

Transportation

Group Dinners

Entrance Tickets

Tour Guide

Tour Manager

Nicea
Constantinople
Tarsus
Antioch
Cappadocia
Lystra
Iconium
Colossians
Perge
Ephesus
Pergamom



ROMAN LIBRARY IN EPHEBUS, ABOVE, AND THE ROMAN THEATRE IN ASPENDOS, BELOW

ITINERARY

- DAY 1 — TRAVEL DAY

We meet at the Houston airport IAH for your direct, overnight flight to Istanbul. Meals are served onboard.

- DAY 2 — ISTANBUL

Four Seasons Hotel *****

For those arriving on the group flight at Istanbul, you will meet your tour host and shuttle to our hotel, located within easy walking distance to Hagia Sophia, Grand Bazaar, and the Blue Mosque. Upon arrival we will have a welcome meeting where we will distribute your study guide and audio whisper system.



HAGIA SOPHIA, ISTANBUL

- DAY 3 — ISTANBUL

Our fabulous guide and religious scholar, will take us on a walking tour of Hagia Sofia, and the incredible water cisterns. After lunch, we visit Topkapi Palace; and the Hippodrome. We learn the historic connection of Istanbul to Jerusalem and Rome. We'll enjoy dinner as a group in our hotel restaurant. [B,D]

- DAY 4 — NICEA & ISTANBUL

Today we take a bus to the archeological park of Nicea. We learn of the councils that met in this location and their leadership. We return to our hotel in Istanbul, where you can enjoy some free-time in the evening. We recommend a Bosphorus Cruise. We depart for Cappadocia in the morning, so you might want to prep your luggage for an early departure. [B]

- DAY 5 — CAPPADOCIA

Deresuites Cave Hotel *****

After three nights in Istanbul, we load our coach, and take a short flight to Tarsus. After we arrive we will make our way to to birthplace of Saul, before we continue to Cappadocia. In Acts 21:39, Paul was proud of his home city, saying: "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city". Dinner and overnight in a Cappadocia cave hotel. [B,D]



2028 TURKEY TOUR

- DAY 6 — CAPPADOCIA

We drive to Nigde to visit Eskigumus Monastery, one of the best preserved monastery complexes (cave churches) with an intact fresco of Mary depicted smiling with her infant, Jesus. We learn of the community of the Hittites, and the Galatians, to whom Paul penned his first letter. We continue on to Derinkuyu, a deep underground city with eight layers. We will also see the Keslik Monastery and Sobessos excavation site. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia. [B,D]

- DAY 7 — CAPPADOCIA

Our full-day tour of Cappadocia includes visits to the Goreme Open Air Museum; Zelve Valley; Avanos; and Uchisar. A land of eerie beauty, this region was a Roman province and the refuge for persecuted Christians during the early days of the Roman Empire. Cappadocia is well known for its rock churches that date to the period of the persecution; its underground cities; and amazingly intricate systems of tunnels cut into the mountain of rock. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia. [B,D]



UNDERGROUND CITY, CAPPADOCIA

- DAY 8 — LYSTRA & KONYA

Hich Hotel Konya *****

After three nights in Cappadocia, we transfer via the Silk Road to Sultanhan Caravanserai and Lystra where Paul was stoned by the people during his first visit. We drive on to Konya, ancient Iconium. In addition to Paul's history, we are introduced to Rumi, the mystic poet who is from Konya and we will see the Museum and burial place. We conclude our day with witnessing the sacred ritual of whirling Dervishes. Dinner and overnight in Konya. [B,D]

- DAY 9 — PISIDIAN ANTIOCH & ANTALYA

Voyage Sorgun Hotel *****

Today our journey takes us to the Mevlana Museum, which was the cloister of Mevlana, a great mystical philosopher of the 13th century. After our museum stop, we drive on to visit Pisidian Antioch where St. Paul addressed high-standing women and a God-fearing congregation in a synagogue, on the Sabbath. The synagogue was later converted into a church dedicated to St. Paul. Overnight in Side. [B,D]

- DAY 10 — PERGE & ASPENDOS

We're off to the colonnaded streets of Perge. In Perge, the apostles Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey in Asia Minor. Its most notable ancient remains include a theater; a stadium; two basilicas; and an agora. During the Roman period, it was renowned for its schools of sculpture art. Next, the ancient Pamphylian city of Aspendos, noted for its Roman ruins including an aqueduct and a possibly the finest Roman theater in the world. We'll plan free time for shopping, and strolling through the old harbor in Antalya in the afternoon. Overnight in Side. [B]

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- DAY 11 — PAMUKKALE

Doğa Thermal Health & Spa *****

We visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum containing a rich collection of artifacts from the vicinity ranging from the upper Paleolithic period to Ottoman times. On our drive to Pamukkale, we'll visit Laodiceia and Colossae, mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Colossians and in Revelation. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale Thermal Resort. [B,D]

- DAY 12 — HIERAPOLIS

We visit ancient Hierapolis where the martyrdom of St. Philip the Apostle can be found behind the Aphrodisias Tetrastyle theater. The hot springs here have been used since Roman times for their therapeutic purposes. Then on to Aphrodisias, the city of Aphrodite, where her temple has been converted into a basilica. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. [B,D]

- DAY 13 — BERGAMA

Attalos Suite Hotel Bergama *****

Today we drive to Bergama to visit three of the Seven Churches there - Thyatira, Sardis, and Philadelphia - from the Book of Revelation. Sardis, where the first coins were minted, was the capital of the Lydian Empire and the city of King Croesus. Dinner and overnight in Bergama. [B,D]

- DAY 14 — EPHESUS

Charisma Deluxe Hotel *****

In ancient Ephesus, The Temple of Artemis stands in contrast to the School of Paul, and the great theater. The scriptures come alive as we read about Paul's preaching leading to a public uproar. The apostle John also lived in Ephesus, and it is hypothesized that he brought Mary to Ephesus after the crucifixion of Christ and that she perhaps spent her last days in the small house that was built for her on Mt. Koressos (Bulbuldagi). Dinner on your own, overnight in Kusadasi. [B,D]

- DAY 15 — PATMOS & KUSADASI

Today we take a boat ride to the Isle of Patmos and see where John was exiled, and step into the cave where he penned the Book of Revelation. We return to Kusadasi and enjoy a celebratory closing group dinner. [B,D]

- DAY 16 — TRAVEL

Our fabulous tour of Turkey will unfortunately come to an end. Our coach will take us to the Izmir Airport where we will say our goodbyes. Enjoy your flight home!



Contact St. Cecilia Tours to personalize your itinerary and curriculum.

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* Flights, hotels, and itinerary as published is subject to change.