

Turkey - Footsteps of Paul

<Insert Church Name and Lead Pastors>



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 drink over a brief orientation meeting where we will distribute your audio guide whisper system.

- 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 are learn of the councils that met in this location and their connection to Rome. 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]



HAGIA SOPHIA, ISTANBUL

- DAY 5 — CAPPADOCIA

Deresuites Cave Hotel *****

After breakfast, we load our coach, and return to the airport for 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 Cappadocia. [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 *****

Today we visit the Ihlara Valley where, at one time, there were more than one hundred churches. Then on to Sultanhan Caravanserai and Lystra where Paul was stoned by the people during his first visit. We drive on to Konya, ancient Iconium. Rumi, the Sufi and mystic poet 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 Yalvac to visit Pisidian Antioch where St. Paul addressed the congregation on the Sabbath in a synagogue! 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 strolling through the old harbor in Antalya in the afternoon. Overnight in Side. **Including:** [B,D]

2028 TURKEY TOUR

- 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. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. [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 — KUSADASI

Charisma Deluxe Hotel *****

We visit Ephesus and the surrounding area. Today's sites include the Museum; the Temple of Artemis; the Basilica of St. John; and the Church of the Virgin Mary. St. John preached and lived in Ephesus. It is believed that he brought the Virgin Mary to Ephesus after the crucifixion of Christ and that she 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!



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