



JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN **TURKEY & GREECE**



- 12 Days -

Istanbul, Cappadocia,
Colossae, Sardis, Ephesus, Athens,
Corinth & More!

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JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN TURKEY & GREECE

Day 1 - Depart USA

Your pilgrimage begins as you board your international flight for Istanbul.

Day 2 - Arrive in Turkey

Upon arrival, you will be met by our airport representative.

Day 3 - ISTANBUL and KAYSERI

The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents and is home to 450 mosques. You will visit the famous Blue Mosque with its six minarets and sparkling interior. You will also visit the Topkapi Palace, once home to royal Sultans. Inside, you will see the fabled jewels of the Treasury, delicate displays of Chinese porcelain in the Kitchen Quarters, and the provocative Harem Quarters. Walk through St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia), which was the largest church in Christendom for 1000 years. Built by Justinian (532-537 A.D.), the church has 107 columns, fossil imbedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. This afternoon you will fly to Kayseri. Overnight in Cappadocia area.

Day 4 - CAPPADOCIA

You will journey to Cappadocia where amazing cone-shaped rock formations create a fairy-tale landscape. Pre-historic farmers were attracted by the remarkably fertile white soil. Because the stone hardens when exposed to air, generations have carved dwellings in the soft rock faces. As you explore, you will discover that, even today, people make their homes in the cliffs and rock cones of Cappadocia. It is estimated that over 3000 rock churches exist in the region. You will visit the Rock Chapels of Goreme, the Cave Village of Avclar, and the Monastic Complex of Zelve.

Day 5 - ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA

Today you will drive west through the Turkish countryside with a visit to Antioch in Pisidia. In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul preached his first recorded sermon (Acts 13:14-52). While his speech was well received, he ran into opposition from some in Lystra. He and Barnabas were forced out of town. As a result, they symbolically "shook off the dust from their feet" and left (Acts 13:40-1). Continue to Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle", named for the limestone-laden hot springs which cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next, for an overnight in the Cappadocia area.



Day 6 - COLOSSAE, LAODICEA, and HIERAPOLIS

Famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the town of Colossae has fallen into obscurity. While you can still see traces of the theatre, the Necropolis and the church, the ancient city is mostly indistinguishable ruins. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from (Rev. 3:20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock . . .". Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4:13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You will see the impressive amphitheatre with seats still in perfect condition. You will see the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches, which have stood through time and earthquakes. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 7 - PHILADELPHIA, SARDIS, and IZMIR

Visit the site of Philadelphia also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 37-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem." (Rev. 3:12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Travel to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3:1-6). You will be impressed by the massive scale of the Temple of Artemis, by the white marble Royal Road, by the gymnasium, and by the synagogue. The third largest city in modern Turkey is Izmir, long a center for Jewish and Christian communities. In Paul's day, the town was known as Smyrna. It was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2:8-11). You will see the Agora, the colonnaded commercial center where Roman statues can still be seen. Overnight in Izmir area.

Day 8 - PERGAMUM (BERGAMA) and THYATIRA (AKHISAR)

Pergamum was another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations (Rev. 2:12). The fabled Acropolis towers 1000 feet above the town and commands a spectacular panorama. As you pass through the Royal Gates, you will enter one of the great centers of classic Greek culture. You will see the foundations of the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, and the ruins of the Library which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. You will see the remains of the Temple of Trajan, the Grand Theater, the Gymnasium, and the Health Center (Aesclepiion). Visit Thyatira once a busy trading center. Today, it is famous for Persian rugs. Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations, tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1:11; 2:18-29). Overnight in the Izmir area.



Day 9 - EPHESUS

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today, you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You will view the Library and the huge Agora. The Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You will visit the Basilica of St. John, traditional site of his grave. From the basilica, enjoy a commanding view of the area. You will visit the Museum of Ephesus for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. You will have time to explore this powerful city on your own and recreate some of the footsteps of Paul. Overnight in Izmir area.

Day 10 - ATHENS

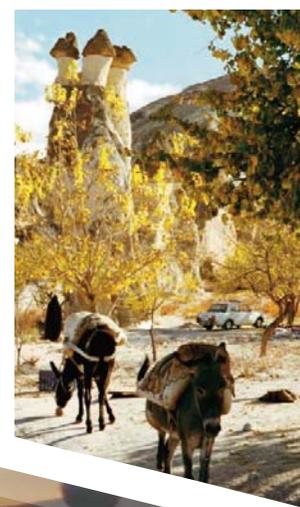
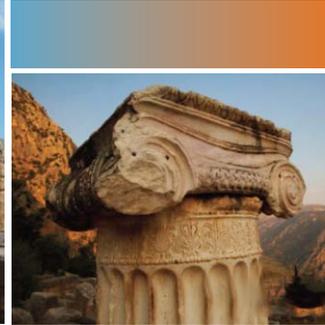
Fly this morning from Izmir to Athens. Enjoy the architectural splendors of the ancient city of Athens as you follow your guide to the world renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheum. View Mars Hill where the apostle Paul stood and said, "I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (Acts 17:23). See the Agora, the ancient market place and center of the Athenian public life, where the apostle Paul preached "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Also see the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Day 11 - CORINTH and CENCHREAE

In Corinth, the city where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla, the tent makers, and where the Lord spoke to Paul by a vision saying, "I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:10). Here, Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue believed in the Lord, and many Corinthians as well hearing Paul, believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8); thus, began the church at Corinth to whom Paul wrote two epistles. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place and Temples. Walk among the ruins and stand on the Bema where Paul stood before Gallio facing charges brought by the Jews that were dropped. Paul stayed awhile in Corinth before leaving for Syria from the port at Cenchreae (Acts 18:12-18). Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

Day 12 - Return to USA

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA.





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