

JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN **TURKEY**



- 12 Days -

Istanbul, Antioch, Tarsus, Colossae,
Ephesus, Izmir, Pergamum,
& More!

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JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN TURKEY

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 ADANA

The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents. 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, and the provocative Harem Quarters. Walk through St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia), which was the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4,000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. This afternoon you will fly to Adana, home to 5,000 U.S. service men and women at Incirlik Air Base.

Day 4 - ANTIOCH (ANTAKYA)

Ancient Antioch was the center of Hellenistic civilization in the region. Christian roots go deep into Antioch's soil. It was to Antioch that many Jerusalem Christians fled after the death of Stephen (Acts 11: 19-21). Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch for a year and assembled with the church and taught many people (Acts 11: 22-26). It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians", and it was here that the first non-Jews were accepted into the early church.

Day 5 - TARSUS and SIDE

Tarsus was the birthplace of Paul (Acts 22:3), and he visited it on his second and third missionary journeys. Reaching back to the 14th century B.C., Tarsus is a city with a resplendent history. Enjoy a beautiful coastal drive to Side where you will spend the night. Visit Roman ruins of the Byzantine period, including the theater and the baths.

Day 6 - ASPENDOS, PERGE, and HIERAPOLIS

The Aspendos amphitheatre, known for its outstanding acoustics, is still in use today for special events. Nearby is Perge, a Hellenistic city where Paul preached (Acts 14: 25). Paul and Barnabas visited here on their first journey. Hierapolis is home to some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians (Colossians 4: 13). You will see the impressive amphitheatre, the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches, which have stood through time and earthquakes. Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle", named for the limestone-laden hot springs.

Day 7 - COLOSSAE, APHRODISIAS, and LAODICEA (Denizli)

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. Not far away is Aphrodisias. This city of marble thrived as the major center for worship of the pagan goddess Aphrodite until 500 years after Christ. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven

Churches (Rev. 3: 14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs.

Day 8 - EPHEBUS

In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. You will view the Library and the huge Agora. You will visit the Basilica of St. John, traditional site of his grave. 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.

Day 9 - IZMIR, THYATIRA (AKHISAR), SARDIS, and PHILADELPHIA

The third largest city in modern Turkey is Izmir, 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. Visit Thyatira once a busy trading center, home to Lydia, the "seller of purple" (Acts 16). Today, it is famous for Persian rugs. Thyatira, mentioned in Revelations, tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Travel to Sardis, and be impressed by the massive scale of the Temple of Artemis, the white marble Royal Road, the gymnasium, and by the synagogue. Visit the site of Philadelphia also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3: 7-13). Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica.

Day 10 - PERGAMUM (BERGAMA) and TROAS

Pergamum was another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations (Rev. 2: 12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which Christ hated (Rev. 2:13-17). The fabled Acropolis towers 1000 feet above the town and commands a spectacular panorama. Pass through the Royal Gates, 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 Theatre, the Gymnasium, and the Health Center (Aesclepion). Not far away is Troas. Here, on his second missionary journey, Paul had a vision in which he was called to Macedonia (Acts 16: 8-13).

Day 11 - TROY (TRUVA) and ISTANBUL

In Troy, history is buried in myth and mud. Nine layers of the fabled city have been excavated. Homer's *Iliad* relates the legendary story of the Trojan War. Travel to Istanbul via the beautiful Dardanelles.

Day 12 - Return to USA or enjoy an Extension

Continue with the Istanbul Extension or return to the USA.



Extensions

Cappadocia Pre-Tour

Day 1 & 2 USA to Turkey.

Day 3 Enjoy the sights in Istanbul (See Basic Day 3). The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents. 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, and the provocative Harem Quarters. Walk through St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia), which was the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4,000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold.

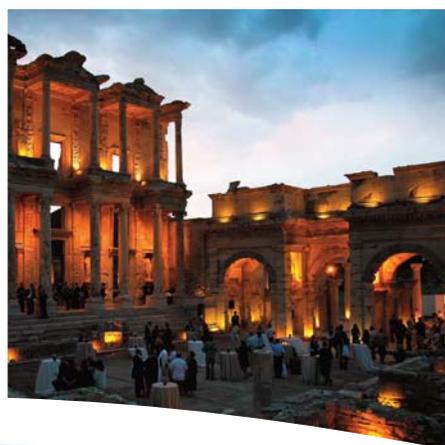
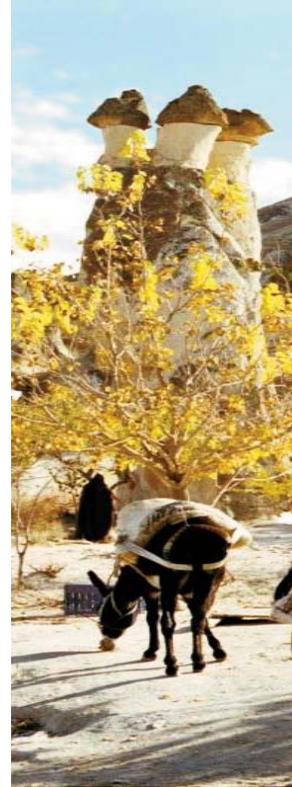
Day 4 & 5 You will fly to Cappadocia where amazing cone-shaped rock formations create a fairy-tale landscape. As you explore, you will discover that, even today, people make their homes in the cliffs and rock cones of Cappadocia. It is estimated that over 3000 rock churches exist in the region. You will visit the Rock Chapels of Goreme, the Cave Village of Avclar, and the Monastic Complex of Zelve. On the evening of Day 5 (Day 3 of Basic Tour), you will meet the rest of the group & overnight in Adana.

Istanbul and Nicaea Extension

Day 12 Begin your exploration of Istanbul with an enjoyable two-hour Bosphorus Cruise. You will sail past some of Istanbul's more colorful neighborhoods and peaceful suburbs. Your boat will take you past castles and quaint fishing villages. Later, you will visit the eastern or Asian part of Istanbul. You will see the Byzantine city walls, the Golden Horn, and the world famous mosaics of the Kariye Church.

Day 13 Today, you will visit the lakeside town of Iznik, known in Byzantine times as Nicaea. The ancient name is associated with the Nicene Creed. You will see the ancient walls and sites associated with the town's Christian heritage: the ruins of the Basilica of St. Sophia, the Baptistry, and the Christian Tombs on the outskirts of town

Day 14 Return to USA





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