

Journeys of the Apostle Paul through Turkey

15-day Turkey Tour

Day 1 — Depart US for overnight flight to Turkey

Day 2 — Istanbul

Arrive at Ataturk Airport, meet with your tour guide and transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 3 — Istanbul • Adana



Today's sightseeing begins with a visit to the magnificent Topkapi Palace, once home to the great Sultans. It is filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. Then explore the unique Blue Mosque built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet. The interior walls are covered with twenty thousand blue Iznik tiles. Next we visit the Hippodrome and Basilica of St. Sophia, which has inspired religious leaders for over 1,500 years. Constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and now a museum. Take an evening flight to Adana, where we will stay two nights.



Day 4 — Adana • Antioch

Our tour takes us to Antioch, where non-Jews were accepted into the early church, changing the destiny of Christianity. Explore the Museum of Mosaics including excavated Roman remains and the Church of St. Peter, most likely the oldest church in the world.

Day 5 — Tarsus • Cappadocia

Today your destination is Tarsus, birthplace of the Apostle Paul. Then drive north to Cappadocia and visit the Underground City of Kaymakli. During the 6th Century, Christians lived in the tunnels which were as deep as two hundred and seventy five feet with

eight different levels. Thousands of people lived in this subterranean city. Overnight in Cappadocia.



Day 6 — Cappadocia

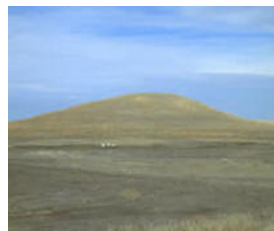
We devote the entire day to sightseeing in and around this atmospheric city Cappadocia. Marvel at the fascinating Goreme Valley, where the lunar like landscape reveal many stages that belong to New Testament. Over thousands of years, the rain and wind have eroded this landscape, creating strange rock formations known as "the fairy chimneys". Some of the grottos are magnificently decorated with colorful frescoes depicting biblical scenes. Then we will enjoy visiting a carpet bazaar where you will experience the ancient art of rug weaving and get a chance to explore the area from a cultural perspective.



Continue your exploration of this intriguing region with a visit to the hidden, monastic valley of Zelve, which has a large number of carved rock houses and churches. Then at Avanos we will see the techniques of ceramic art dating from 12th-3rd BC. Overnight in Cappadocia.

Day 7 — Cappadocia • Derbe • Lystra • Konyaz

Our journey continues to Derbe where St. Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel. Then to Lystra which was a center of education in the time of Paul. Continue northwest to Iconium, a city visited by Paul on his first and on his second missionary journey. Overnight in Konya.



Day 8 — Konya • Antioch • Pisidia • Attalia



We spend the morning in Mevlana Museum and learn about the mystical religious sect known as the Whirling Dervishes. Then we journey through Anatolian, the lovely countryside to

Antioch Pisidia, one of the centers of Paul's missions. Drive to Antalya for overnight.

Day 9 — Antalya

Take a full day excursion to Perge where Paul, Barnabas and John Mark visited on their first missionary journey. We will see the best preserved Roman Theater in the world at Aspendos. You can still see the names of spectators carved into the backs of the seats. Overnight in Antalya.

Day 10 — Antalya • Laodicia • Pamukkale

We take the scenic journey this morning to Laodicia, one of the seven most important churches in early Christianity. It is here the Christians were accused of being lukewarm. The tour continues to Hierapolis



where Christianity came via Paul. Unique geographical formations have been shaped over the last fourteen thousand years. Calcium rich water from an underground thermal

spring has flowed over the mountainside and slowly solidified, creating shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 11 — Pamukkale • Sardis • Philadelphi Smyrna • Kusadasi

Traveling west, we visit Philadelphia where Paul referred to as the "New Jerusalem." Next we see Sardis which was part of the Roman province of Asia in New Testament times and where they were asked



to confess the Name of God. Then drive to Smyrna to visit the Church of St. Policarp, which symbolized the community of the Seven Churches of the Apocalypse and is also the oldest church in ancient Smyrna. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 12 — Kusadasi

After breakfast we will explore Ephesus, the crown jewel of the Seven Churches where Paul warned against the evil men. Ephesus is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the world and was famous throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis. See the Celsius Library, the best preserved structure of its kind. Explore terrace houses, a beautiful example of Roman domestic architecture, and Odeon, the marble street where Paul held daily discussions. In the late afternoon you will have free time for leisure and to explore the beautiful port city of Kusadasi on the Aegean Sea.



Day 13 — Kusadasi • Thyatira • Pergamos

Today our first stop is Thyatira, where the Christians were admonished to have faith and patience. Then we travel to Pergamum where Paul advised to be faithful under persecution. Impressive temples, library, and medical facilities made Pergamum a renowned cultural and political center. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 14 — Kusadasi • Patmos



Take a private ferry to Patmos, where we will visit the Monastery of St. John and view its relics and the grotto where John wrote the Book of Revelation while in exile. Return

to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight.

Day 15 — Departure Kusadasi

After a farewell breakfast depart Izmir airport to Istanbul where we will board our trans-Atlantic flight home.