biblical
EXPEDITIONS



PARTICIPANT ITINERARY

TURKEY

Biblical Turkey

The Seven Churches and the journeys of Paul

PREPARED FOR

Regent University

May 30 – June 8, 2027

with BE Instructor **Carrie Wood**

www.biblical-expeditions.com

TRIP OVERVIEW

Your Journey

Join Regent University and BE Instructor Carrie Wood for ten days in biblical Turkey. Visit all Seven Churches of Revelation, from Pergamum and Smyrna to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, and follow the Apostle Paul from Pisidian Antioch and Colossae to Miletus and Ephesus. Along the way you'll see the white travertine terraces of Hierapolis, the marble city of Aphrodisias, and the great Temple of Apollo at Didyma.

At a Glance

Travel dates	May 30 – June 8, 2027
Duration	10 days · 8 nights
BE Instructor	Carrie Wood
Group leader	Regent University
Document date	October 30, 2026

Accommodations

City	Nights	Hotel	Rating
Izmir	2	Kaya Prestige Hotel	
Pamukkale	3	Pam Thermal Hotel	
Kusadasi	3	Karaaslan Inn	

Hotels are as listed or similar. Breakfast and dinner are included daily at the hotels; lunches are on your own.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2027

Depart the U.S.A.

Depart the United States on your overnight flight to Turkey.

DAY 2

MONDAY, MAY 31, 2027

Welcome to Turkey

Arrive in Izmir, meet our guide and private motor coach, and transfer to our hotel in Izmir.

HOTEL Kaya Prestige Hotel, Izmir DINNER Kaya Prestige Hotel

DAY 3

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2027

Pergamum and Thyatira

We drive to Bergama to visit Pergamum, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2:12–17). Its acropolis sits on a hill high above the modern town, with its famous ancient library, the temple of the imperial cult of Trajan, the steepest theater in Turkey, and the foundation of the Altar of Zeus. We will also see the healing center at the Asclepion, where the famous physician Galen lived and practiced for many years. After Pergamum we drive to Thyatira (Rev. 2:18–29) to see the modest Roman remains in the heart of the modern city.

HOTEL Kaya Prestige Hotel, Izmir DINNER Kaya Prestige Hotel

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2027

Smyrna, Sardis, and Philadelphia

Our morning begins at the ongoing excavations of the Smyrna agora and the ancient acropolis. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8–11) was the city of the martyr Polycarp, disciple of the Apostle John. We then drive to Sardis (Sart), one of the most picturesque of the Seven Churches of Asia (Rev. 1:11; 3:1–6) and capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom in the sixth century BC. We visit the restored gymnasium and the reconstructed synagogue, the largest known from the ancient Jewish diaspora, along with the remains of the Temple of Artemis, the royal Persian road from Susa to Sardis, and the “golden” Pactolus River. On our way to the Lycus Valley, we stop at the remains of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7–13), the church given “an open door, which no one is able to shut,” before continuing to Pamukkale.

HOTEL Pam Thermal Hotel, Pamukkale DINNER Pam Thermal Hotel

DAY 5

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2027

Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colossae

We begin at Hierapolis, home to the largest necropolis in Turkey, where near the theater we will see the newly excavated martyrium of Philip. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his letter to the Colossians (Col. 4:13), and its famous hot springs and white travertine terraces illuminate the “lukewarm” water of the letter to Laodicea. Next we visit the new excavations at Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14–22), and then drive to Colossae in the Lycus Valley to see the location of the unexcavated city to which Paul wrote Colossians and Philemon. We return to Pamukkale for the evening.

HOTEL Pam Thermal Hotel, Pamukkale DINNER Pam Thermal Hotel

DAY 6

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2027

Pisidian Antioch

Today we drive to Pisidian Antioch, where Paul preached his first recorded sermon in the synagogue (Acts 13:13–52), the fullest account we have of how Paul proclaimed the gospel to a Jewish audience. We visit the ruins of the city, including St. Paul's Church, the Augusteum, and the aqueduct, and the Yalvaç Museum before returning to Pamukkale.

HOTEL Pam Thermal Hotel, Pamukkale **DINNER** Pam Thermal Hotel

DAY 7

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2027

Aphrodisias to Kusadasi

We drive to Aphrodisias, where excavations led by New York University have unearthed numerous fine marble statues. We will see the best-preserved stadium in Turkey and the Temple of Aphrodite and, if it is open, the newly opened museum featuring statues from the Sebasteion. On our way to Kusadasi, we visit the ancient site of Magnesia with its forum and large stadium, then continue to Kusadasi, the holiday town on the shores of the Aegean Sea.

HOTEL Karaaslan Inn, Kusadasi **DINNER** Karaaslan Inn

DAY 8

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2027

Miletus, Didyma, and Priene

This morning we drive to Miletus to see its well-preserved theater. Near one of the city's four harbors, Paul delivered his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17–38). Approaching Didyma, we visit the remains of the Sacred Way that linked Miletus to the oracle at the Temple of Apollo, the finest temple in the Aegean region. At Priene we will see the best-preserved Hellenistic theater in Turkey, the remains of a synagogue in the west residential district, and the city's bouleuterion.

HOTEL Karaaslan Inn, Kusadasi **DINNER** Karaaslan Inn

DAY 9

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2027

Ephesus

This morning we visit Ephesus, near the modern town of Selçuk, the best-preserved classical city of the eastern Mediterranean, where Paul spent nearly three years during his third journey. We will see the Temple of Domitian, the Temple of Hadrian, the Library of Celsus, and the theater, which seated 24,000 people, and tour the ongoing excavations of the Terrace Houses, where the wealthy of Ephesus lived. We will also visit the excellent local archaeological museum and the site of the Temple of Artemis, the largest religious structure of the ancient world.

HOTEL Karaaslan Inn, Kusadasi **DINNER** Karaaslan Inn

DAY 10

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2027

Return Home

This morning we drive to Izmir Airport for our flights home, challenged and refreshed in our faith.

YOUR TRIP PACKAGE

What's Included

Included in Your Package

- 8 overnights at the hotels listed (or similar): 2 nights at Kaya Prestige Hotel in Izmir, 3 nights at Pam Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale, and 3 nights at Karaaslan Inn in Kusadasi
- BE Instructor Carrie Wood
- Local English-speaking guide
- Daily breakfast and dinner at the hotels (buffet or set menu)
- Air-conditioned bus with Wi-Fi and driver
- All entrances and activities per the itinerary
- All tips (hotels, guide, driver, porters, etc.)
- B.E. Trip Box mailed to each participant
- 12-month AskEzra subscription for each participant
- Group airport transfer upon arrival and departure with an English-speaking assistant
- 2 bottles of water per person per day
- Headsets

Not Included

- Airfare to/from Izmir, Turkey
- Travel or overseas medical insurance*
- All lunches
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Anything not mentioned above

**Overseas medical insurance is required to travel with Biblical Expeditions. Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended.*

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Questions About Your Trip?

If you have questions about this itinerary, registration, payments, or preparing for your journey, please call or email the Biblical Expeditions main office. Our team is glad to help.

Biblical Expeditions Main Office

Phone 417.408.8511
Office hours Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern (closed major U.S. holidays)
Website www.biblical-expeditions.com
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We look forward to journeying with you.