



TURKEY JOURNEY with FATHER'S HOUSE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Depart USA

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Arrive Istanbul International Airport. Meet our guide and private luxury motor coach and transfer to our hotel in *Istanbul*. Dinner and overnight in *Istanbul*.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

We will visit the famous *Blue Mosque*, with its six minarets and sparkling interior. We will visit the *Archaeological Museum* and nearby Museum of the Ancient Orient — two world class museums where artifacts from all over the Near East have been collected — including the famous Jerusalem Temple Inscription and the inscription from Hezekiah's Tunnel (also from Jerusalem). Walk through *St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia)* that, for 1000 years, was the largest church in Christendom. Built by Justinian (532-537 AD), the church has 107 columns and beautiful glass mosaics. Visit the *Underground Cisterns*. Dinner and overnight *Istanbul*.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Morning leisurely boat tour along the *Bosphorus*—seeing both European and Asian shores of *Istanbul*. Visit the *Spice (Egyptian) Market*. Drive to *Çanakkale*. Dinner and overnight in *Çanakkale*.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Our morning begins with visiting the legendary site of *Troy*. Made famous by Homer in the *Iliad*, we visit the ruins of *Troy* and see a replica of the famous "Wooden Horse." From *Troy*, we travel to *Alexandria Troas* (Acts 16:6-10; 20:13-16) to visit the harbor and the new excavation area. Our day concludes visiting the site of *Assos* (where Paul stopped on his third missionary journey; Acts 20:13-14). We drive to our hotel in *Dikili* for dinner and overnight.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Drive to *Bergama* to visit the *Pergamum*, one of the Seven Churches. Its acropolis is set on a hill high above the modern town of *Bergama*. The site boasts its famous ancient library, the Trajan imperial cult temple, the steepest theater in Turkey, and the foundation of the altar of Zeus. We will also see the healing center at the Asclepium. The famous doctor Galen lived and practiced at the Asclepium for many years. After *Pergamum*, we drive to *Thyatira* and visit the meager Roman remains in the midst of the modern city. Dinner and overnight *Izmir*.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Our morning begins by visiting the ongoing excavations at the *Smyrna* agora and the ancient acropolis. We then drive to *Sardis (Sart)*, one of the most picturesque sites of the Seven Churches of Asia (Revelation 1:11; 3:1-4) and the capital of the ancient Lydian Kingdom of the 6th century BC. We visit the restored gymnasium and reconstructed synagogue. We will also see the remains of the *Temple of Artemis*, the royal *Persian Road* from *Susa* to *Sardis*, and the 'golden' river Pactolos. On our way to the *Lychus Valley*, we visit the few remains of *Philadelphia*, before continuing to *Pamukkale*. Dinner and overnight *Pamukkale*.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

We begin the morning visiting *Hierapolis* that features the largest necropolis in *Turkey*. Near its theater in *Hierapolis*, we will always see the newly excavated martyrrium of Philip. Paul mentions *Hierapolis* in his letter to the Colossians. Next, we will visit the new excavations at *Laodicea*, one of the Seven Churches. Then we will drive to *Colossae* in the *Lycus Valley* to see the location of the unexcavated site. Paul wrote two letters to this city - Colossians and Philemon. Return to *Pamukkale* for dinner and overnight.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

Drive to *Aphrodisias*, where archaeological excavations led by the New York University have unearthed numerous fine marble statues. We will see the best-preserved stadium in *Turkey* as well as the temple of Aphrodite. We will also visit the newly opened museum that features statues from the Sebasteion. On our way to *Kusadasi*, we visit the ancient site of *Magnesia (Tralles)* with its forum and large stadium. Continue to *Kusadasi*, the holiday town on the shores of the *Aegean Sea*. Dinner and overnight in *Kusadasi*.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

This morning we drive to *Miletus* to see the well-preserved theater. At Miletus Paul delivered his speech to the Ephesian elders near one of its four harbors. As we approach *Didyma*, we will visit the remains of the Sacred Way that linked *Miletus* to this ancient oracle site at the *Temple of Apollo*. The *Temple to Apollo at Didyma* is the finest temple in the Aegean region. At *Priene*, we will see the best-preserved Hellenistic theater in *Turkey*. We will also view the remains of a synagogue in the west residential district and the city's bouleterion. Return to *Kusadasi* for dinner and overnight.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

This morning we visit the ancient site of *Ephesus*. Located near the modern town of Selçuk, *Ephesus* is the best-preserved classical city of the eastern Mediterranean. Paul spent nearly three years in the city during his third journey. At Ephesus we will see the *Domitian Temple*, the *Temple of Hadrian*, *Celsus Library*, and a theater with a seating capacity for 24,000 people. We will also tour the ongoing excavations at the *terrace houses* where the rich and famous 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. Dinner and overnight in *Kusadasi*.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

This morning we drive to the airport in *Izmir* to catch our flight to *Istanbul* and return to the USA.