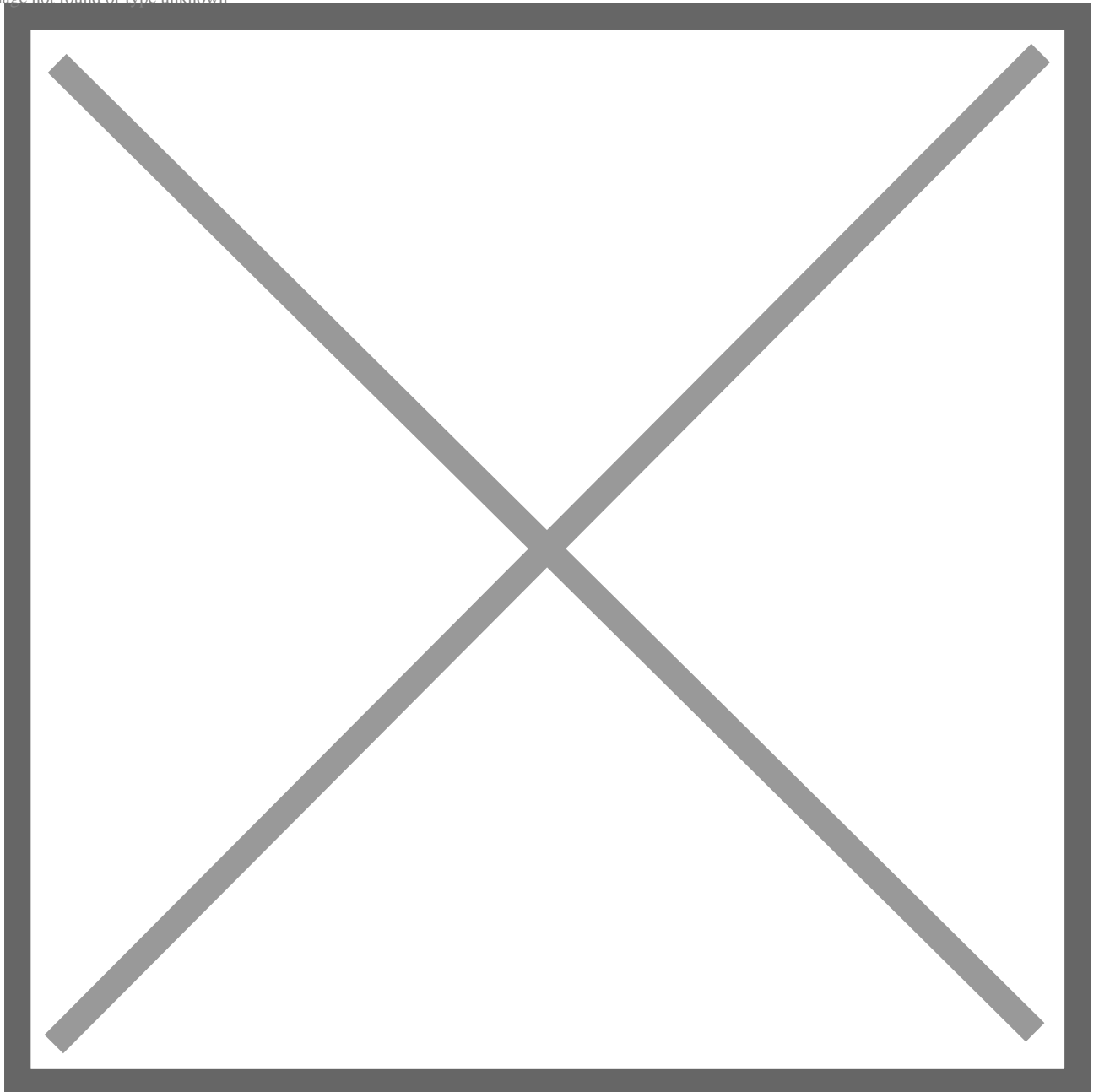


## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 14 Day Biblical Tour Turkey

Welcome to Turkey! Turkey. Follow in the footsteps of St. Paul's journeys in Turkey and the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. It includes the religious sites and places such as Tarsus, Antioch, Iconium, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Ephesus, Smyrna, Thyatira, Sardis and Nicea. A must pilgrimage for all the Christians and true believers.

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**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€0 €0

**DURATION**

14 days

**TOUR ID**

8

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Istanbul - Arrival Day

Upon our arrival at Istanbul International Airport, your guide will meet, assist and transfer you to the hotel. Istanbul's original name is Byzantium then Constantinople. It is a most fascinating city, which actually crosses two continents Europe and Asia. It is a city of amalgamation of bazaars, minarets, mosques, churches, palaces, and restaurants catering to every one's taste, museums, customs and twelve million people. Overnight in Istanbul.

### Day 2 : Istanbul City Tour

Breakfast Included

Our journey begins in Istanbul, the only city in the world situated on two continents. Today we wdiscover the Byzantine and Ottoman treasures of Istanbul. We visit Hippodrome and the Obelisk brought from Egypt. Then our next visit is the Blue Mosque with its six minarets. Afternoon we will visit the Topkapi Palace, which was the residence of the Ottoman sultans, with its fabulous treasure chambers.

After the lunch, Tour will take you to the Grand Spice Bazaar which is a unique atmosphere with reasonable prices for your shopping. Here you will find; Exotic Spices and Herbs, Turkish Baklava, Turkish Delights, Turkish Coffee, nuts and fruits, small souvenirs such as Ceramic Handicrafts, Evil Eyes totems, all naturel olive oil, soaps and many other goods in Souvenir Shops and stores. After the tour, transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

### Day 3 : Istanbul - Adana - Tarsus - Selucia - Antioch

Breakfast Included

Early morning flight to Adana, the country's fourth largest city. Adana is situated some thirty miles east of Tarsus, birthplace of the Apostle Paul. Upon arrival drive to Tarsus and visit the Apostle Pauls well, the Gate of Cleopatra, and the latest excavations. Then we visit the archaeological remains of Seleucia, the port from which Paul, Barnabas and John Mark departed from Antioch on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:4). Drive to Antioch for overnight Adana

### Day 4 : Antioch - Cappadocia

Breakfast and Dinner Included

It was here at Antioch on the Orontes that believers were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). Visit The Cave where they met in secret. Paul and Silas departed from here on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:35 - 36). Discover the impact of leaders such as Ignatius of Antioch and John Chrysostom. In Acts 2:9, pilgrims from Cappadocia were assembled with the thousands in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when they received the initial baptism of the Holy Spirit and heard the Apostle Peter preach his powerful message. We will travel to Cappadocia scenic Ihlara Valley, where early Christians carved some 3, 500 cave churches

from the tufa rock. The beauty and quaintness of these chapels, with numerous wall paintings and Christian symbols, is astonishing. Persecuted Christians - tens of thousands of them - escaping into the earth to flee Arab invaders in the tenth century, tunneled out more than twenty underground cities of refuge here in Cappadocia.

Such cities, with carved rooms for kitchens, sleeping quarters, stables, and chapels for worship, descend five to ten stories into the earth. At Ozkonak Underground City, one of the best preserved of these cities, you will enjoy your own guided tour into this amazing region. Overnight in a Cappadocia.

### **Day 5 : Cappadocia City Tour**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Cappadocia, with its center in Caesarea (Kayseri), was once the heart of the Hittite Kingdom of the Old Testament. This vast area is one of the most photogenic landscapes in the world. Extraordinary rock formations have become symbolic of this region, where you will enjoy the Valley of the Fairy Chimneys and Goreme's breathtaking Open Air Museum. Watch the potters at their craft, in the famous pottery; producing town of Avanos. Finally, savour the natural wonders of the Citadel of Uchisar and Zelve Valley. Overnight in a Cappadocia.

### **Day 6 : Sultanhan - Lystra - Iconium - Konya**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Drive to the Sultanhani Caravansary for a fascinating look at one of the rest stops for ancient camel caravans. Along the trade routes, such caravansaries appeared at intervals of some twenty - five miles, the average distance that camels could travel in a day. Continue on to Lystra, where a mob stoned Paul during his first journey (Acts 14:6 - 19), and where Timothy joined him during the second journey (Acts 16:1 - 3). Depart for Iconium, where Paul preached and encouraged believers during his first missionary journey (Acts 14:1 - 6). Iconium was once the home of the sect of mystical Muslims called Whirling Dervishes. Overnight in a Konya.

### **Day 7 : Pisidian - Antioch - Colossea - Pamukkale**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Drive to Antioch of Pisidia, where nearly the whole city came to hear Paul preach during his first missionary journey (Acts 13:14 - 52). The marvelous excavations include the ancient church and the great first - century Temple of Augustus. Today, you will travel the Royal Road that once connected Ephesus with distant Babylon. Visit the unexcavated site of ancient Colossae by the village of Honaz. The Apostle Paul wrote one of his prison epistles to the church at Colossae, a city situated on the Lycus River.

Then drive to Hierapolis (Pamukkale) and explore incredible excavations; including a Byzantine church, the Great Theatre, the Temple of Apollo, and the Plutonium, which pagan cults once called "the entrance to hell." Examine the intriguing sites of the Churches of Revelation. At Hierapolis (Pamukkale), enjoy the "Cotton Castles" of brilliant white calcium rock formations and hot - water travertines, where hot mineral waters emerge from the earth and cascade over cliffs. As the water-cools, the calcium precipitates and clings to the cliffs, forming snowy white travertines (waterfalls of white stone), which give credence to the name Pamukkale, meaning "cotton castle". This enchanting place is one of the natural wonders of Asia Minor. The churches here in Hierapolis, Colossae, and Laodicea once flourished under the ministry of Epaphras (Colossians 4:12 - 13). Overnight in Pamukkale.

## **Day 8 : Laodicea - Philadelphia - Sardis**

### **Breakfast and Dinner Included**

After breakfast drive to Laodicea (Rev. 3:14 - 22), which will take you back to the first century. At Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7 - 12), your Bible will come alive as you read it in light of firsthand study. This city was located along the important trade route that linked Pergamum in the north with Laodicea to the south. In A.D. 17, an earthquake devastated twelve Asian cities, including Philadelphia, and for a time the people lived in fear of aftershocks.

Philadelphia was rebuilt with help from Emperor Tiberius. At Sardis (Rev. 3:1 - 5), your thoughts will turn to the Old Testament period following the 586 B.C. destruction of Jerusalem. That was the time when the phrase “rich as Croesus” originated. Croesus (560 - 546 B.C..) was the king of Lydia, and Sardis was his capital. Gold was discovered in the Pactolus River at Sardis and it was here that coinage began, as we know it. Cyrus and the Persians defeated and captured Croesus for all his wealth and made Sardis the administrative center for the western part of their empire.

The fabled Royal Road connected Sardis with the Persian cities to the east. Sardis was the hardest hit of the twelve cities destroyed in the earthquake of A.D. 17. Emperor Tiberius, according to the Annals of the historian Tacitus, gave much relief towards its rebuilding. Your visit to Sardis will include the imperial court and the ancient Jewish synagogue. You will rest in the shade of the Temple of Artemis, while studying in the light of prophetic Scripture. Dine and overnight in Kusadasi.

## **Day 9 : Miletus - Didyma - Kusadasi**

### **Breakfast and Dinner Included**

Drive to Miletus, home of ancient philosopher Thales (640 - 546 B.C.), one of the fathers of Greek geometry, astronomy, and philosophy. It was here, in the first Christian century, that the Apostle Paul, on his third missionary journey, called for the Ephesians elders and preached a powerful message to them (Acts 20:15 - 38).. It was also here that Paul left his friend Trophimus, who was too ill to continue (II Timothy 4:20). As a port at the mouth of the Meander River,

Miletus was a natural outlet for Phrygian trade. Like the one at Ephesus, however, Miletus's sea harbor eventually filled with silt, and commerce dwindled. The city's remote quietness makes it special to devout students of Scripture. Its ancient ruins include the marvelous 15, 000 - seat theatre. Nearby, at Didyma, visit the massive Temple to Apollo, one of the most impressive sites in Anatolia. Ordinary people did not reside in ancient Didyma.

This was home only to a priestly family whose oracle came from Delphi and who lived in luxury, as they guarded their temple treasures supplied by the people they deceived. Continue to Kusadasi for overnight.

## **Day 10 : Ephesus Tour**

### **Breakfast and Dinner Included**

After breakfast drive to Ephesus (Rev. 2:1 - 7), major port city on the Aegean, was the commercial, political, and religious center of all of Asia Minor. After a lunatic completely burned, the Temple of Diana (Artemis) on the night that Alexander the Great was born in 356 B.C. the Ephesians worked for 120 years to complete a magnificent reconstructed temple, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The city became part of the Roman Empire in the second century B.C. As a Roman capital of Asia Minor, Ephesus boasted a population approaching 250,000 people.

The Apostle Paul's first visit to Ephesus was brief—during his second missionary tour (Acts 18:19 - 21). His second visit lasted about three years—during his third missionary tour (Acts 19:1 to 20:31). Luke's account

of the worship of Diana appears in Acts 19:34 - 35. The Great Theatre (stadium) mentioned in Acts 19:29 - 31 could seat 25,000 people. Walk the marble - paved street with grooves made by chariot wheels. See the Fountain of Trojan, the Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre.

Visit the Chapel of the Virgin Mary (Double Church), where the Third Ancient Council convened. We visit The House of Virgin Mary where she spent her latest years. Enjoy St. Johns Basilica (built on the site of the Apostle John's tomb) and ponder the remains of the Temple of Diana. Overnight in Kusadasi.

## **Day 11 : Thytira - Pergamon**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Today, we will visit our final two of the Seven Churches of Revelation. At Thyatira (Rev. 2: 18 - 28), you will see the ruins of an ancient commercial center, located in the fertile valley where the trade route passed. One of the towns cloth and dye merchants was a woman named Lydia, who conducted business as far away as Philippi, where she became the first European convert to Christianity, during Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:11 - 15).

A most memorable experience will be Pergamum, with its Acropolis and Great Theatre, the steepest of the ancient world. Revelation 2:12 - 16 describes the city as "where Satan's seat is," a reference to the altar of Zeus, where we pause for reflection on the fulfillment of Scripture. Nearby, visit the Red Basilica; once a pagan temple, it later converted into a Christian church. Finally, walk through the Pergamum Asclepion, the famous medical center of antiquity. Overnight in Izmir.

## **Day 12 : Troy - Alexandra Troas - Assos - Canakkale**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Enjoy a fascinating visit to recent excavations of ancient Troy, made legendary by Homer's story of Helen and the Trojans' wooden horse. Then drive to Troas, founded about 300 B.C. by one of the generals of Alexandria the Great. During the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey, it was from Troas that he received the "Macedonian call" to Europe. This is where Luke's account changes from "they" to "we" (Acts 16:6 - 12), indicating that he joined Paul's team at Troas.

Returning from Macedonia during his third journey, Paul was in Troas for a week, when the young man Eutychus fell from the third loft as Paul preached. Paul soon walked some thirty miles to Assos, where we will follow the apostle's footsteps to the old city walls (Acts 20:5 - 14). You will walk the old marketplace of Assos and see the council chamber and Temple to Athena. Overnight in Canakkale.

## **Day 13 : Nicea - Istanbul**

Breakfast Included

Drive to Nicea through Bursa. At Nicea, you will see remains of Constantine's palace, now covered by the water at the shore of Lake Iznik. It was here in this palace chapel that the First Ancient Church Council convened in A.D. 325 to produce the Nicene Creed. Enjoy Nicea's St. Sophia Church, where the Seventh Church Council convened in 787. Continue to Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul

## **Day 14 : Istanbul - End of Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast you will have free time shopping in Istanbul. Today we depart for Istanbul Airport then back to home. We hope your tour was a memorable one and we would like to see you in the future in one of our tours again. Have a nice trip back home and thanks for choosing us.

## **Includes**

- 2 nights hotel in Cappadocia
- Guided Istanbul city tour
- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- Guided Ephesus tour
- 1 nights hotel in Pamukkale
- Return airport transfer
- Guided Konya tour
- 3 nights hotel in Kusadasi
- 1 night hotel in Canakkale
- Guided Philadelphia, Sardes and Smyrna tour
- 1 night hotel in Konya
- 13 open buffet breakfasts
- 9 dinners
- Guided Miletus - Didyma tour
- Guided Assos - Nicea Tour
- Guided Troy - Alexandra Troas tour
- 1 night hotel in Izmir
- Guided Cappadocia tours
- Hotel room taxes
- Arrival Istanbul airport transfer
- 1 night hotel in Tarsus / Adana
- Guided Tarsus Antioch tour
- Guided Lystra Lconium and Mevlana tour
- Guided Pisidian Antioch Laodicea and Hierapolis Pamukkale tour
- Guided Thyatira Pergamum tour
- Arrival airport transfer from Adana airport

## **Excludes**

- International flights
- Insurance: All types
- Turkey entry visa
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Domestic flight price for adult travelers is approximately Euros: 50,00 for one way and for under 2 years old, approximately Euros: 20,00 as an insurance policy.
- City tax
- Tipping

- Domestic flight from Istanbul to Adana

## **Routes**

## **Conditions**

## **Available On Dates**

18 May, 2020 - 31 March, 2022    Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

## **Hotels**

SILVER TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS Pullman Hotel or Ramada Hotel Golden Horn Ramada Adana Hotel Antique Cave House Hotel or 5 Star Suhan Hotel Anemon Hotel Pam Thermal Hotel GOLD TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS The Marmara Pera Hotel Divan Adana Hotel Cappadocia Cave Resort & Spa or Wyndham Hotel Kayseri or Gamirasu Cave Hotel Dedeman Hotel Pam Thermal Hotel