

## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 15 Day St. Pauls Biblical Tour Turkey

Welcome to Turkey! Following the footsteps of Saint Paul, this trip will be a great opportunity to visit the major landmarks from Istanbul to Ankara, Cappadocia to Adana, Antakya to Antalya and finally the wonders of Aegean Region.



**PRICE STARTING FROM**

~~€ 779~~ € 779

**DURATION**

15 days

**TOUR ID**

9

## 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 will discover 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.

Lunch break at 13:00 pm. After the lunch, Murtis 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 natural 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 : Ankara City Tour**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast, we drive to Ankara. Arrive in Ankara (Capital of Turkey), sight - seeing of Ankara: see the Anatolian Civilization Museum, the Temple of Augustus and Ataturk's Mausoleum. Drive to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Ankara.

## **Day 4 : Ankara - Cappadocia**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast, Continue to Cappadocia with a lunch / rest stop in Aksaray. 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

Full Day excursion of Cappadocia to see the surreal landscapes of volcanic ash, formed 3 million years ago: spectacular red rock cones, troglodyte churches and homes dating from 4000 BC Now visit

UCHISAR, GOREME and ZELVE, then AVANOS, to visit one of its famous, pottery workshops. Later return to your hotel for overnight stay.

### **Day 6 : Tarsus - Adana**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast drive to Tarsus, birthplace of St. Paul. See St. Pauls Well, Cleopatras Gate and the Ancient City. It was near here that a Great Fish "vomited out Jonas upon the dry land". Later return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Adana.

### **Day 7 : Antakya - Antioch - Mersin**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Full Day excursion to Antakya (Antioch). Here Jesus followers were first called Christians (Acts 11:26) Peter, Paul and also Barnabas preached here. Visit St. Peters Grotto and the exquisite Mosaic Museum. View the old city of Iskenderun before beginning the return, driving to Mersin for dinner and overnight stay.

### **Day 8 : Anamur - Antalya**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Depart westward along the Mediterranean shoreline, a famous coastal road. Take a lunch break in Anamur. See City of the Monophystie Archbishop of Seleucia. Dinner and overnight in Antalya.

### **Day 9 : Antalya Side/Perge & Aspendos Ancient City**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Continue to the ancient city of SIDE, the old port where Paul, Barnabas and Mark landed during their missionary journeys. Later they sailed from here to Antioch. Than visit PERGE, where St. Paul preached when arriving from Cyprus (Acts 13 - 14), and to ASPENDOS with its magnificent theater. Next, drive to Antalya for dinner and overnight stay.

### **Day 10 : Pamukkale City Tour**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast drive to Laodicea (Rev. 3:14 - 22), which will take you back to the first century and was condemned by St. John in Revelation Acts (4:15). 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). Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

### **Day 11 : Philadelphia - Sardes - Kusadasi**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast drive to 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. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.

### **Day 12 : Ephesus - Kusadasi**

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 13 : Izmir (Smyrna) - Pergamon**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

This morning take a beautiful drive to Izmir (ancient Smyrna), After visiting the St. Policarp church in Izmir, continue to 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 14 : Pergamon - Nicea - Istanbul**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast long 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 15 : Istanbul - End of Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, check out from the hotel. We hope your tour was a memorable one and we look forward to seeing you in the future on another Turkey Tour. Have a safe trip back home and thanks for choosing us.

## **Includes**

- 1 night hotel in Ankara
- 2 nights hotel in Cappadocia
- Guided Ankara 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
- Guided Pamukkale tour
- 1 nights hotel in Pamukkale
- Return airport transfer
- 2 nights hotel in Antalya
- 3 nights hotel in Kusadasi
- Arrival airport transfer from Istanbul airport
- 3 nights hotel in Istanbul
- 1 night hotel in Mersin
- 14 open buffet breakfasts
- 11 dinners
- Guided Adana tour
- Guided Kusadasi tour
- 1 night hotel in Adana
- Guided tour in Cappadocia
- Guided Antalya tour
- Istanbul City Tour
- Hotel room taxes

- Guided Mersin / Antakya tour
- Guided Pergamum tour
- Guided Nicea Tour

## **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
- City tax
- Tipping

## **Routes**

## **Available On Dates**

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

## **Hotels**

Destination SILVER TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category GOLD TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category Istanbul Pullman Hotel or Ramada Hotel Golden Horn The Marmara Pera Hotel Ankara Radisson Blue Hotel Park Inn By Radisson Ankara Hotel Cappadocia Antique Cave House Hotel or 5 Star Suhan Hotel Cappadocia Cave Resort & Spa or Wyndham Hotel Kayseri or Gamirasu Cave Hotel Adana Ramada Adana Hotel Divan Adana Hotel Mersin Ramada Mersin Hotel Divan Hotel Antalya Best Western Khan Hotel Porto Bello Hotel ( All Inclusive) Pamukkale Pam Thermal Hotel Pam Thermal Hotel Kusadasi Comfort Ada Class Hotel Suhan 360 Hotel Izmir Karaca Hotel Wyndham Grand ?zmir Ozdilek Hotel