

TURKEY GREECE JOURNEY

Travelling in the Footsteps of St. Paul and St. John

11 – 29 June, 2026



Hosted by Rev. Jacob Smith & Rev. Jonathan Adams

“The Word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region and the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 13:49, 52)



Istanbul (Constantinople)



Theatre at Pergamum



Cave City of Uchisar



Library at Ephesus



Travel Industry Council of Ontario
T.I.C.O. Registration # 2976741

DAY 1: THU. 11 JUNE. N. America to Turkey.

Today, we depart from N. America on our overnight flight to Istanbul. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. (D)

DAY 2: FRI. 12 JUNE. Arrival Istanbul

Upon arrival at Istanbul Airport, we clear immigration and customs formalities before meeting our Turkish tour manager and driver. Driving through the Marmara Region, we arrive at the gateway between Europe and Asia, Istanbul (Constantinople.) Here, we check-in to **The Germir Palas Hotel**, for the next two nights.

Dinner is at our hotel tonight. (B, D)

DAY 3+4: SAT - SUN. 13-14 JUNE. Istanbul.

After breakfast, we enjoy our full day historical Istanbul tour. Visiting the **Hagia Sophia Museum** (built in the 6th century,) the **Blue Mosque**, famous for its blue Iznik tiles, the **Hippodrome Square** where ancient chariot races were held, take in the aromas of the **Egyptian Spice Market**, followed by a boat tour on the **Bosphorus**, viewing the picturesque beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 5: MON. 15 JUNE. Istanbul, Antioch

This morning, we leave Istanbul and fly to the southern coast of Turkey, arriving at Hatay (ancient Antioch on the Orontes.) Upon arrival, we will drive to **Antioch**, the main headquarters for Paul's missionary journeys. Once the third largest city of the Roman Empire, Antioch was only surpassed by Alexandria and Rome.

It was here that Peter, Paul, Barnabas and Timothy preached and where followers of Jesus were first called "Christians". As we enter the Iron Gate into Biblical Antioch, we stroll through the streets where the Apostles had previously walked.

Just a short drive from Antioch is **Seleucia Peria**, mentioned in the Bible as the port where Paul and Barnabas set sail on their first missionary journey. From the ancient site of the Temple of Zeus, we enjoy a beautiful view of the harbor and Mediterranean Sea.

After a memorable day, we shall check-in to **The Bogazici Hotel** for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 6: TUE. 16 JUNE. Tarsus, Cappadocia.

This morning, we drive to the port of **Tarsus**, birthplace of Paul. From Tarsus, we begin our journey inland to the staggering geological Central Anatolian Region of **Cappadocia**. Truly one of the most unique landscapes in the world! It was here that early inhabitants carved into the soft volcanic rock to create underground dwellings, which eventually grew to become entire cities. Over one thousand elaborate places of worship, early churches, were carved out from the landscape. Many of the lavishly decorated frescoes, from as early as 5th century, can be seen today. Sometimes as many as six thousand Christians escaped from persecution by hiding in this region.

Our overnight and dinner will be at **The Dinler Hotel** during the next two days. (B, D)

DAY 7: WED. 17 JUNE. Cappadocia.

Today, we remain in the Cappadocia Region and spend the full day exploring such sites as the **Goreme open air museum**, the **underground city of Kaymakli**, the pottery town of Avanos, the natural **Citadel of Uchisar**, the monastic **Zelve Valley** and the carpet factory.

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

DAY 8: THU. 18 JUNE. Cappadocia, Konya.

Today, we can take the opportunity to have our own, private, service inside one of the cave churches in the valley.

Our afternoon sees us travel west towards the Aegean Coast. Our first stop is the ancient mystic City of **Konya**. Here, we will visit the **Mevlana Museum** and the **Whirling Dervish Monastery**, before arriving at our hotel, **The Anemon Hotel**, for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 9: FRI. 19 JUNE. Pisidian Antioch, Laodicea.

Today, our journey follows that of Paul and Barnabas as we stop in **Pisidian Antioch**. Here, we will visit the site of the synagogue that Paul visited during his journey. The ruins of an early Byzantine church are still visible with a mosaic of Psalm 42:4 found during recent excavations.

From here, we enjoy a scenic journey through the mountains of Galatia until we arrive at ancient cities of **Colossae** and **Laodicea**.

Laodicea – The "luke warm" church that is neither hot nor cold. (Rev. 3:14-22)

Dinner and overnight stay will be at **The Richmond Thermal Hotel**. (B, D)

DAY 10: SAT. 20 JUNE. Philadelphia, Sardis, Smyrna

Our day begins with a visit to the natural salt flats of **Pamukkale**, a truly spectacular sight indeed!

This morning, we leave the unique location of Pamukkale and drive to the coast of the Aegean Sea.

En-route, we shall visit the following:

Philadelphia – the Church that had endured patiently. (Rev. 3:7-13)

Sardis – the Church that had fallen asleep. (Rev. 3:1-6)

Smyrna – The Persecuted Church that suffered poverty and martyrdom. (Rev. 2:8-11)

Upon arrival at Izmir (modern Smyrna), we shall check-in to **The Kaya Prestige Hotel** for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)



DAY 11: SUN. 21 JUNE. Ephesus.

Today, we have a full day visit to the unforgettable ruins of **Ephesus**: The ‘Desirable Church’ that left its first love. (Rev. 2:1-7.)

In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world. It was here that Paul visited, whilst on his return to Israel, but was forced to leave the city, vowing to return.

He never returned to Ephesus but, instead, held council from Melitus during his Third journey. Our day also includes a visit to the church of Apostle John.

Dinner is back at our hotel tonight. (B, D)

DAY 12: MON. 22 JUNE. Pergamum, Troy

After breakfast, we depart for a day visiting some more sites of the Seven Churches of Revelation.

Pergamum – The Worldly Church that mixed doctrines and needed to repent. (Rev. 2:12-17)

Towards the end of the day, we shall arrive at the site of the ancient city of Troy.

A truly memorable day, we arrive at the City of Canakkale for dinner and overnight stay at the **Iris Hotel**. (B, D)

DAY 13: TUE. 23 JUNE Canakkale to Kavala

This morning, we cross the Dardanelle Straights, location (of one of the bloodiest battles during WWI) and drive to the border crossing with Greece. Once at the border, we shall say “goodbye” to our Turkish guide and “hello” to our Greek guide. Our resting point this evening is Kavala (ancient Neapolis) where we will have dinner and overnight stay at the **Egnatia Hotel**. (B, D)

DAY 14: WED. 24 JUNE. Philippi, Thessaloniki

After our breakfast, we depart for **Philippi** where Paul established a large church. This church was very near and dear to Paul’s heart. (Acts 16:9-33)

Here, we also visit the river where Lydia was baptized and the prison where Paul and Sylas were kept captive.

From Philippi, we head towards Thessalonika where we learn about Paul’s teachings at the old synagogue. (Acts 17:1-4)

Dinner will be at the **Golden Star Hotel** this evening. (B, D)

DAY 15: THU. 25 JUNE. Berea and Mt. Olympus to Kalambaka

After breakfast, we leave Macedonia and head south to Berea where we see the beautiful mosaics and depictions of Paul’s teachings to the Jews. (Acts 17:10-11)

From Berea, we continue on our journey towards Kalambaka, but not before reaching the base of Mt. Olympus.

Dinner will be at our hotel, **The Amilia Hotel** in Kalambaka. (B, D)

DAY 16: FRI. 26 JUNE. Meteora Monasteries to Athens

In the morning, we enjoy a spectacular drive up to the UNESCO Heritage site of the Meteora Monasteries. Perched on top of these gigantic geological monoliths are wonderful monasteries, dating back to the 14th century. Inside these Byzantine buildings are icons, old manuscripts, mosaics and frescoes.

From Meteora, we continue our drive southwards to Athens.

Dinner will be at our hotel, **The Stanley Hotel** in Athens. (B, D)

DAY 17: SAT. 27 JUNE. Corinth

This morning, our excursion takes us by the Saronic Gulf. It was here in 480 BC that the small Grecian fleet managed to defeat the enormously powerful armada of the Persians. From here, via the historic Corinthian Canal, we arrive at ancient Corinth. (Acts 18:1-18)

It was to this megalopolis where the apostle Paul came and worked, established a thriving church, subsequently sending two of his epistles now part of the New Testament. Here, we see all of the sites associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio’s Seat. In Romans 16:23, Paul mentions his friend Erastus and we will see an inscription to him at the site. From here, we see the ruins of early Christian 5th century basilica in **Cenchreae** before returning to the hotel in Athens.

It was the harbour of Corinth, on the Saronic Gulf East whence Paul sailed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18). There was a church here of which Phoebe was a member (Romans 16:1), and Lucius its first bishop, appointed by Paul. There was a temple at the end of each mole, and a statue of Poseidon (Neptune) on a rock between, as may be seen on an ancient coin of Corinth.

DAY 18: SUN. 28 JUNE. Athens

This morning, we will enjoy our full day tour in Athens. We shall visit the **Acropolis Site**, the sacred rock of Athens, the citadel and the sanctuary of the city in antiquity. We visit the famous Parthenon and the Erechtheion with its porch of maidens.

We will then walk to nearby **Mars Hill** and stand on the very spot where Paul gave his famous speech to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:18-34) and spoke about the inscription: “to an unknown god”.

Our day continues with the highlights of modern Athens: we pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Parliament House, the Academy, the University of Athens, the National Library, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus and The Arch of Hadrian.

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. A wonderful time to reflect on our experience! (B, D)

DAY 19: MON. 29 JUNE. Homeward bound.

After breakfast, we board our morning flight and depart for home. Our flights bring us back to N. America arriving in the late afternoon. Complimentary in-flight service is provided on our flights, including breakfast and lunch. (B, L)

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner



INCLUDED

Group air travel: Round trip from either New York or Washington. Fares from other cities available upon request.

Hotels: First class hotels throughout.

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner daily.

Transportation: Air conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

Sightseeing: Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

Tour Guide: Government licensed Tour guides will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

Porterage: One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

“Whisper” head sets.

Bottled water - 2 per day.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches: (unless mentioned in the itinerary)

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD\$200.

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Christian Journeys requires that you must have - ‘out of country’ - emergency medical insurance, equivalent to (or greater than) \$50,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please visit our website for policy details and premiums.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport, valid to 29 Dec 2026. US passport holders do not currently require a visa for Turkey at time of going to print.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A nonrefundable deposit of \$750 is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 90 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable after 11 April 2026.

Fuel surcharges: These are included in the pricing but are subject to change.

Currency surcharge: If in the event that the US dollar devalues against the Euro by over 7% between the time of printing and 120 days before departure, Christian Journeys may levy a currency surcharge.

Travel Insurance: Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes ‘trip cancellation’ coverage to protect you against any cancellation penalties.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.

18 DAY JOURNEY PRICING

JOURNEY PRICE:	USD \$4799
GROUP AIRFARE**:	USD \$1500
JOURNEY COST:	USD \$6299

(Based upon 35 paid passengers)

**Group airfare is an estimate and will be confirmed by the end of July.

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: USD\$1199



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