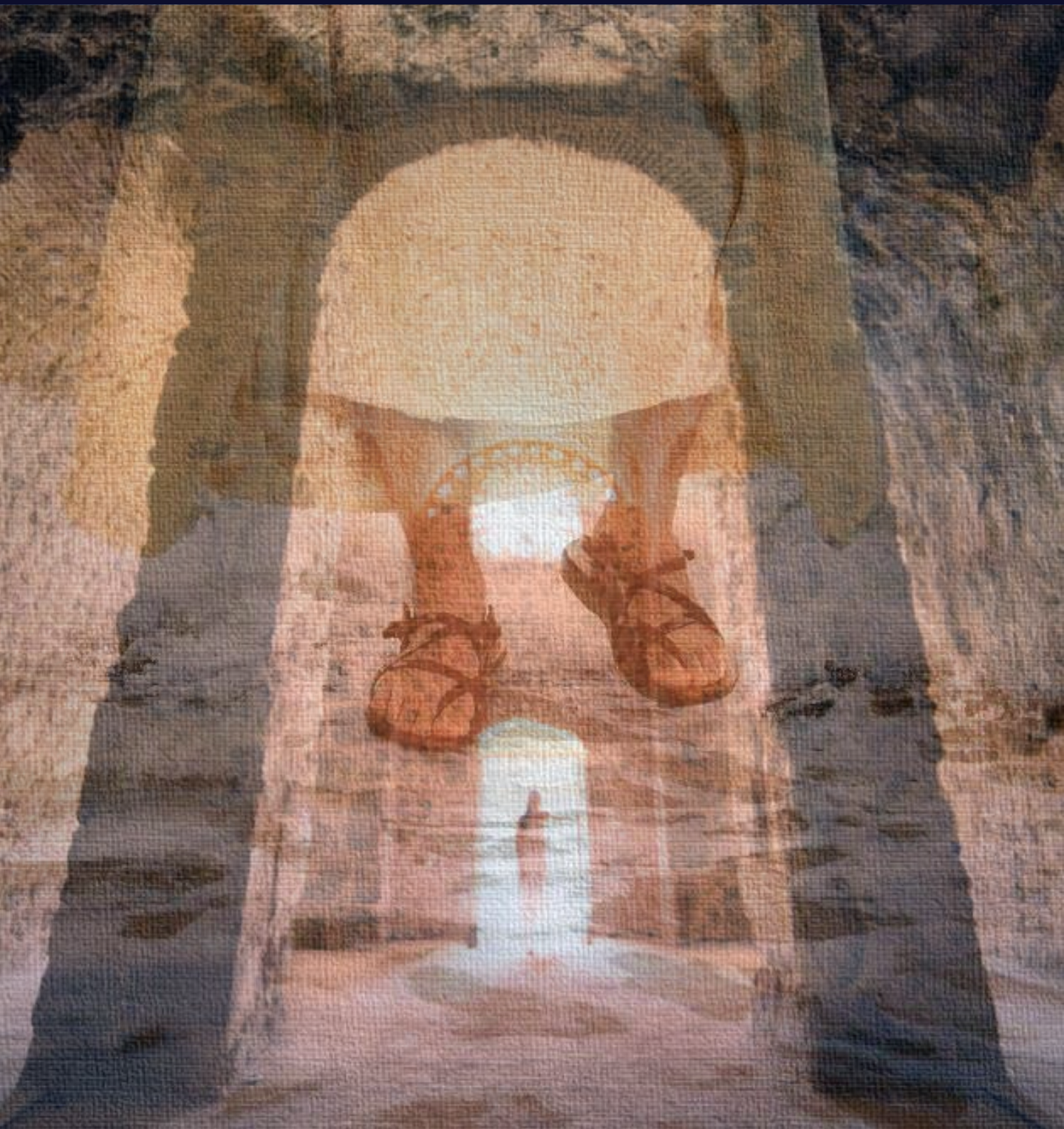


Christian Pilgrimage to Turkey



11 Days Christian Pilgrimage to Turkey

christianpilgrimageTurkey.com
afrosum.com

Christianity in Turkey



Fresco of the Council of Nicaea, Demre-Turkey

Turkey has played host to 2000 years of Christianity history and heritage. In Anatolia (now The Republic of Turkey), the birthplace of several Christian prophets and saints, such as the Apostle Paul of Tarsus, Timothy, St. Nicholas of Myra, St. Polycarp of Smyrna and several others. This confirms a long history of Christianity in Turkey.

Turkey is home to two of the five centres of the ancient Pentarchy: Constantinople (Istanbul) and Antioch (Antakya). Antioch was also the location where, for the first time in history, Jesus' disciples were named "Christians" as well as being the site of one of the first and oldest remaining churches founded by Saint Peter himself. Hagia Sophia has been the world's largest church for a thousand years.



House of Virgin Mary, Izmir - Turkey

According to the bible in the book of Revelations, the Seven Churches of Asia, which were revealed to John are in Turkey. Apostle John is believed to have carried the Virgin Mary to Ephesus in western Turkey, where she spent the last days of her life in a small building, known as the House of the Virgin Mary, which still exists today and has been recognised as a sacred place of pilgrimage by Catholic and Orthodox Churches, The cave of the Seven Sleepers is also in Ephesus.

Christianity in Turkey



In today's Turkey all of the first seven Ecumenical Councils accepted both by the Churches of the West and of the East were held. Of these, the Nicene Creed, proclaimed by the First Council of Nicaea (Azniq) in 325, is of the utmost importance and has established the basic meanings of present-day Christianity.

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Since 100 people are Muslims, in Turkey, of course Christians are a minority faith. The Constitution ensures religious freedom and equality is the law, since this is a secular republic, the only Muslim country in the world without any religion of the State. It contains members of the Apostolic Church of Armenia, Greece, Greece, Romanesque and Eastern Catholics, as well as Jews. Around 120,000 Christians and 26,000 Jews currently live in Turkey, with the current population of 73 million.



Ephesus, Izmir - Turkey

After the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem many early Christians came to Asia to live in numerous cities, such as Ephesus, Hierapolis and Cappadocia, fleeing the persecutions. The Psidian of Antioch, Derbe, Lystra and Psidian of Antioch, Ephesus, and Konya, St. Paul preached. St. John was with Virgin Mary in Ephesus for a while and died in Ephesus when he came back from Patmos, where he was banished. In Antioch, St. Peter settled and founded the first Christian church in the grotto. St. Philip settled in Hierapolis, but the Romans destroyed his kin together.

Another interesting fact for Christians is that in Nicea (now Iznik), in the Turkish Marmara region, between Bursa and Istanbul, the first Ecumenical Councils were created.



The Seven Churches of Revelation

Revelation 1 verse 20 mentioned the mystery of the seven stars that John saw in his right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is the seven stars that are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. All the seven churches namely; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea were literal churches that existed in Asia minor (modern Turkey) during the first century A.D. Named for their geographical locations, the churches were strategically located along a major Roman road.



Ephesus- Turkey

Church of Ephesus — (Rev 2:1-7) The Loveless Church

Ephesus, the gateway to Asia Minor, was located at a major harbor on the Aegean Sea and housed one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (a temple to Artemis). Founded by Paul, this was the most prominent church in Asia Minor. The church of Ephesus had many admirable qualities and one tragic flaw. Christ commended them for their good works, for their perseverance, and for their church discipline that guarded against false teaching (Revelation 2:2-3). verse 4 reveals where they went wrong.

Church of Smyrna — (Rev 2:8-11) The Suffering Church

Smyrna, the home of Homer and the temple of Athena, was a beautiful, bustling seaport. In the second century A. D., Rome martyred Polycarp, its bishop. Christians in developed countries today think little about being persecuted for their faith, but there are churches in the world where oppression is a daily reality. Such was the case for the ancient church at Smyrna. Refusing to worship pagan gods or the Roman emperors, they experienced pressure, poverty, and persecution (verse 9).



The Seven Churches of Revelation

Church of Pergamos — (Rev 2:8-11) The Compromising Church



Pergamon- Turkey

Pergamos, the location of Rome's provincial capital, was a major cultural hub that housed a library rivaling the famed Alexandrian library. Pergamos was nicknamed "Satan's City" because of its paganism and idolatry. Christ's reference to "Satan's throne" (verse 13) may have alluded to the city's altar of Zeus. Built on the Acropolis, it was the most famous and ornate altar in the world—1000 square feet, 40 feet high, with sculptures surrounding its base. Some historians have suggested that this altar was implemented in the martyrdom of Antipas (verse 13). Professing faith in Jesus Christ carried severe consequences in this bedrock of pagan activity.

Church of Thyatira — (Rev 2:18- 29) The Adulterous Church

Thyatira, founded under Alexander the Great, was noted for its trade, particularly purple dye. Lydia, one of Paul's converts, came from this region (Acts 16:14). Some Christians and churches feel a need to be alleinclusive when it comes to spiritual and moral _ boundaries. Evidently, the ancient church in Thyatira felt that way as well. On the surface, the church was 'D commendable for its love, faith, service, and patience. But Christ, with "eyes like a flame of fire," recognize their deficit (verse 18).



Thyatira- Turkey



The Seven Churches of Revelation

Church of Sardis — (Rev 3:1-6) The Dead Church

Sardis, the ancient capital of the Lydian kingdom, was situated atop a plateau and sustained a series of foreign conquests. In this message, Christ refers to Himself as "He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars" (verse i). The "seven Spirits" represent the completeness of the Holy Spirit's ministry (5:6; Isaiah 61:1-5), which the church in Sardis had shut out of its affairs. The lights were on and people showed up, but the power of the Holy Spirit was missing. The other churches received praise from Christ along with His criticism.



Sardis- Turkey

Church of Philadelphia — (Rev 3:7-13) The Faithful Church

Christ commended the church in Philadelphia for four things: they had an open door, they had a little strength, they had kept the Word of God, and they had not denied the Lord. If we want to be commended by Christ like this church, we will go through open doors of ministry, depend on His strength, and be true to Him and to His Word.



Philadelphia- Turkey

Church of Laodicea — (Rev 3:14-22) The Lukewarm Church

Some of the Lord's harshest words recorded in the Bible were directed at the church in Laodicea, He said the church made Him ill (Revelation 3:16). Lacking in every way, it was compromising, conceited, and Christless. Today's Church should take note; those words may apply to us as well.



St. Paul's Life in Turkey



St. Peter Church, Antioch - Turkey

St. Paul the Apostle, original name Saul of Tarsus, (born 4 BCE?, Tarsus in Cilicia [now in Turkey]—died c. 62–64 CE, Rome [Italy]), one of the leaders of the first generation of Christians, often considered to be the most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity. In his own day, although he was a major figure within the very small Christian movement, he also had many enemies and detractors, and his contemporaries probably did not accord him as much respect as they gave Peter and James. Paul was compelled to struggle, therefore, to establish his own worth and authority. His surviving letters, however, have had enormous influence on subsequent Christianity and secure his place as one of the greatest religious leaders of all time.

Paul was a Greek-speaking Jew from Asia Minor. His birthplace, Tarsus, was a major city in eastern Cilicia, a region that had been made part of the Roman province of Syria by the time of Paul's adulthood. Two of the main cities of Syria, Damascus and Antioch, played a prominent part in his life and letters. Although the exact date of his birth is unknown, he was active as a missionary in the 40s and 50s of the 1st century CE. From this it may be inferred that he was born about the same time as Jesus (c. 4 BCE) or a little later. He was converted to faith in Jesus Christ about 33 CE, and he died, probably in Rome, circa 62–64 CE.

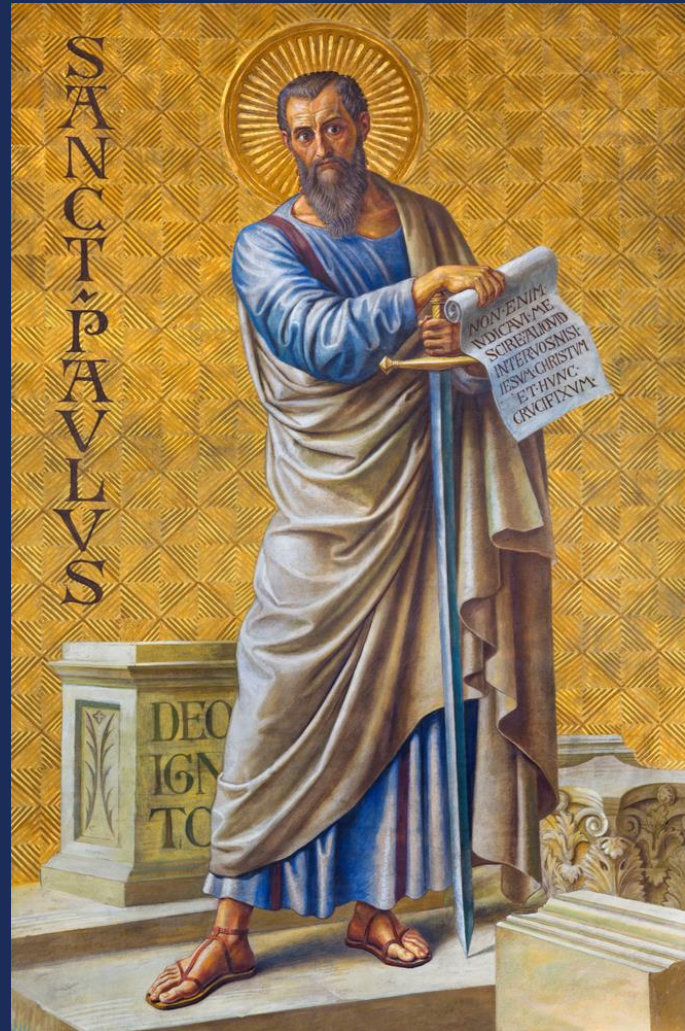


St. Pierre Church, Tarsus - Turkey

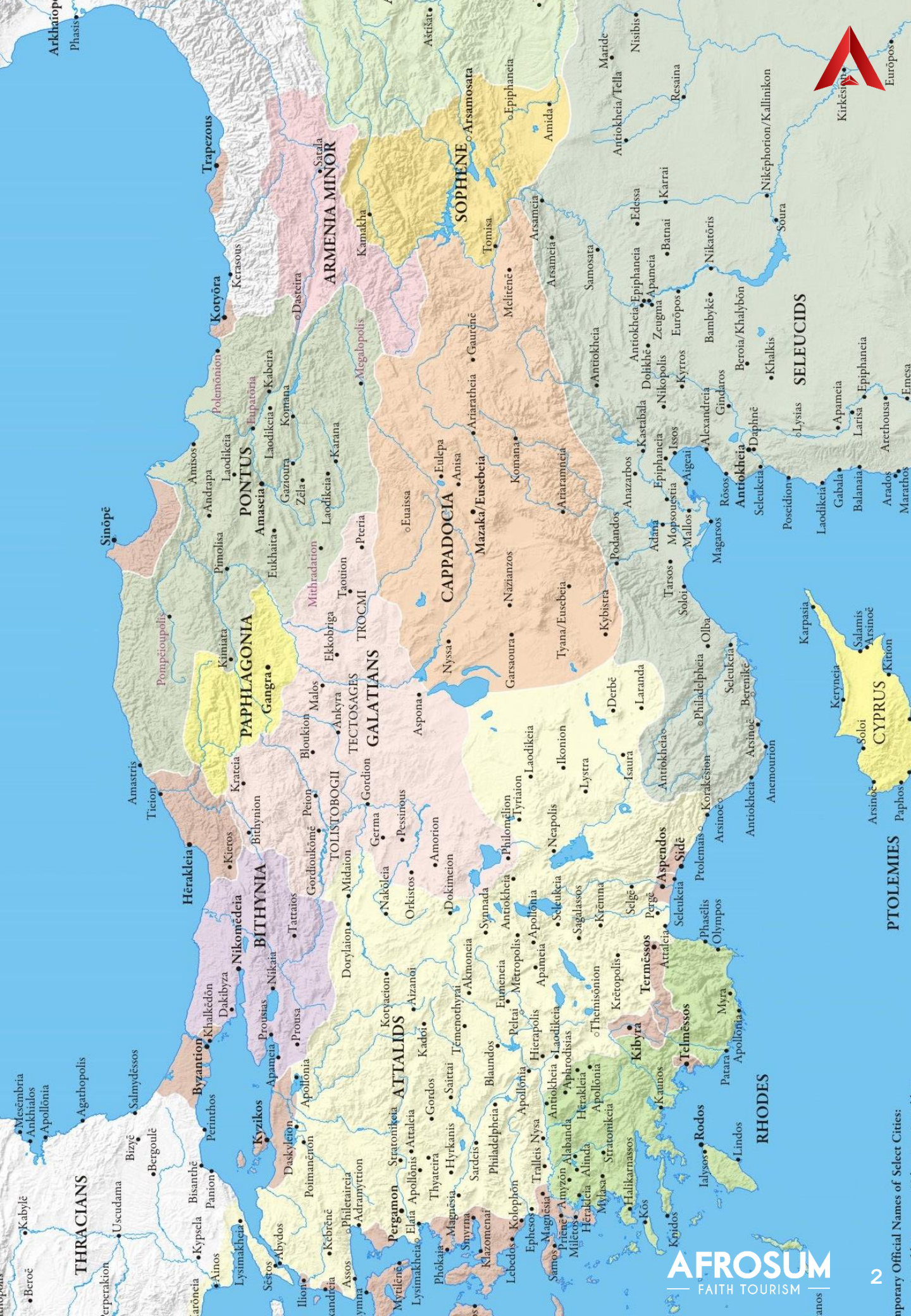


St. Paul's Life in Turkey

He traveled along the coast of Asia Minor on all his journeys and there are many places along the coast where he stopped and taught, or changed boats, or protected himself from the weather. Most of his adventures and travels are covered in the Book of Deeds, as well as his last trip to Rome as a prisoner. Paul and John Mark's first journey with Barnabas - Acts 13:4-14:28: Paul went on his first voyage from around 47-49 AD, heading east to west along the Mediterranean coast, stopping at Antioch (Antakya), Seleucia (Silifke), Side and Attaleia (Antalya). He went up the mountains from there, to Antioch-in-Pisidia (Yalvaç, near Akşehir), and then to Galatia and its capital, Iconium (Konya). He wrote to the citizens of Iconium later, and this Letter to the Galatians became the New Testament's 9th book. He walked 40 km (25 miles) south from Iconium to Lystra (Hatunsaray) and Derbe before returning to Attaleia, where he boarded a ship to Antioch for his return journey.



Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark departed for Seleucia, and sailed to Cyprus from there. They preached in Salamis and Paphos in Cyprus. A Jewish sorcerer in Paphos, a false prophet called Barjesus, turned against them before the island's Roman deputy, but God blinded him. The deputy became a believer in Jesus Christ as a result. The three men sailed back from Cyprus to the continent of Asia Minor, to Perga in ancient Pamphylia, where John left them and went back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas traveled to Antioch in Pisidia, where many Jews and Gentiles, after hearing them preach, accepted the word of God and believed. In Iconium (Konya), where unbelieving Jews and Gentiles decided to stone them, the same thing occurred. They fled to Lystra, where a wounded man was cured by Paul, and as a result, people believed they were gods and tried to sacrifice for them, but they were stopped by Barnabas and Paul. The same crowd later stoned Paul and left him to die when, from Antioch and Iconium, those Jews arrived in the city and stirred up the people against the apostles. Paul survived and left for Derbe the next day with Barnabas. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, Perga again, to reinforce the faithful and ordain the elders in every church. They sailed back from Attalia (Antalya) to Antioch, where the church gathered to teach them about their encounters and how God "opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles".



THRACIANS

PAPHLAGONIA

PONTUS

ARMENIA MINOR

CAPPADOCIA

GALATIANS

TECTOSAGES

BITHYNIA

ATTALIDS

SOPHENE

SELEUCIDS

PTOLEMIES

RHODES

CYPRUS

AFROSUM
— FAITH TOURISM



St. Paul's Life in Turkey



Troy Horse, Canakkale- Turkey

Paul and Silas on his Second Journey Acts 15:36-18:22: On their first trip, Paul and Barnabas decided to visit the churches that they planted. Barnabas wanted them to be joined by John Mark, but Paul disagreed, so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas and went through Syria and Cilicia, improving all the churches. Then Derbe and Lystra (near Konya) visited Paul and Silas, where Paul selected a young Christian named Timothy to accompany them. They went through Phrygia and Galatia and came to Troas in Alexandria, where the Lord instructed Paul to go to preach in Macedonia in a vision.

Paul third Journey Acts 18:23-21:16: After spending some time in Antioch, in order to reinforce the disciples, Paul revisited the churches in Galatia and Phrygia, then went to Ephesus. Paul found twelve followers of John the Baptist in Ephesus and baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. He continued this for two years, so that the gospel of Christ was heard by all the Jews and Greeks in the Roman province of Asia (part of Asia Minor).





Christian Pilgrimage to Turkey

10 Nights - 11 Days

A pilgrimage is a rare and privileged event. Every person of faith should make such a trip a priority in one's life. However, great care is needed to make sure the experience reflects the intent of the traveler. Without careful planning, advanced preparation and attention to details, the pilgrimage can fall short of expectations. On our Pilgrimage Tour of Turkey, let the Bible come alive as you traverse this unique region with our excellent English-speaking guides, comfortable, spacious buses, and wonderful food and accommodations.



House of Virgin Mary, Izmir - Turkey

Anatolia, is where many of the events associated with Paul's life and ministry took place. Paul was a native of Tarsus in Cilicia, one of our stops. From Antioch to Troas we will follow the routes traveled during his first journey by land. At each site we will explore the archaeological realia still remaining; in museums we will encounter the artefacts that the apostle saw and touched. As we visit sites, Paul's First Journey will be brought to life, and with all arrangements in place, you'll be free to simply absorb the content, let your senses take in the sights, sounds, tastes and smells, and reflect on a set of memories which will remain with you forever.

Unearth the beginnings of Christianity as we trace the footsteps of Paul in Turkey.



Christian Pilgrimage to Turkey

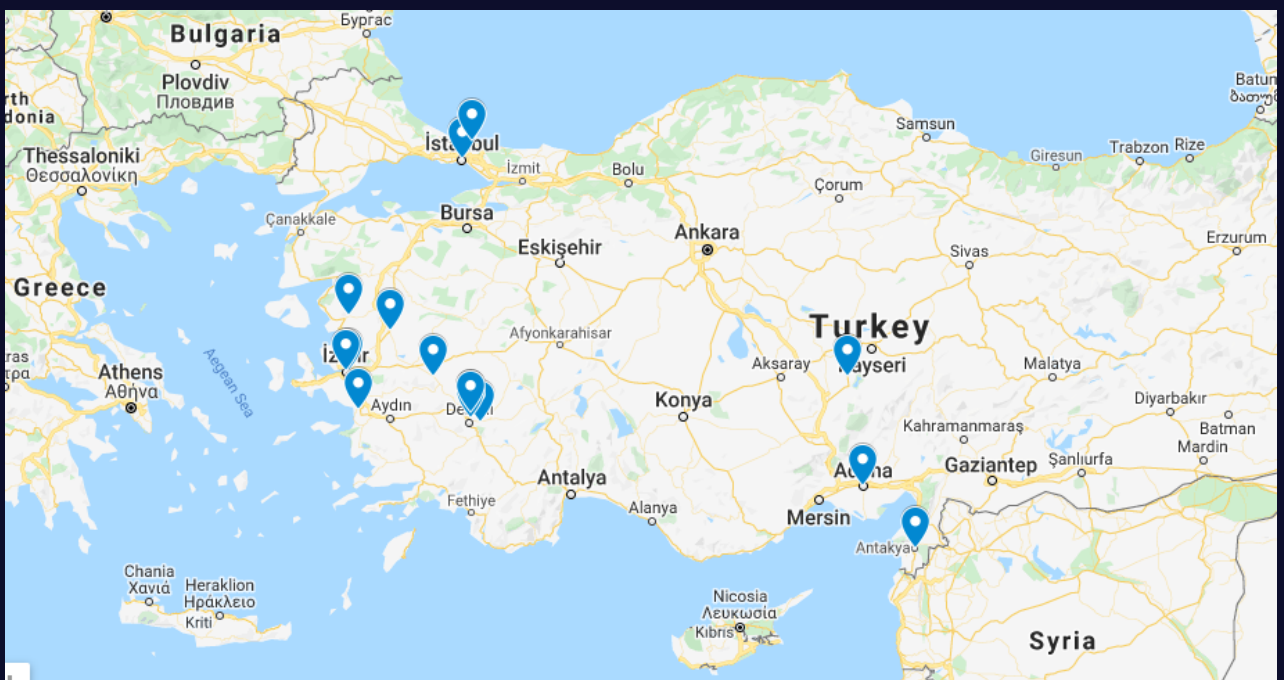
10 Nights - 11 Days

Guidance of Pastor Ayodele Koiki



Pastor Ayodele Koiki will guide us on tour to the holy sites in Turkey. Pastor Ayo as he is usually referred to is a Catering Professional who God called. He started his ministry with the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Nigeria. He was transferred to Turkey as the Coordinator of the School of Disciples and Redeemed Christian Bible College, Turkey. He is currently the Pastor in charge RCCG The Ambassadors Parish, Ankara. He has pastored several parishes in Turkey. He had been opportune to go round the holy sites in Turkey with the General Overseer of RCCG when he visited Turkey.

[Click to view for interactive map](#)





Day - 1

Istanbul



Lunch, Dinner



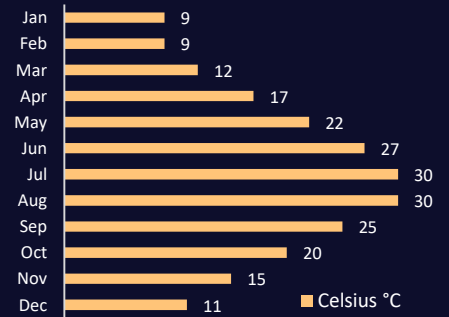
~ 40 minutes



Istanbul

Welcome to Turkey. Arrive in Istanbul airport, meet your guide and transfer to hotel and check-in. After you rest, our journey begins in Istanbul, your tour will start with Spice Bazaar and then it goes on with Bosphorus Cruise. Lunch at Local Restaurant. Dinner at Hotel / Local Restaurant. Transfer back to your hotel for overnight. Overnight in Istanbul.

All Year Weather Average



Istanbul

If our city walls could talk, they'd recite hundreds of legends involving mythological gods, prophecies fulfilled, and tales of love lost and betrayal that make our city so enchanting. The Bosphorus itself — the strait between Asia and Europe was born of the myth of the beautiful mortal Io. She was turned into a cow by Zeus to hide their tryst from his vengeful wife, Hera. Not to be fooled, Hera stung Io with a horsefly, sending Io crashing away, leaving behind the legendary strait - otherwise known as the "passage of the cow."

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	Historic Areas of Istanbul
Criteria	Cultural: (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)
Reference	356bis
Inscription	1985 (9th session)
Extensions	2017
Area	765.5 ha (1,892 acres)





Day - 2

Istanbul City Tour



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



~ 1 hour



Istanbul

After you breakfast, We will visit the St. Sophia, The Blue Mosque and Hippodrome, where chariot races and the Byzantine riots took place. After the tour, drive to your hotel for check-in. Overnight in Istanbul.

Hagia Sophia

One of the most enchanting architectural masterpieces of the world, which was the largest church on the planet for over 1000 years. A narrow entrance leads to the vast columned interior, each fresco illuminated with natural light from the glass mosaics. Islamic calligraphy reveals the church's transformation to mosque yet the two paradigms remain at peace. Wander across lavish marble floors and there's a growing feeling of personal insignificance, the building's sheer size and history resonantly inspiring.





Day - 3

Pergamon



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



~ 6 hours



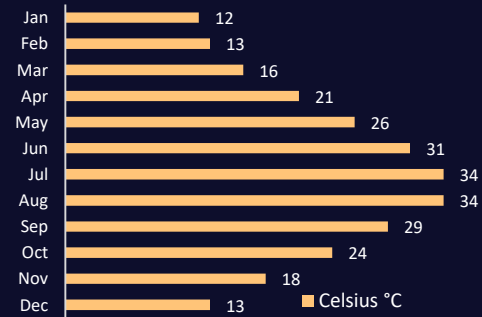
Istanbul

After breakfast, depart from the hotel to visit Pergamon ancient city by road. Pergamon (also Pergamos, Pergamum) received the third letter of the seven letters of the St. John to the Churches of Asia Minor. The impressive city has been variously described as the most illustrious city of Asia (Barclay); the most spectacular Hellenistic city of Asia Minor because of its imaginative town planning (Mellink, *IDB*, III: 734); and a royal city (Ramsay, *Essays*, p. 295). After breakfast, depart from the hotel. Over

IZMIR

Country	Turkey
Region	Aegean
Population	4,367,251
Airports	ADB

All Year Weather Average



Pergamon

Jesus has the sharp, double-edged sword. He is in the position of authority and power and when he wields authority, it's a blessing for those who follow and a condemnation for those who do not.

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	Pergamon and its Multi-Layered Cultural Landscape
Criteria	Cultural: i, ii, iii, iv, vi
Reference	1457
Inscription	2014 (38th session)
Area	332.5 ha (821.6 acres)





Day - 4

Pamukkale



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



~ 6 hours



Istanbul

After breakfast depart for Sardes, another one of the Seven Churches mentioned by St. John. Continue to Philadelphia to, another one of the Christian congregations, and a city built in 2 BC by King Eumenes. Continue to Pamukkale (Hierapolis). Watch the sunset over the petrified waterfalls. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Pamukkale

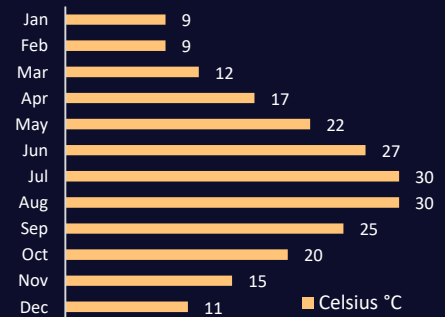
The surreal, brilliant white travertine terraces and warm, limpid pools of Pamukkale hang, like the petrified cascade of a mighty waterfall, from the rim of a steep valley side in Turkey's picturesque southwest. Truly spectacular in its own right, the geological phenomenon that is Pamukkale, literally 'Cotton Palace' in Turkish, is also the site of the remarkably well-preserved ruins of the Greek-Roman city of Hierapolis. With such a unique combination of natural and man-made wonders it's little wonder that Pamukkale Hierapolis has been made a Unesco World Heritage site You can even bathe, as the Romans once did, in a picturesque pool filled with warm (around 36C), mineral rich waters and swim amongst submerged columns of great antiquity.



Pamukkale - Denizli

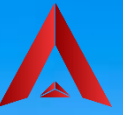
Country	Turkey
Region	Aegean
Population	1.027.783
Airports	DNZ

All Year Weather Average



UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	Hierapolis-Pamukkale
Criteria	Cultural and Natural: (iii)(iv)(vii)
Reference	485
Inscription	1988 (12th session)
Area	1,077 ha (2661.3 acres)





Sardis- Turkey

Day - 4

Sardis



Jesus holds the seven spirits of God, the seven stars, and the seven-fold spirit of God. He holds those in leadership in his hands, and also provides the seven-fold graces of the spirit.



Philadelphia- Turkey

Philadelphia



Jesus is the one who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens, no one can shut; what he shuts, no one can open.





Day - 5

Kusadasi



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



~ 3 hours



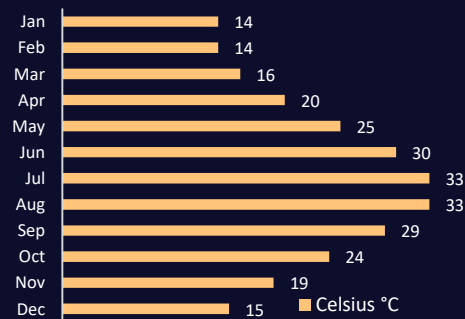
Istanbul

Kusadasi - Aydin

Country	Turkey
Region	Aegean
Population	90,652
Airports	CI

In the morning we drive to Colossae (famous for Paul's letter to the Colossians) to see the Byzantine walls and the site's other remaining ruins. After lunch, you will then drive in the land again over the Taurus Mountains to Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3:14-22) and addressed by Paul (Col. 4:13-16). Then we will drive to The unexcavated site of Colossae on the foothills of Mount Honaz, to which Paul wrote the letters to the Colossians and Philemon. Visit Hierapolis and then drive and o

All Year Weather Average



Colossae

Letter of Paul to the Colossians, also called Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Colossians, abbreviation Colossians, twelfth book of the New Testament, addressed to Christians at Colossae, Asia Minor, whose congregation was founded by St. Paul the Apostle's colleague Epaphras. The developed theology of the letter, many believe, indicates that it was either composed by Paul in Rome about 62 CE, rather than during an earlier imprisonment, or by one of his disciples.

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	Ephesus
Criteria	Cultural: iii, iv, vi
Reference	1018
Inscription	2015 (39th session)
Area	662.62 ha (1637.3 acres)





Laodicea- Turkey

Day - 5

Laodicea



Jesus is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. Jesus is the exclamation of what God is saying. He is faithful to all God is, totally true, and is the ruler of all God's creation. He has glorious authority.



Hierapolis- Turkey

Hierapolis



Hierapolis is mentioned only once in the Bible, when St. Paul praises Epaphras, a Christian from Colossae, in his letter to the Colossians. Paul writes that Epaphras "has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis" (Colossians 4:12-13). Epaphras was probably the founder of the Christian community at Hierapolis.





Library of Celsus, Ephesus - Turkey

Day - 6



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



~ 3 hours



Istanbul

Thyatira – Ephesus – Virgin Mary – Smyrna

After breakfast, Our drive next takes us to Thyatira, another one of the Seven Churches. According to the letters, the members of this church were commended for their steadfastness against libertarianism, before continuing to Ephesus. See the final abode of the Virgin Mary where she spent her last years. Tour through ancient Ephesus to see the old synagogue, the theatre where St. Paul preached (Acts 10), the Library of Celsus and other sights. In the afternoon, Drive to ancient Smyrna, was the second one of the seven Christian churches in Asia Minor to which St. John the Divine wrote (Revelation 1 - 11). In the afternoon proceed to Thyatira,

the remains of a Basilica overnight in Kusadasi.

House of Virgin Mary

Every year, on August 15th a ceremony is organized to commemorate Mary's Assumption.

Pope Benedict XVI visited the House of Virgin Mary, Nov. 2006





Ephesus



He speaks of seven stars and seven lamp stands. The seven lamp stands are the seven churches showing that the church is expected to be a bright and shining lights The seven stars may refer to either the guardian angels of the churches or the leaders of the churches. Jesus emphasises that he holds these stars in his right hand and they are secure in Him as well as dependent on Him.

Thyatira



Jesus is one whose eyes are like blazing fire and his feet are like burnished bronze. He has penetrating insight and wisdom in all things. He is also swift to move and in action, and will perform, quickly to do what needs to be done.



Smyrna



Jesus is the first and the last, the one who died and came to life again. He is the alpha and omega and everything in between. Jesus lives in the power of endless life.





Day - 7

Adana



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



~ 1 hour



Istanbul

After breakfast, drive to airport for Antioch, the place where Jesus followers were first called "Christians" here you will visit the Church of Peter, a cave church reputedly where early Christians met in secret. At the Antakya Archaeological Museum, you will see one of the richest collections of mosaics in the world: Overnight in Antioch

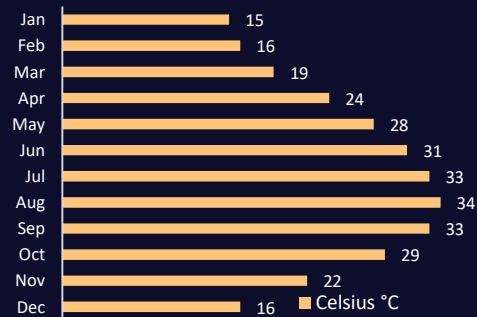
St. Pierre Church

After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD Antioch gained importance as one of the main centers of this new religion called Christianity. Many of the Disciples and Apostles settled here and it was also here that it is believed that St. Matthew wrote his Gospel. St. Paul left from here on several of his Apostolic journeys and it was also the home of St. Peter for several years. That brings us to the most important site in the city: The Grotto of Saint Peter. To stand where so much Christian history began is an awesome experience. It should also be noted that Antioch was the birthplace of one of the greatest preachers, St. John Chrysostom.

Adana - Antioch

Country	Turkey
Region	Mediterranean
Population	1,768,860
Airports	ADA

All Year Weather Average



UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	St. Pierre Church, Antioch
Criteria	Cultural:(iii)(vi)
Reference	5613
Inscription	2011



This was the first place in the world where a group of people was called “Christians”. This was also the birthplace of greater liberty and openness in Christianity – it was decided that Gentiles (non-Jews) can be converted to Christianity without previous conversion to Judaism. In Antioch started the history of the Church of Antioch – an Orthodox church that has approximately one million followers today.



Day - 8

Cappadocia



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



~ 6 hours



Istanbul

After, you will drive to Tarsus, the home of the Apostle Paul. Arrival and visit of the only Catholic church dedicated to Paul. Then drive to Cappadocia. Overnight in Cappadocia.

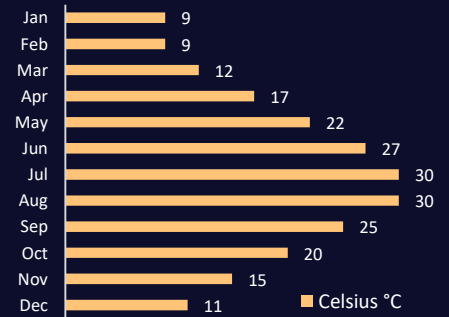
Cappadocia

When you visit a destination that is famous for its landscape, it is usually limited to a part of the city, or maximum the full city itself. But Cappadocia is WAY more than that. It is more than 10 cities! Cappadocia's otherworldly landscape is what makes it magical. Ancient volcanic eruptions blanketed this region with thick ash, which solidified into a soft rock tens of meters thick. Wind and water went to work on this plateau, leaving only its harder elements behind to form a fairy tale landscape of cones, pillars, pinnacles, mushrooms, and chimneys, which stretch as far as 40 meters into the sky. And the sun rise... Its at around 5 am in autumn and the view is worth a million dollars! Beautiful to see how the colors change from orange to beige, bejeweled by hundreds of hot air balloons. You may not ever get a chance to visit another planet, but a visit to Cappadocia will make you forget you're on Earth...

Cappadocia

Country	Turkey
Region	Anatolia
Population	92,068
Airports	NAV

All Year Weather Average



UNESCO World Heritage Site

Official name	St. Göreme National Park, Kaymakli Underground City, Derinkuyu underground city
Criteria	Cultural:(iii)(vi)
Reference	357
Inscription	1985 (9 th session)
Area	9,883.81 ha (24423.4 acres)





Day - 9

Goreme Open Air Museum, Cappadocia- Turkey



Breakfast, Lunch,
Dinner



~ 30 minutes



Istanbul

Cappadocia

After breakfast, depart for our Cappadocia tour including Goreme Open Air Museum, Derwent Valley, Pasabag Valley. After a lunch break, we will make a shopping tour in which you will be aware of the ancient arts of Turkey like carpet weaving, leather manufacturing and jewellery. As this will be a guided tour, you will avoid being hassled, which will enable you to enjoy the shopping experience whilst gaining the knowledge of the ancient craftsmen. After the tour, transfer to your hotel. Free evening. Overnight in Cappadocia.

The Goreme Historical National Park with its dreamlike rock formations known as 'Fairy Chimneys'. Goreme was inhabited as early as the Hittite era, circa 1800 to 1200 B.C. and later sat uncomfortably on the boundary between rival empires; first the Greeks and Persians and later the Byzantine Greeks and a host of rivals. This precarious political position meant that residents needed hiding places -and found them by tunneling into the rock itself. The site became a religious refuge during the early days of Christianity. By the fourth century Christians fleeing Rome's persecution had arrived in some numbers and established monastic communities here. The monks excavated extensive dwellings and monasteries and created Byzantine frescoed paintings in cave chapels beginning in the seventh century, which endure in well-preserved isolation to this day.





Kaymakli Underground City Plan, Cappadocia- Turkey

Day - 10

Cappadocia



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



~ 40 minutes



Istanbul

After breakfast, we head to one of the most exciting sites of Cappadocia: Kaymakli Underground City. The Christians hid from the armies of Rome and the raids of hostile tribes in these self-sufficient cities in which there were halls for stocks of crop, barns, rooms, kitchens & ventilation channels. The second part of our Cappadocia Tour will include Uchisar Castle, Avcilar and Pigeon Valley. After the tour, transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Cappadocia





Kaymakli Underground City

There are 36 underground cities in Cappadocia and the widest and highly sophisticated one is the Kaymakli Underground City. With elaborate labyrinth of tunnels, caves and low, narrow passages, we will witness the first signs of monastic activity which date back to the 4th century at which time small anchorite communities, acting on the teachings of Basileios the Great, the Bishop of Kayseri, began inhabiting cells hewn in the rock. In later periods, in order to resist Arab invasions, they began banding together into troglodyte villages or subterranean towns such as Kaymakli which served as places of refuge. Also there are found special, secret tunnels connected to underground city and those houses. Whenever there was happened any attacks, they could temporarily use these private tunnels to pass the underground masterpiece in order to protect themselves. It had everything from living space, stables and communal kitchens to a church and a graveyard as well as being well fortified to protect its inhabitants. It also has an inordinate number of storage rooms. The Underground City of Kaymakli had eight floors and was about 40 meters deep. Four of these floors are open today, and on the first floor there is a stable and on the second is a church. Onwards, we will visit Cavusin Old Greek Village where the 5th century Cavusin Church of Saint John the Baptist, situated once.



Istanbul Airport - Turkey

Day - 11

Istanbul



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



~ 45 minutes



Istanbul

After breakfast, check out of the hotel. Transfer to Kayseri Airport to catch your flight to Istanbul for your next destination. The tour ends with great memories.



The Istanbul Airport features a Duty-Free area of 53,000 square meters with world famous brands and stores. Drawing its design inspiration from the Bosphorus and featuring a mix of distinguished brands as well as a modern retail concept, the Duty-Free area will offer a pleasant shopping experience to travelers, both before and after their flights. The Istanbul Airport takes travel comfort to the next level with a varied selection of services, while its cafes and restaurants offer a selection of tastes from Turkish and world cuisine. In addition to the unmatched shopping experience awaiting travelers, another feature of the new airport, which will turn trips into an unforgettable experience is the special passenger services. İGA Pass encompass, among other offers: fast access checkpoints, buggies, special receptions of incoming and departing passengers, lounge areas and vale services, ensuring a pleasant business trip.

Similar Tours to Turkey



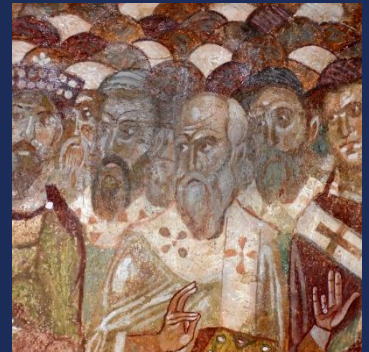
Seven Churches Tour – 7-10-14 Days

- Church of Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)
- Church of Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)
- Church of Pergamos (Rev 2:8-11)
- Church of Thyatira (Rev 2:18- 29)
- Church of Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)
- Church of Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)
- Church of Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)



First Missionary Journey of St. Paul – 11-16 Days

- Antioch : Acts 6:5; 11:19-30 13:1-3 15:1-2, 22-35
- Seleuciapieria : Acts 13:4
- Tarsus : Acts 9:11, 30, 11:25. 21-39, 22:3, 25-29,
- Derbe : Acts 14:6, 20-21, 16:1, 20:4,
- Lystra : Acts 14:6-23
- Antioch of Pisidia : Acts 13:14-52, ii timothy 3:11
- Attalia : Acts 14-25
- Perga : Acts 13:13-14;14:25, Myra : Acts 27:5-6



Ecumenical Councils Tour – 10-14 Days

- Hierapolis : Colossians 4:13,
- Assos : acts 20:13-14
- First Council of Nicaea (325),
- First Council of Constantinople (381)
- Council of Ephesus (431)
- Council of Chalcedon (451),
- Second Council of Constantinople (553)
- Third Council of Constantinople (680-1)
- Second Council of Nicaea (787)



Old Testament Tour – 10-14 Days

- Aram-naharaim Gen 24:10, Ararat (Agri Dagi) Gen 8:4; Tob
- Ashkenaz (Armenia) Jer 51:27,
- Caphtor (Cappadocia) Jer 47:4; Amos 9:7 (LXX; Vul.),
- Cilicia 1 Mac 11:14; Judith 1:12; 2:21, 25, Cnidus 1 Mac 15:23,
- Eden Gen 2:8, 10, 15; 3:23-24; 4:16; 2 Kgs 19:12; Isa 51:3;
- Ezek 27:23; 28:13; 36:35; Joel 2:3,
- Euphrates River Gen 2:14; 15:18; Ex 23:31; Dt 1:7; 11:24;





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