

TURKEY & GREECE

A Biblical & Cultural Journey

13 Days April 26-May 08, 2025 Led by Rev. Lance Richards and Rev. Ann Spears.

Round trip from Houston (IAH) \$5995 Per Person All Inclusive/ Single Rooms \$1500

Day 1: April 26 Sat -
Flight departure, Houston to Istanbul.

TURKEY

Day 2: April 27 Sun ISTANBUL.

Upon arrival, meet your guide/lecturer and private transfer to your hotel in the Sultanahmet area
Dinner and Overnight (D).

Day 3: April 27 Mon ISTANBUL.

After breakfast, start sightseeing of major highlights in Istanbul, once the capital city of three Empires. Tour includes visits to: Roman Hippodrome/Blue Mosque famous for interior Blue colored Iznik tiles, St. Sofia Church (now Grand Mosque) which was once the largest Christian Church of the world, and the Underground Cistern.

Lunch will be served in the historical restaurant at the Topkapi Palace overlooking the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara.

After lunch, continue visiting the major sections of Topkapi Palace which was the royal seat of Ottoman Sultans more than 400 years. Late afternoon enjoy exploring the streets and alleys of the Grand Bazaar.

Dinner & Overnight (B, D).

Day 4: April 28 Tue ISTANBUL.

Morning visit to Kariye Museum (now Mosque), with mosaics and frescoes inside considered masterpieces of the Byzantine "renaissance" and Sergius & Bachus Churches.

Afternoon Bosphorus Cruise and a short excursion to Asian side.

Dinner & Overnight in Istanbul (B,D).

Day 5: April 29 Wed ISTANBUL/ TROAS

A morning scenic coach drive go along the northern shores of the Sea of Marmara and then crossing Dardanelles by a ferry.

Afternoon visit the ruins of Troas where St. Paul made a visit during his second campaign to Asia Minor and Macedonia. On to the hotel at the Asian coast of the Dardanelles offering a fascinating sunset over The First World war memorial.

Dinner and Overnight (B,D).

Day 6: April 30 Thu PERGAMUM/THYATIRA/IZMIR.

Morning visit the Asclepion - the first medical center of the ancient world, the Acropolis, Library, Theatre, Temples of Trajan & Dionysus, the site of the monumental Altar of Zeus, Gymnasium and Lower Agora.

Afternoon proceed to Akhisar, to visit the Church of ancient Thyatira, one of the 7 churches, set in an ancient commercial town with strong ties to Troy and Sardis. Then drive to Izmir to visit the old town associated with St Polycarp who was martyred there.

Dinner & Overnight Izmir (B, D).

Day 7: May 1 Fri SARDIS/EPHESUS.

Morning departure to the site of Sardis - the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Walk the Royal Avenue and see the site of the Church of Sardis, built on the foundations of the Temple of Artemis. Then we proceed to the ancient Philadelphia Church at Alasehir, one of the last cities to fall to the Ottomans. Drive to Ephesus.

Dinner and Overnight in Selchuk (B,D).

Itinerary Summary



Istanbul, Turkey



Pamukkale, Turkey



Ephesus, Turkey



Athens, Greece



Corinth, Greece



The Plakka, Greece

Day 8: May 2 Sat

EPHESUS.

Morning explore Ephesus, one of the most well-preserved Greco-Roman city of the ancient world. Tour starts with a visit to Mother Mary's House which was announced as to be a pilgrimage place for Roman Catholics by Pope Paul VI. Then visit the spectacular remains and edifices of the city of Ephesus including the State Agora, Odeon, Curetes Street, Marble Road and the Temples of Hadrian and Trajan. Then visit the impressive Celcius Library and finally the famous Amphitheatre where St. Paul preached to Ephesians.

Lunch will be served at one of the local restaurants in Selchuk.

Afternoon continue visiting St. John's Basilica and the local museum where the major findings from Ephesus are on display.
Dinner and Overnight at Selchuk (B,D).

Day 9: May 3 Sun APRODISIAS/LAODICEA/PAMUKKALE

Drive to Pamukkale. En route visit the ruins of Aphrodisias, a Roman city dedicated to Aphrodite, the goddess of Love and beauty.

After lunch, continue to Hierapolis, then to the nearby ruins of Laodicea of which people were addressed by St. John in one of his letters from to the Seven Churches from Patmos.

Late afternoon arrival at Pamukkale. Enjoy your time walking in the thermal waters and white slopes before checking in at the hotel.
Dinner and Overnight in Pamukkale (B, D).

GREECE

Day 10: May 4 Mon

FLIGHT TO ATHENS

Dinner and Overnight Athens

Day 11: May 5 Tue Athens

Visits to the Parthenon, Mars Hill, and Archaeological Museum.
Dinner and Overnight Athens

Day 12: May 6 - Wed

CORINTH

Visit the ancient city of Corinth site, the Corinth Canal and Cenchrea, where Paul shaved his head and Phoebe served the church.

Dinner and Overnight in Athens

Day 12: May 7 - Thu

ATHENS

Visit the National Museum, see the changing of the guards at the Royal Palace, stop by the Olympic stadium.

Dinner at the Plakka in Athens Old Town.

Overnight Athens

Day 13: May 8 - Fri

RETURN FLIGHT

To the airport after breakfast.



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