

RETURNING TO OUR MISSIONARY ROOTS
Where “*To the ends of the earth*” began
TURKEY JOURNEY

7 – 21 MAY, 2019



Hosted by Pastor Rick and Lyn Baker

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch (Turkey)” Acts 11:26



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul (Constantinople)



Theatre at Pergamum



Cave City of Uchisar



Library at Ephesus



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

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ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Hosted by

Pastor Rick and Lyn Baker, Calvary Baptist Church

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch (Turkey).”

Acts 11:26

TUE. 07 MAY: Canada to Turkey.

Today, we depart from Toronto on our overnight flights 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)

WED. 08 MAY: 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 into The President Hotel for the next two nights.

Dinner is at our hotel tonight.

(B, D)

THU. 09 MAY: 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 and the Hippodrome Square where ancient chariot races were held.

This evening, we leave Istanbul and fly to Hatay (ancient Antioch on the Orontes). Upon arrival, we drive to **Antioch**, the main headquarters for Paul’s missionary journeys.

Dinner and overnight at the Anemon Hotel.

(B, D)

FRI. 10 MAY: Antioch.

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”. (Acts 11:26) 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 harbour and Mediterranean Sea.

After a memorable day, we shall check into our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

(B, D)

SAT. 11 MAY: 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)

SUN 12 MAY: 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)



MON. 13 MAY: 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 Ozkaymak, for dinner and overnight stay.

(B, D)

TUE. 14 MAY: 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 the ancient cities of Colossae and Laodicea.

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

Dinner and overnight stay will be at The Colossae Thermal Hotel.

(B, D)

WED. 15 MAY: Free time, Herapolis, Laodicea.

Today, we leave the entire morning free so that you can rest and enjoy the pools, hot springs and spa facilities of the hotel. This afternoon, we shall visit Laodicea.

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

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening.

(B, D)

THU. 16 MAY: Philadelphia, Sardis, Smyrna.

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. (Revelation 3:7-13)

Sardis – the church that had fallen asleep. (Revelation 3:1-6)

Smyrna – The persecuted church that suffered poverty and martyrdom. (Revelation 2:8-11)

Upon arrival at Izmir (modern Smyrna), we shall check into the Karaca Hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

(B, D)

FRI. 17 MAY: Ephesus.

Today, we have a full day visit to the unforgettable ruins of Ephesus: The ‘desirable church’ that left its first love. (Revelation 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 at our hotel, The Prestige Hotel, Izmir.

(B, D)



SAT. 18 MAY: 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.
(Revelation 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 Istanbul and the President Hotel for dinner and overnight stay.
(B, D)

SUN. 19 MAY: Istanbul.

This morning, we join a local church congregation (a partner ministry of Calvary, Oshawa) to worship together.

The remainder of today is quite leisurely, with opportunities to visit shops and experience the hustle and bustle of the old city centre. We will have an afternoon visit to Topkapi Palace.

Topkapi Palace – This former Sultan's Palace and Museum offers wonderful views of the Bosphorus River.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at The President Hotel.
(B, D)

MON. 20 MAY: Istanbul.

This morning, we spend our last day in Istanbul visiting:

Egyptian Spice Market – Experience the atmosphere of the authentic marketplace, with sights, sounds and smells stimulated by this unique covered bazaar.

Bosphorus River Cruise – Viewing the picturesque beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side.

This evening, we will enjoy our "farewell dinner". A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you!
(B, D)

TUE. 21 MAY: Homeward bound.

After breakfast, we board our morning flight and depart for home. Our flights bring us back to Toronto 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



*for more
information
please contact:*



107 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, ON P1A 2A5
Phone: 1 877 465 3442 Fax: 1 866 826 2135
Email: info@Christian-Journeys.com
Website: www.Christian-Journeys.com

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