

PILGRIMAGE IN TURKEY
JUNE 7-JUNE 18, 2027
HOSTED BY PASSAGES WORLDWIDE LLC

LED BY DR. AMY DAVIS ABDALLAH

Turkey is a fascinating destination whose rich history that bridges ancient and modern times. From the Turquoise Coast on the Mediterranean, to the caves and rocky formations of Cappadocia, fertile plains in the south, Mount Ararat in the east, the Black Sea to the north, and various metropolitan cities like Istanbul (historic Constantinople), Turkey's massive size encompasses great variety. For the Christian, Turkey is rich. The early Christians called it Asia Minor and Paul was born here and traveled through the region multiple times in the book of Acts. The book of Revelation records letters to seven churches, all located in western Turkey. Even more, Constantinople was the center of early Christianity and all seven ecumenical councils that established Christian theology occurred here. Turkey does not disappoint and its incredible beauty and historical depth inspire every visitor. **Our tour is unique among Bible lands tours due to its intentional small size, its rich and varied culinary offerings, and its enhancement of a biblical understanding of Turkey with cultural and historical exploration.**

MONDAY, JUNE 7
Arrive in Istanbul

Upon arrival in **Istanbul**, transfer to *Hotel Daphne or similar* for check-in and overnight.
Note: depending on time of arrival, walk to the Sea of Marmara or the Bosphorus and enjoy dinner.



TUESDAY, JUNE 8
Istanbul

After breakfast, walk to the most famous of early churches, the **Hagia Sophia**. Named "Holy Wisdom," and built as the capital of early Byzantine Christianity, the Holy Spirit's presence is felt, even though it is now a mosque. Marvel at its immensity, explore its lovely mosaics, and breathe in its historical depth. The historical areas of Istanbul are **a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Down the hill, find the **Istanbul Archeology Museum** and explore ancient treasures. Then explore shopping at one of the oldest and largest covered markets, the **Grand Bazaar** before we enjoy a **dinner cruise on the Bosphorus** to marvel at the city from the water. Overnight Istanbul. **B, L, D**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9
Istanbul

After breakfast, visit the **Topkapi Palace and Harem,** a huge Ottoman complex housing a famous treasury that includes the 86-carat **Spoonmakers Diamond** and houses the **Agia Irene** church, where St. John Chysostom, the golden-mouthed preached. Then cross the **Bosphorus**, the strait that separates Europe and Asia and ascend the beautiful **Galata Tower** for sweeping views of the Marmaris Sea, Bosphorus, and the surrounding city. Continue to the **Chora Church** to marvel at its rare collection of most impressive Byzantine frescoes and mosaics. The depth of Christian story and spiritual influence is palpable within the walls of what is now a mosque. Return close to the Hagia Sophia, to walk through the beautiful park that was formerly a **Hippodrome** and visit the **Blue Mosque,** a 17th century Ottoman construction. Dinner and overnight Istanbul. **B, L, D**

THURSDAY, JUNE 10
Iznik, Pergamum, Thyatira, Izmir

After breakfast, depart Istanbul and round the beautiful turquoise lake to visit **Iznik, ancient Nicea**. View the church now covered by lake water where the Nicene Creed was first drafted at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Recite the creed in the Hagia Sophia church that hosted the seventh ecumenical council in 787. Begin the tour of the seven churches of Revelation at the acropolis of **Pergamum** walking through ancient temples that offer a commanding view of the surrounding landscape. It is another **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Close by, another of the seven churches, **Thyatira**, the home of Paul's first European convert, Lydia. Continue to Izmir, ancient Smyrna. Dinner and overnight *Ontur Hotel or similar,* Smyrna. **B, L, D**



FRIDAY, JUNE 11
Izmir, Sardis, Philadelphia, Kusadasi

After breakfast, tour ancient **Smyrna,** another of the seven churches of Revelation. Enjoy the ancient

agora and continue to the **Church of St Polycarp**, whose martyrdom is one of the earliest stories of Christian martyrdom in existence. Then travel to ancient **Sardis**, our fourth of the seven churches, and marvel at the reconstructed gymnasium and beautiful grounds. Continue to **Philadelphia** to touch the massive columns of the church that once existed there, one of the seven. Drive through the mountains and down to the sea at **Kusadasi**, an idyllic town on the Turquoise Coast of Turkey. Dinner, overnight *Ilayda Avantgarde Hotel or similar,* Kusadasi. **B, L, D**



SATURDAY, JUNE 12
Kusadasi Ephesus, Hieropolis, Pamukkale

After breakfast, be one of the earliest tour groups at the top of the main street of **Ephesus**, another of the seven churches. As you walk down the colonnaded, temple-lined street to the towering **Library of Celsus**, imagine Paul and his friends in this impressive city. Turn right and enter the theater that seats 25,000 and also housed the riot led by silversmith Demetrius that unsuccessfully sought to rid the city of Paul. View the remains of the **Artemis Temple** and then travel to **Hieropolis.** This city is mentioned by Paul along with Colossae and Laodicea, all located close by. Hieropolis boasts a huge **necropolis**, a magnificent **theater,** and a **martyrium** (ancient church) to Philip who was martyred there. Walk to another part of this **UNESCO World Heritage site**, the inviting turquoise hot springs of **Pamukkale,** used as a spa since the 2nd century BC. Dinner, overnight *Melrose Hotel or similar,* Pamukkale. **B, L, D**

SUNDAY, JUNE 13
Laodicea, Perga, Antalya

After breakfast, take in the view of Pamukkale from afar, in the ancient city of **Laodicea,** the seventh of the seven churches of Revelation. Laodicea hosted a regional church council in the mid-fourth century at the massive church that spanned a city block. Take in the impressive mosaics and walk the colonnaded streets. Travel through the rugged mountains to ancient **Perga,** where Paul stopped on his first journey (Acts13-14). Visit the impressive theater, hippodrome, and church. Continue to the coastal city of Antalya and visit the **Antalya Archeological Museum,** which holds impressive statues and other finds from local sites. Dinner, overnight *Reo Hotel or similar,* Antalya. **B, L, D**

MONDAY, JUNE 14
Antalya

Free day Antalya. Choose to spend your day swimming and sunbathing the beach, touring Old Town to shop, or both! Overnight Antalya. **B**



TUESDAY, JUNE 15
Antalya, Cappadocia

Depart Antalya and travel through the wild, rugged countryside to the magical formations of Cappadocia. This entire region was the center of Christian monastic life during the Byzantine Period and the area is another **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Visit the **Gorëme Open Air Museum** to find caves carved into churches and decorated with marvelous frescoes depicting scenes from the life of Christ. Walk into the highly decorated **Dark Church**, the **Sandal Church** and the **Apple Church**

and worship God. With reverence, tour the museum's 15 churches and 11 refectories. Dinner, Overnight *Cappadoccia Garden Inn or similar,* Çavuşin. **B, L, D**



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
Cappadocia

After breakfast, head out to explore the underground cities of **Derinkuyu** and **Kaymakli**. Each extends for multiple levels underground and displays impressive ventilation and defensive networks. The cities were continuously inhabited for thousands of years, and were only abandoned in the early 20th century. Come back above ground and visit the **Ihlara Valley**, including the beautiful **Selime Monastery**, set upon a hill with impressive columned churches engraved into the caves. Take a walk along the valley to see more ancient churches with frescoes. Return to Çavuşin. Dinner, overnight Çavuşin. **B, L, D**



THURSDAY, JUNE 17
Cappadocia

After breakfast, tour **Zelve Open Air Museum** and discover the vastness of a cave city. Close by, take a stroll through the **Fairy Chimneys,** beautiful natural formations that inspire joy. Return to Çavuşin for a free afternoon. Dinner, overnight Çavuşin. **B, D**

FRIDAY, JUNE 18
Cappadocia–Istanbul

Depart Cappadocia, fly to Istanbul.

MEET YOUR LEADER

Amy has been leading trips to biblical lands since 2005, beginning with the Holy Land and continuing to Egypt, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon. Most recently, she has taken multiple tour groups to Greece to walk the Footsteps of St. Paul on the mainland and the islands and to Turkey to . Amy spent more than two decades teaching New Testament, Acts, and the Pauline Letters, so it is her joy to open others' eyes to the engaging story of the Bible and the reality of the land and culture where it happened. Amy has a passion for the history, worship, culture, and food of the Mediterranean. She seeks to ensure guests love Turkey as much as she does!



Tour Cost (Land Only): $

Per Person Sharing Double Occupancy

$4,595

Single Supplement: $595

Cost based on a minimum of 10 participants.

**We reserve the right to change the order of activities or sites due to unforeseen schedule conflicts such as weather conditions or in order to allow the itinerary to run smoothly. All prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation, fuel prices, and/or unforeseen economic circumstances.*

This is an active trip, involving walking and sometimes ascending stairs. The lodging is boutique and 3-4* plus hotels according to European standards in the best locations for exploring.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Accommodation & Entrance to all sites
- Meals as indicated above (**B, L,** or **D)**
- Water at meals and on bus
- Land Transportation
- Domestic Flight (Cappadocia-Istanbul)
- All Guide and Lecturer fees
- All gratuities for meals and guides
- Bosphorus dinner cruise, Basilica Cistern, Hagia Sophia, and Chora Church entrance fees

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights to/from Istanbul
- Visas for non-US citizens as required by Turkey (US citizens do not need a visa)
- Transportation to Istanbul hotel from airport
- Beverages at meals
- Travel Protection Insurance or Travelers Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, excess luggage, etc.)
- Any additional nights due to flight schedule

Payment Schedule

$500 non-refundable deposit due upon registration

January 15, 2027	$2000
April 1, 2027	Balance due

Zelle Payments are preferred (Passages Worldwide LLC, passagesworldwide@gmail.com)
Checks are also preferred, and should be made out to Passages Worldwide LLC, ATTN: Amy Davis, 2525 Barrington Rd. Ashland, OH 44333

Credit card payments will incur an additional 3.5% charge due to fees; call Amy at 845-596-8176

Click here to register for this trip

For more information please contact
passagesworldwide@gmail.com