

REGISTER NOW
Only 34 spots available

TURKEY

April 2-13, 2025

Join Dr. Dennis and Judy Episcopo on a journey to retrace the footsteps of Paul and John.



THE TOUR INCLUDES

- ~ Round-trip transportation
- ~ First-class accommodations
- ~ Breakfast and dinner at each resort
- ~ The 7 churches of Revelation

For more information, contact
Robin Andrew at
randrew@acc.church or (920) 931-1220

TURKEY 2025

Details and Highlights

Day 1: April 2, 2025, Wednesday - Depart U.S.

Join the group transfer by motorcoach from Appleton Alliance Church to Chicago O'Hare Airport. Today we embark on our journey to the lands of ancient treasures and Christian history with an overnight flight to Cappadocia Turkey (Turkiye), connecting in Istanbul. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience. Get some rest on the flight... Tomorrow you will be walking where the apostles walked!

Day 2: April 3, 2025, Thursday - Arrive Cappadocia

Arriving in Kayseri Airport; transfer to our hotel in Cappadocia for the next two evenings. The remainder of the day is free for you to relax. Dinner and overnight at your unique hotel in Cappadocia. (D)

Day 3: April 4, 2025, Friday - Cappadocia

After breakfast at the hotel, we spend all day exploring the history and scenery of Cappadocia. Visit the gently folding volcanic rock formations and "fairy chimneys" of Goreme Open Air Museum. These rock formations are not only beautiful, but functional as well. Many early Christian communities lived and worshipped deep in the rocks and crags, leaving their frescoes and paintings to be marveled at centuries later. Other communities lived underground to protect themselves from Roman persecution and marauding bandits. Local people began to live in underground caves forming "cities" that reach a depth of up to 7 stories below the surface. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit other sites including the Natural Citadel of Uchisar and the small, picturesque village of Avanos – famous for their red clay pottery. In Avanos, visit "The Potter's Place: Gift Shoppe and Cultural Center" and see a local potter for a demonstration and maybe try your own hand at the potter's wheel. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B.L.D)

Day 4: April 5, 2025, Saturday - Cappadocia / Caravanserai / Lystra / Konya

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we travel westward, stop at the Sultanhani Caravanserai just like travelers from Turkey's bygone era. Founded for military and trade purposes, the Caravanserai's Inn was built along the east-west trade route. Travel to Konya and lunch at a local restaurant. Continue on an afternoon visit to Lystra, where Paul preached on his first missionary journey (Acts 14: 6-22). Our overnight this evening will be in Konya (ancient Iconium) included in Paul's first missionary journey. Nearly two thousand years ago, Paul and Barnabas visited Iconium during Paul's first missionary journey. As he preached to the city, God used Paul to bring many Jews and Gentiles to Christ (Acts 14: 1-6). We will also visit the excavations of Catalhoyuk before transferring to our hotel for dinner and overnight for the next two nights in Konya. (B.L.D)

Day 5: April 6, 2025, Sunday - Konya / Pisidian Antioch

After breakfast, visit Konya - home of the Mystic sect of the spectral Whirling Dervishes. We will have an opportunity to learn more about this mysterious order when we visit the museum of its founder, Mevlana, who is also known as the poet Rumi. En route for lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Pisidian Antioch – one of the important stops on Paul's missionary journeys. Although only 10% of Pisidian Antioch has been excavated, the ruins from the Roman period are noteworthy. We will see the Septimius Severus' triumphal gate, Augustus' Temple, the Roman baths, a theater, and a church dedicated to Paul. Return to the hotel in Konya for dinner and overnight. (B.L.D)

Day 6: April 7, 2025, Monday - Konya / Perge / Antalya

After breakfast and hotel check-out, our route this morning through the coastal mountains will bring new understanding of the rugged terrain that Paul traveled on in his missionary journeys. Reach the bustling, palm-lined streets of Antalya. Founded on the "Turquoise Coast" of the Mediterranean, Antalya has boasted a mild climate and beautiful beaches and harbors for centuries. In fact, Paul and Barnabas sailed from Antalya harbor in the 1st Century on the first missionary journey. After lunch at a local restaurant visit the best-preserved Roman Theatre in the world in Aspendus and the neighboring town of Perge. It was in Perge that John Mark decided to part company with Paul and Barnabas, while they continued on their missionary journey. Ruins of the city's streets, baths, gates and theater are still visible. We also visit the historic Attalia Harbour and Hadrian's Gate. Transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Antalya. (B.L.D)

Day 7: April 8, 2025, Tuesday - Antalya / Demre (Myra) / Pamukkale

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we will depart Antalya for a leisurely trip along the beautiful coastline to Demre (ancient Myra), and visit the 11th Century Church of St. Nicholas. The church was built to commemorate an early Christian bishop who was present at the First Ecumenical Council and eventually became known as Santa Claus. It is interesting to learn how time has turned this early church father into a mythical hero. View the red and white statue of Santa Claus standing in the square; see the Muslim vendors peddling statues (idols to their thinking) and hear the call to prayer from the nearby mosque--all strangely bizarre. In Myra we will also visit the port where Paul and Luke changed ships enroute to Rome. As the Myra of today is the sailing center of the Anatolia region, it is interesting to see the many wooden boats lined up as it would have been in Paul's day. Following lunch, we continue northward to our hotel for the next two nights in the spa village of Pamukkale. Dinner will be at the hotel this evening. Overnight in Pamukkale. (B.L.D)

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Day 8: April 9, 2025, Wednesday - Pamukkale / Hierapolis / Colossae / Laodicea

After breakfast, depart to Hierapolis, meaning "Sacred City". It was an ancient center for pagan cults until it was transformed into a Christian center in the first century. According to tradition, the Apostle Philip lived and was martyred in Hierapolis. It was likely that the hot springs of Hierapolis in contrast to the cold mountain springs near Colossae combined to bring application to the "luke warm" Laodiceans. (Rev 3:14-22) This connection between the cities lies behind Paul's reference to Hierapolis and Laodicea in his epistle to the Colossians (Col 4:13). Colossae is well-known throughout Christian circles as the receiver of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Today, the town has fallen into obscurity, and nothing remains. Laodicea contains many acres of ruins to visit including a stadium and remnants of a sophisticated water system. Lunch is included in today's program. Return to the hotel in Pamukkale for dinner and overnight. (B.L.D)

Day 9: April 10, 2025, Thursday - Pamukkale / Philadelphia / Sardis / Thyatira / Izmir (Smyrna) / Kusadasi

After breakfast and check-out of hotel, depart to Philadelphia - referred to as the "New Jerusalem" (Rev. 3:7-13) in the Book of Revelation. Yet today, not much is left of the city except for the ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine Basilica in the modern city of Alasehir. Continue to Sardis, it was berated by John for its facade of strength when in reality; it was weak (Rev. 3:1-6). Here coins were minted, and the dyeing of wood originated. We will visit the gymnasium and synagogue. A stop will be made in Thyatira to view the ancient roadway and period columns. Depart to Izmir, the third largest city in Turkey and a long-time center for Jews and Christians. In Paul's day, Izmir was known as Smyrna and was another of the Seven Churches (Rev. 2:8-11). Here we will see the Polycarp's Church and the ancient agora. Continue to Kusadasi and our brand new hotel for the next three nights. Lunch is included in today's program. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Kusadasi. (B.L.D)

Day 10: April 11, 2025, Friday - Kusadasi / Ephesus

This morning after breakfast, we visit the Church of St. John for a tour and a scenic overview of the Ephesus area. From here our guide will point out the location of the ancient harbor of Ephesus and describe the silting process that led to the demise of this important Roman city. Of special interest is the tomb of John and the baptismal where new believers were immersed. We will also be able to view the site of the

ancient wonder - the Temple of Artemis and the nearby Mosque of Jesus (Jesus is a respected prophet to Muslims). After lunch this afternoon, we will view a wealth of artifacts awaiting us at the Museum of Ephesus and visit the archeological site of Biblical Ephesus, which hosts a large restoration effort and miles of ancient treasures. Ephesus was once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. Today, you can still see the spectacular excavations of the major streets in this ancient city, where we view the Library, Agora, Temple of Artemis, theatre, colorful mosaics, and a panoramic view of the surrounding ancient port area including a wealth of church history and cultural insight. The day will not be complete without a visit to a local Turkish Rug cooperative. Transfer back to the hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (B.L.D)

Day 11: April 12, 2025, Saturday - Kusadasi / Pergamum

After breakfast, depart to Pergamum. Once a busy trading center and famous as a "seller of purple," the most favored of the Seven Churches, the church of Pergamum was praised for its forbearance (Rev. 2:12-17). It was here that the first Christians were executed by Rome. We will visit the fabled Acropolis, pass through the Royal Gates, view the foundations of the Temple of Zeus and visit the ruins of the library, which once held 200,000 volumes. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to Kusadasi and enjoy some free time for last minute shopping and relaxation. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.L.D)

Day 12: April 13, 2025, Sunday - Kusadasi / Izmir / Fly back to Chicago

After breakfast and hotel check-out, transfer to Izmir Airport for your flights back to Chicago O'Hare, connecting in Istanbul. Upon arrival at Chicago O'Hare Airport, group transfer by motorcoach from the airport to Appleton Alliance Church. (B)

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

Please note:

This tour is a feet-on-the-ground adventure that requires travelers to be in generally good health and responsible to have independent mobility and strength. You should be able to climb two flights of stairs without assistance, walk at a modest pace, and stand in potentially hot weather.

Individuals registering for this journey accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk without assistance. If you require a cane, crutches, wheelchair, or personal assistance to walk, this is not the trip for you. You must be physically able to independently walk and travel with the tour group.

Summary of Trip Pricing (per person): \$6,195 (includes land, taxes, and Airfare)

Cost includes round-trip bus, air, taxes, and estimated fuel surcharges. (Prices and itinerary subject to change). Single supplement: add \$870 for those desiring to room alone. A \$500 deposit is due with your application.

Questions? Contact Robin Andrew at randrew@acc.church or 920-931-1220.

Not Included: Travel Insurance (\$279 per person) is highly recommended! Extra expenses of a personal nature.

