



St. James Coffee House Footsteps of Paul in:

Turkey & Greece

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

Oct. 13 - 24, 2025

OPTIONAL GREECE CRUISE

Oct. 24 - 28, 2025



Early Bird Special
\$100 off registrations
Received by Dec. 1, 2024

Hosted by:
Fr. Tim Biren



Uchisar town in Cappadocia



308A Elton Hills Drive NW
Rochester MN 55901
(507) 289-3332
(800) 658-7128
Fax: (507) 281-9747
Email: tours@ed-ventures.com
www.ed-ventures.com



Day 1: Monday, October 13, 2025 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our trans-Atlantic flight for Cappadocia area, Turkey.

Day 2: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 • Cappadocia Region, Turkey

Upon arrival at the airport, we meet your Turkish guide and driver and travel to Cappadocia on the central Anatolian plain. Magnificent rock outcroppings (“fairy chimney’s”) are the regions’ most famous and characteristic feature. These were formed when the soft volcanic ash (“tuff”) eroded more quickly than the hardened lave which covered it. This area was also home to the ancient Hittite people. Our full day tour of Cappadocia begins with the natural citadel of Uchisar with its panoramic view of the region. We continue the Goreme Vally which is the highlight of the day. We visit the open air Goreme Museum with its churches hewn out of rock and the colorful frescoes which decorate them. The next stop is the underground city of either Kaymakli or Derinkuyu. These were carved out of the soft stone by refugees who had fled from persecution during the early Christian Era and established a thriving Christian community. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. **D**

Day 3: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 • Konya (Iconium)

After breakfast, we drive to Konya (Iconium in Paul’s day). Paul visited this city on each of his three-missionary journey’s. This afternoon we have some time to explore Konya, whose heyday was during the 12th century when it was the capital of the Seljuk Kingdom. During that period, the “Whirling Dervish” sect was founded. Its leader was Mevlâna, a mystic poet and Islamic spiritual leader who developed a philosophy of spiritual union and universal love. We visit the Mevlâna Museum which contains his tomb. Here we have a late dinner at our hotel. **B/D**

Day 4: Thursday, October 16, 2025 • Pamukkale

This morning we drive to Pamukkale, where we see the “cotton Castle,” distinctive terraces formed by hot spring water depositing calcium carbonate (travertine) as it flowed into the valley. We visit the ruins of ancient Hierapolis. Hierapolis was founded during the Hellenistic period as a control point of trading routes connecting East to West. In the Roman Period, Hierapolis became a center of worship to Hades and Apollo as well as a thermal center where massive Roman Baths were built to serve the Romans that visited the city from around the ancient world. Upon arrival at the site, we are welcomed by the spectacular views of calcium pools that have been irrigated by the spring waters of Hierapolis for thousands of years. After a short break to take pictures and enjoy the view, we continue to the ancient site that is still being excavated by Italian archaeologists. Wandering through the colossal tomb chambers of Necropolis, we comprehend the wealth of the society that could afford such impressive graves to be buried in the grounds of the “Sacred City”, as what Hierapolis meant in ancient Greek. We keep exploring the ancient site by touring the Gate of Domitianus and the

Byzantine Baths. Once you reach the lower slopes of the hills that rise behind the site, we note one of the best-preserved Roman Theatres of the world of archaeology. Built during the 2nd century, the theatre of Hierapolis was used for both theatrical activities and shows of violence. **B/D**

Day 5: Friday, October 17, 2025 • Izmir (Smyrna)

In the morning we drive to Izmir (ancient Smyrna, to whose church John wrote: “I know your afflictions and your poverty-yet you are rich...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev. 2: 9a & 10b). En route we stop in Ephesus, the city where Paul centered his evangelistic efforts for three years. John also addressed the church here, giving both affirmation and admonition: “You have preserved and have endured hardships for my name... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love” (Rev.2:3-4). Our visit includes the Basilica of St. John, the ruins of Ephesus, and the Temple of Artemis (one of the Seven wonders of the worlds). Here Marc Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession, Paul preached in the Great Theater, and in a little house outside the city the Virgin Mary spent her last days. **B/D**

Day 6: Saturday, October 18, 2025 • Canakkale

After breakfast, we drive to Canakkale. Located at the narrowest point of the Dardanelles Straits, this has been an historic crossing point between Asia and Europe. Canakkale is also renowned for its ceramics industry. En route, we make several stops. In Pergamum (located on a hilltop above the present-day Bergama) we visit the great acropolis and the ruins of this once prosperous city, settled by Greeks in the 8th century BC. Another of the seven cities John address in Revelation, it also received praise and rebuke: “I know where you live – Where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name... Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam” (2:13a & 14a). We continue to Alexandria Troas, visited twice by Paul on his second Journey. It is here that Paul received – and acted upon – God’s call to extend his ministry into Greece (Acts 16:8-10). **B/D**

Day 7: Sunday, October 19, 2025 • Alexandroupoli, Greece

Our first visit of the day is to Troy, the city of the legendary Helen of Troy and the Trojan Horse. It has been destroyed and rebuilt nine times. After sightseeing in Troy, we transfer to the Greek border. Here we meet our Greek guide and then continue to Alexandroupoli, a beautiful resort town on the Aegean Sea. **B/D**

Day 8: Monday, October 20, 2025 • Thessaloniki

This morning we visit the ancient theatre at Philippi, the first city in Macedonia to hear the Gospel. We continue to Kavala (ancient Neapolis), where Paul landed in Europe. Here we visit Lydia’s Baptistry, where the first woman was baptized on European soil. Our destination today is Thessaloniki, the Roman provincial capital during Paul’s time. Today it is a major cultural and religious center as well as a bustling port city. **B/D**

Day 9: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 • Athens

Our exploration of Thessaloniki begins with a drive along the waterfront to the massive White Tower and nearby Triumphal Arch of Galerius, built in 303 AD. We also see St. Demetrios Church with its valuable mosaics and frescoes. From upper town we have a marvelous view of the city. The site where the monastery of Vlatadon was built is believed to be the location where Jason’s house once stood and where Paul was accommodated during his visit to Thessalonica. We also visit Paul’s Bema, the monument dedicated to Paul by the people of Veria. Finally, we drive to Athens for dinner and overnight. **B/D**

Day 10: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 • Athens

Today we explore Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of western civilization as we know it today. For 25 centuries, the panorama of this city has been dominated by the rock of the Acropolis. Here we see the ruins of the Parthenon, the Erectheum and the Propylae. Following our visit there we ascend Mars Hill where Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one

true God (Acts 17:22-34). From here we have an excellent view of the ancient agora, the former center of Athenian public life. On a drive through the city, we see the House of Parliament on Syntagma Square, the evzones in their distinctive uniforms guarding the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also see the Library, the University, the Temple of the Olympian Zeus, and Adrian's Arch. We can compare the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympics of the modern era were held with the site of the most recent Olympics. Dinner is on our own. **B**

Day 11: Thursday, October 23, 2025 • Athens

Today, we travel to nearby Corinth. The city's location between two gulfs placed it on the shortest route between the Adriatic Sea and Italy. This Roman city was both a center for trade and for loose living. For Paul it was the site of an extensive ministry to a fledgling and beloved Christian community. Tonight, we have a farewell dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Parthenon. **B/D**

Day 12: Friday, October 24, 2025 • Return

For some of us, the journey with Paul ends today as we transfer to the Athens airport for our flight back to the USA. Others continue to the cruise for a post-tour extension. **B**

Optional Cruise Extension

Day 12: Friday, October 24, 2025 • Cruise/Mykonos

We transfer to the port of Lavrion and embark on our cruise. Our first port of call is Mykonos, the island of the international "jet set", famous for its beautiful sandy beaches and incredible night life. It is also known for its windmills, countless tiny chapels, and narrow cobblestone streets. This maze of narrow lanes was purposely designed to defy both the wind and pirate raids. The lively port is a photographer's favorite. **B/On board meals**

Day 13: Saturday, October 25, 2025 • Cruise/Patmos & Ephesus

This morning, we arrive at the port of Kusadasi on the Turkish coast where you can join a tour to ancient Ephesus and the House of Virgin Mary (optional) or visit the various stores of the Kusadasi port. After lunch, we set sail at for the Island of Patmos, where Saint John the Divine wrote the book of Revelations. On the Island of Patmos, you may join your tour of the Monastery of Saint John and the Grotto of the Apocalypse (optional) or enjoy your free time at the picturesque town of Scala port. **On board meals**

Day 14: Sunday, October 26, 2025 • Cruise/Heraklion Crete

Today's first port of call is the Island of Crete and its capital Heraklion where we can discover the Minoan Palace of Knossos (optional) or discover on your own the "old town". Past the Venetian fortress at the harbour gate, and near the Archaeological Museum is a Church dedicated to St. Titus. He was a convert and companion to the Apostle Paul, who was first shipwrecked on Crete for several weeks during a storm. The pedestrian 25th October Str., a shopping street, is directly opposite the Old Harbour and extends to Lion Square and Morosini Fountain, in the city hub. We depart at 11:30 am for the volcanic island of the Cyclades, Santorini, the last port of call. Upon arrival in Santorini, we admire the spectacular caldera, created by the eruption of the island's volcano in ancient times and the whitewashed houses perched on the edge. Discover with your tour (optional \$100) the breathtaking panorama of Oia, the most photographed spot in Greece, known worldwide for its fascinating sunsets. **On board meals**

Day 15: Monday, October 27, 2025 • Athens

Our cruise ends in the port of Lavrion today. After disembarking from our cruise ship, the rest of the day is free to explore and shop on our own. Tonight, we have a farewell dinner at a restaurant. **On board meals/D**

Day 16: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 • Return

Our journey with Paul ends today, as we transfer to the Athens airport for our flight back to the USA. **B**

Tour Price: \$5,999

Prices are *per person, double occupancy* with a minimum of 27 participants

Single supplement: \$1000

Optional 3 night Greece Cruise: \$1,760

Category IB inside cabin

Cruise single supplement \$500

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Airfare (\$1,750) from MSP to Cappadocia and home from Athens** and related taxes, fees and fuel charges. The final price will be adjusted up or down based on confirmed airfare. Seat assignment fees may be additional.
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in 3 and 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person where available
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, excluding tour manager and coach driver

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$750 per person is due with reservation.

Interim deposit of \$2000 due April 1, 2025

Final payment is due June 15, 2025.

Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 119-31 days, a \$300 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling 30 days or less prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



308A Elton Hills Dr NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289-3332 • (800) 658-7128
FAX: (507) 281-9747
www.ed-ventures.com