

Footsteps of Paul

Turkey & Greece

with St. Raphael Parish and Fr. Doug

Istanbul • Cappadocia • Pamukkale • Izmir
Canakkale • Thessaloniki • Athens

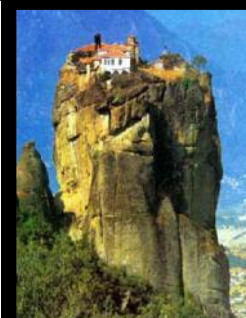
September 9 - 20, 2013

Optional Aegean Sea Cruise September 20-24, 2013



- The Blue Mosque
- Goreme Open Air Museum
- Pamukkale "Cotton Castle"
- Ruins of Hierapolis
- Ephesus
- Pergamon
- Troy
- Philippi
- Lydia's Baptistry
- St. Demetrios Church
- Acropolis
- Mars Hill

Ed-Ventures, Inc.



Footsteps of Paul

Monday, September 9, 2013 • Departure

We depart the USA en route to Istanbul, Turkey

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 • Istanbul

Upon arrival in Istanbul we are met at the airport and transfer to the old part of the city for a half day of sightseeing including a visit to the renowned **Sultanahmet Mosque**, known popularly as “The Blue Mosque,” an incredibly beautiful house of worship known for its blue Iznik (Nicaean) tiles and unique for the fact that it has six minarets. We continue on to the **Hippodrome**, once the vast arena that functioned as the heart of sporting events (chariots races and athletics) and political activities of the old city. From here we go to the nearby **Hagia Sophia**, the Church of Divine Wisdom. Ranking as one of the greatest marvels of world architecture, this awe-inspiring building was constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Just a short walk across the square takes us to the **Underground Cistern**, the largest of the many underground cisterns built during the Byzantine Empire to supply the city with water. We dine at our hotel in Istanbul. **D**

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 • Cappadocia

After breakfast, we set off on a full day of sightseeing in Istanbul. We will start off with a visit to **Topkapi Palace**. This visit to the imperial palace of the Ottoman Sultans will include tours of the imperial treasury, the Chinese porcelain section, the calligraphy section and many more. We will also visit the harem segment of the palace. After our visit we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Next stop is the **Grand Bazaar**, the vast and legendary covered market that is the biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry and carpets. Late in afternoon or early evening, we fly to Kayseri (called Eusebia/Mazaka and then Caesarea in Paul’s day) and the region of Cappadocia. Magnificent rock outcroppings (fairy chimneys) are the region’s most famous and characteristic feature. These were formed when the soft volcanic ash eroded more quickly than the hardened lava that covered it. This area was also home to the ancient Hittite people. This evening, we enjoy dinner at hotel in Cappadocia. **B/D**

Thursday, September 12, 2013 • Cappadocia

After breakfast at our hotel, we tour Cappadocia including the **Goreme Open-air Museum** with its churches hewn out of rock and the colorful frescoes that decorate them. We also visit the underground city of **Kaymakli**, carved out of the soft stone by refugees who had fled from persecution during the early Christian Era. We continue with a visit to **Pasabag** and **Avanos**. After another memorable day, we dine at our hotel in Cappadocia. **B/D**

Friday, September 13, 2013 • Pamukkale

After an early breakfast, we set off for Pamukkale. On the way, we will visit the 13th century **Sultanhan Caravanserai**, a building that ranks as one of the Seljuk masterpieces. From here we will continue on to **Konya**, whose heyday was during the 12th century as 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** that contains his tomb. Continuing on to **Laodocia**, we visit the **Odeon**, the **Theatre** and the **Gymnasium**. We dine and spend the night at our hotel in Pamukkale. **B/D**

Saturday, September 14, 2013 • Izmir

After breakfast, 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** before driving 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 & 10 b). We continue to Ephesus, the city where Paul centered his evangelistic efforts for three years. John also addresses the church here, giving both affirmation and admonition: *–You have persevered 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**, the **Temple of Artemis** (one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world). Here Marc Antony and Cleopatra once rode in procession and Paul preached in the Great Theater. Outside the city is the little house believed to be the place the Virgin Mary spent her last days. We will dine and spend the night in Izmir. **B/D**

Sunday, September 15, 2013 • 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 **Pergamon** (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 addresses 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* (Rev. 2:13a & 14a). We continue to **Thyatira** where the members of this church were commended for their steadfastness against libertarianism, a constant threat to Christian church. Our last stop of the day is **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. We will dine and spend the night in Canakkale. **B/D**

Monday, September 16, 2013 • Alexandroupoli

Our first visit of the day is **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 and continue on to **Alexandroupoli**, a beautiful resort town on the Aegean Sea. **B/D**

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 • 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 final 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**

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 • 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. Then we drive to the upper town for 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 our first of two nights stay. **B/D**

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September 9 - 20, 2013

Thursday, September 19, 2013 • 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 **Erechtheum** and the **Propylae**. Following our visit, 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 are able to compare the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympics of the modern era were held with the site of the most recent Olympics. This evening dinner is on our own. **B**

Friday, September 20, 2013 • Return or Aegean Sea Cruise

AEGEAN SEA CRUISE OPTION

September 20-24, 2013

Additional \$650* per person, double occupancy, inside cabin

Single supplement: \$90-185 (based on cabin category at time booked)

Friday, September 20, 2013 • Aegean Sea Cruise

We transfer to the port and embark on our cruise. Our first port of call is **Mykonos**, perhaps the "glitziest" island in Greece. It is famous 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**

Saturday, September 21, 2013 • Cruise

Today we visit **Rhodes**. The Rhodians maintain that Paul stayed in their city and preached, bringing many people into the new faith. The small port off **Lindos** bears the name St. Paul's Harbor. The city is dominated by a huge citadel built by the crusading Knights of St. John in 1309 AD. **On board meals**

Sunday, September 22, 2013 • Cruise

This morning we visit the island of **Patmos**. Here we have a tour on the island where John the Divine recorded his Revelation. In the afternoon, we stop at Kusadasi, the port city close to Ephesus. You may decide, as did Paul, to take time to visit one of the world's foremost ancient city ruins. **On board meals**

Monday, September 23, 2013 • Athens

Our cruise ends in Athens today. After disembarking from our cruise ship, 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. We then return to Athens for a farewell dinner at a restaurant. **On board meals/D**

Tuesday, September 24, 2013 • Return

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

*Outside cabin may be available at additional cost

TOUR PRICE: \$3,489* per person, land & air
Single Supplement = \$710 land only (subject to availability)

*Price is per person based on a minimum of 20 paying participants, double occupancy.

Your Tour Includes:

- Estimated **Roundtrip Airfare** from Chicago plus related taxes, fees and fuel charges
- Coach **transfer** to Chicago Airport
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in moderate first-class hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager** (except cruise)
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, including tour manager and driver

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Optional Aegean Sea Cruise, including cruise tips and port fees
- Shore excursions other than Patmos which is incl. in cruise price
- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- Tips for restaurant staff, hotel staff and Patmos guide
- **Turkish Visa** for US passport holders (obtained at airport)
- 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 \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date. 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 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 99-14 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 less than 14 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**. **Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.**

Abbreviations for Meals

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

For more information contact **Karen Dean: (920) 410-5857**
 or **Ed-Ventures: (800) 658-7128** or email tours@ed-ventures.com

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.

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Registration Form

FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL (SRFP13)

September 9 - 20, 2013

Cruise option: September 20-24, 2013

Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Legal Name: _____

(Nickname): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Legal Name: _____

(Nickname): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Deposit Payment Information

(please fill out if paying by check):

Enclosed is my check made payable to
Ed-Ventures, Inc. in the amount of:

Deposit Payment Information (please fill out if paying by *credit card*):

Credit Card Number: _____

Visa/MasterCard/Disc: _____ Card ID Code:* _____

Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card*

Aegean Sea Cruise: Sept. 20-24, 2013

- Yes, sign me up and bill me add'l \$650 pp double occupancy (singles \$90-\$180 higher)
- No, I am not interested in the cruise

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds

Roommate name: _____

Single supplement (additional \$710, land only): _____ Yes _____ No

Travel Insurance (please check one): Yes, sign me up No, I decline

Insurance Payment Information: Charge my card below Check enclosed

Credit Card Number: _____

Card ID Code: _____ Visa/MC/Disc: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions. Please sign me up for the trip!

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____

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9.18.12 land & cruise