

Tour Code: JGFP24

Athens



TIM TRAVELERS

Turkey, Greece & City of Rome

In the Footsteps of Paul

TOUR DATES

February 11-27, 2024

Rome



*Hosted by:
Tim Lanham*

Troy



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Day 1: Sunday, February 11, 2024 • Departure

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

Day 2: Monday, February 12, 2024 • Departure

Upon arrival at the airport, we meet your Turkish guide and driver and travel to Cappadocia on the central Anatolian plain. We transfer to the hotel, where we have dinner.

Day 3: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 • Cappadocia Region, Turkey

Today we see the magnificent rock outcroppings (“fairy chimney’s”) the regions’ most famous and characteristic feature. These were formed when the soft volcanic ash (“tuff”) eroded more quickly than the hardened lava 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 Valley 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 4: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 • 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 5: Thursday, February 15, 2024 • 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 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 2nd century, the theatre of Hierapolis was used for both theatrical activities and shows of violence. **B/D**

Day 6: Friday, February 16, 2024 • 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 7: Saturday, February 17, 2024 • Canakkale

After breakfast, we drive to Canakkale. Located at the narrowest point of the Dardanells 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 8: Sunday, February 18, 2024 • 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 9: Monday, February 19, 2024 • 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 10: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 • 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 11: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 • 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 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 12: Thursday, February 22, 2024 • 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 13: Friday, February 23, 2024 • Rome

We bid farewell to Greece today as we transfer to the Athens airport for our flight back to Rome. Upon arrival in Rome, we begin with a walking tour of the Palatine and Capitoline Hills areas beginning at the Colosseum. We walk through the Roman Forum and the ruins of 2000 years ago imagining what it must have been like as we see the tracks the chariot wheels left. We see Constantine's Arch, San Pietro in Vincoli Church with Michelangelo's Moses, and Mamertine Prison and reflect on Paul's time spent in Rome. **B/D**

Day 14: Saturday, February 24, 2024 • Rome

This morning we visit the **Vatican City** and **St. Peter's Basilica**, home of the Roman Catholic Church and the largest building in Christianity. Included is a visit to the **Vatican Museum** and the **Sistine Chapel**. We have free time to visit the city center in the afternoon. **B/D**

Day 15: Sunday, February 25, 2024 • Rome

This morning we visit one of the four major basilicas of Rome, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, where the Apostle was martyred and is buried. After our Mass, we return to the city center. Dinner is on our own this evening. **B**

Day 16: Monday, February 26, 2024 • Rome

Today is a free day in Rome to explore on our own. There is so much to see. This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner in a Roman restaurant. **B/D**

Day 17: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 • Return.

Today we transfer to the airport for our return flight home. **B**

Tour Price: \$4,429

Prices are *per person, land only, double occupancy* with a minimum of 20 participants

Single supplement: \$1,000

Your Tour Includes:

- **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** (not on 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 (except coach driver and tour manager)

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Roundtrip **Airfare** plus related taxes, fees and fuel charges
- Meals other than indicated
- **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 \$1,000 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior (**November 3, 2023**) 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 Bursch has received a final payment, Bursch 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 \$200 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 119-30 days, a \$500 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 29 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

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: Bursch Travel and 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 have a 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.



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Footsteps of Paul: Turkey, Greece, Rome

Please register me for:

- JGFP24: Feb. 11 - 27, 2024 • \$4,429
- Single Supplement • \$1,000

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. *Include a photocopy of your passport with the application.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female (required by airline)

Special 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. *Include a photocopy of your passport with the application.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female (required by airline)

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Address: _____

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

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds

Roommate name: _____ OR Single supplement: Yes No

Travel Insurance (7.2% of tour cost; policy must be purchased at time of initial deposit to cover pre-existing medical conditions)

- I wish to purchase Travel Guard insurance and have included the premium with my deposit.
- I wish to decline the travel insurance offered. I understand I am solely responsible for any cancellation penalties and out of pocket expenses occurred should I have an emergency before or during the tour.

Deposit Payment Information

Enclosed is my \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). *Make checks payable to Ed-Ventures, Inc..*

Please charge \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable) to my Discover/MasterCard/Visa

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

(a 4% service charge will be added to credit card payments)

Card ID Code:* _____ **last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card*

_____ Initial to acknowledge you understand that Federal law prohibits the carriage of certain hazardous materials in your luggage or on your person aboard aircraft and could result in a fine or imprisonment. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 4.14.23. By signing below, I understand that price changes are possible at the time of final invoicing, due to exchange rates, an increase in carrier charges, fuel costs, taxes and tariffs, and the number of passengers traveling in the group. I understand that insurance premiums and credit card fees are non-refundable. I agree to the terms and conditions of this tour.

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____



Please return application and \$500 deposit (per person) to:
Ed-Ventures, Inc
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