

# In the footsteps of St. Paul through Turkey



**17 Days**  
**Fully Escorted**  
**20th April – 7th May 2020**



**TOTAL ESTIMATED PRICE FOR TURKEY:**  
**PRICE PER PERSON \$6,690\*** (twin share)

**OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL AUD \$1,095**

\*Price is based on minimum of 25 paying participants. Conditions apply. Subject to change



**Escorted by**  
**Rev. Canon Bruce & Michele Morrison of St. John's Cathedral Parramatta**



The land we call Asia Minor stands at the crossroads of civilisation as we know it. This region features so much early church history, footprints from St. Paul's missionary journeys and is the setting for the book of Revelation. Each day will unfold with hidden gems and ancient marvels as we explore, experience and share together. Travel with us in the comfort of good hotels, modern coaches and relax with our expert local guide. Hear the Bible come to life in its historical setting.

Join us as we strengthen existing friendships and forge new ones.

## PROPOSED HOTELS FOR TURKEY (OR SIMILAR)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Cappadocia</b> Kapadokya Lodge Hotel 2 nights | <b>Pamukkale</b> Colossae Hotel 2 nights |
| <b>Konya</b> Hilton Garden Inn 1 night           | <b>Bergama</b> Nerksay Hotel 1 night     |
| <b>Kusadasi</b> Korumar Hotel 3 nights           | <b>Istanbul</b> President Hotel 4 nights |
| <b>Canakkale</b> Akol Hotel 1 night              |  |

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Return economy airfares with Emirates Airlines from Sydney – Dubai – Istanbul return
- One-way Domestic flight from Istanbul to Kayseri
- All current airport and departure taxes • 14 nights' hotel accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily at the hotels
- Daily lunches at local restaurants
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor-coach
- All guiding and entrance fees • Sightseeing as per confirmed itinerary
- Bosphorus Cruise • Kusadasi to Patmos privately chartered boat including port taxes, Patmos tour & lunch • Whisperer headsets
- All tips, portage and gratuities

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- Turkey Visa (currently US\$20 per person online through official site)
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Michele or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a booking deposit of \$500 per person is required by 12th March 2019 (unless sold out prior)
3. The final balance payment is required by 18th February 2020

### DAY 1: MON 20 APRIL Depart Australia

Depart Australia today on our Emirates flight to Dubai before connecting to Istanbul.

### DAY 2: TUE 21 APRIL Istanbul – Cappadocia

Arrive into Istanbul Airport this morning and transfer to our connecting flight to Kayseri. We then drive to Cappadocia. After refreshment/comfort stop, we visit the Fairy Chimneys, which is the name of the local geological formations, the best examples of which are found in Pasabag. Afterwards we visit the incredible underground city of Kaymakli, where early Christians survived by living secretly to keep their faith. Proceed to Soganli Village, one of the earliest settlements in Cappadocia. Afterwards, we continue towards Mustafapaşa (Sinassos), an ancient Greek town with spectacular old Greek houses and fine examples of late Greek architecture. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia.

### DAY 3: WED 22 APRIL Cappadocia

An early morning optional hot air balloon experience awaits those who'd like to see Cappadocia from the air! Later in the morning, depart our hotel to visit the Red Valley via Cavusin and explore the famous rock-cut churches and enjoy a 2km walk. Next we visit Cavusin village which was abandoned several decades ago due to avalanches. Old Cavusin, with its rock-cut dwellings and stone houses, had several hermitages. After lunch we drive to the Pigeon Valley for more exploration, before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 4: THU 23 APRIL Cappadocia / Konya

Today we visit the Goreme Open Air Museum. We'll stop at the Valley of the Birds and have some free time before continuing to Konya, viewing the Sultanhanı Caravanserai enroute. On arrival at Konya, we will visit the Mevlana Museum. Check in, dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### DAY 5: FRI 24 APRIL Konya / Psidian Antioch / Pamukkale

Iconium is the ancient name of modern-day Konya and home to the Whirling Dervishes, a mystic sect of Islam. There are no archaeological remains from the ancient city. We commence our drive to Lystra, a smaller city visited on one of St. Paul's missionary journeys. After lunch, proceed to Psidian Antioch, where St. Paul opened Christianity to the world. This town's history goes back to 280 BC! During Paul's time the population here was a mixture of Jews, Romans and Greeks. Continue to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight at our hotel in the natural hot springs town of Pamukkale.

### DAY 6: SAT 25 APRIL Colossae / Hierapolis / Laodicea / Pamukkale

Drive to nearby Colossae for a brief stop to see the only remains of where a theatre auditorium once stood. We also visit Hierapolis, founded by legendary Pergamon King Telephos and named after his wife Hiera. Most likely the very large Jewish population of this city was an important factor in the rapid expansion of Christianity. During the Byzantine period the city became the seat of a diocese with a large Christian church dedicated to St. Philip who was martyred here in 80 AD and whose tomb was only very recently discovered. Highlights include the Roman Baths, the Temple of Apollo, the Cathedral and the famous white calcified limestone terraces. We visit Laodicea, viewing remains found on a flat-topped hill. Christianity came to the area during the time of St. Paul, brought by Epaphras of Colossae. Laodicea became the seat of Bishopric and hosted an important Ecumenical Council in the fourth century AD; it was named in 'Revelation' as one of the Seven Churches of the Revelation. Highlights are the water tower, stadium and the council chamber. Return to our hotel in Pamukkale for dinner, relaxing in the mineral pools and overnight.

### DAY 7: SUN 26 APRIL Pamukkale / Sardis / Kusadasi

This morning we visit Philadelphia an important Christian centre during Byzantine times. We'll see the Basilica before proceeding to Sardis, which holds a prominent place in mythology. Sardis was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Highlights include the 3rd century AD Synagogue, gymnasium, House of Bronzes, Temple of Artemis, and of course, the Church. Proceed to the beautiful port city of Kusadasi on the Mediterranean for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 8: MON 27 APRIL Ephesus

Enjoy an entire day at Ephesus, one of the Ancient Wonders of the World! Located just 15 kms from Kusadasi, we'll spend plenty of time walking the ancient roads, exploring the temples, gymnasiums and the amphitheatre, in which the riot of 'Acts 19' took place. Of course, we'll also visit the famous Library of Celus. We will view the remains of the Temple of Artemis, and the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist. Return to our hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 9: TUE 28 APRIL Kusadasi / Patmos / Kusadasi

Enjoy a privately chartered ferry boat as we set sail to the island of Patmos this morning. Enjoy a brief tour and visit the famous Grotto. It is here that St. John wrote his Gospel and the Book of Revelation. We will have lunch here before our return to Kusadasi. It takes around 4 hours to sail from Kusadasi to Patmos. In case of bad weather or rough seas a day trip to Didyma and Miletus will take place instead. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### DAY 10: WED 29 APRIL Kusadasi / Izmir / Bergama

After an early check out, depart to Izmir (ancient Smyrna) and visit the church of St. Polycarp. Proceed to ancient Thyatira, the home of Lydia (Acts 16), and another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. We will examine the remains of the church. This was one of the principle towns where Christianity spread quickly. Continue to Bergama to visit the Asclepion and Acropol, a famous healing centre, where methods of treatment included blood transfusions, music therapy and meditation. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Bergama.

### DAY 11: THU 30 APRIL Bergama / Assos / Troas / Troy / Canakkale

This morning we will enjoy a scenic drive to Assos, a town perched high on a cliff overlooking the Aegean Sea and the Island of Lesbos; the views are breathtaking! Its Acropolis carries the impressive Temple of Athena. Arriving in Assos on foot from Troas, St. Paul preached here and went down to the little port on the shore to board the boat for his return journey to Jerusalem. Recent excavations reveal a dozen different cities covering 3000 years of human occupation. We'll proceed to Troas. During his stay in Troas, St. Paul had a dream in which he saw a vision of a man asking him to 'Come over to Macedonia and help us' which prompted him to go to Europe. All in all, he stopped and preached here 3 times. Our last visit will be Troy, referred to in Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey". Actually Troy is 9 cities superimposed upon one another. Troy VI pertains to the famous Trojan War of Homer where the legendary heroes included Achilles, Ulysses and Nestor on the Greek side and Paris, Hector and Paris on the Trojan side. Continue north to Canakkale on the Dardanelles for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 12: FRI 01 MAY Canakkale / ANZAC Cove / Istanbul

After check out, we will cross the strategic waterway called the Dardanelles and visit Gallipoli, historically famous for being the site of many battles during WWI. We will visit ANZAC Cove, the landing site, Ceremonial Platform and Lone Pine as well as many trenches. We'll hear some legendary stories, reflect and remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice here. We commence our journey to Istanbul. On arrival, we'll go straight to dinner! Overnight in Istanbul.

### DAY 13: SAT 02 MAY Istanbul

This morning we will visit the famous Topkapi Palace, built as the home of the Ottoman Sultans. The world famous treasury sections will be visited to view the impressive collection of jewels and artefacts. We will also visit the nearby Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia (Church turned Mosque turned Museum), as well as the Basilica Cistern; one of the biggest water cisterns of the city, dating back to the 6th Century. Our last stop will be the Grand Bazaar, known as being one of the biggest bazaars from the ancient world, still in operation today, and be mesmerised by more than 4,000 shops! Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 14: SUN 03 MAY Istanbul

Today we will start the day by changing continents. We will take the Bosphorus Bridge and drive to Camlica Hill for a scenic Bosphorus photo opportunity. We continue by boat from Camlica to our Bosphorus cruise. Our cruise ends near the Dolmabahce Palace, where we will enjoy a tour of the residence of latter-day Sultans of the Ottoman Empire, with over 300 rooms and a 4.5 tonne glass chandelier. After lunch we visit the Egyptian Spice Bazaar to experience the smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme rising from every store, the same smells that filled the air over 400 years ago. Dinner and overnight is at our hotel in Istanbul.

### DAY 15: MON 04 MAY Istanbul

We depart from the hotel for Piere Loti for a photo opportunity and a morning coffee. Later, we visit the Chora Church (now Museum), famous for its well preserved frescos and mosaics. We'll visit the Suleymaniye Mosque, masterpiece of famous architect Sinan, built during the reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. Proceeding to the beautiful Golden Horn, the perfect introduction to the splendours of Christendom that crowned Istanbul's cityscape. One such splendour is the Ecumenical Patriarchate, once one of the fourteen autocephalous churches within the communion of Orthodox Christianity. Our tour of the Oorthodox world will continue with a visit to Balat and the Bulgarian Iron Church, completed in 1898, brought in from Europe by rail! From here we explore the wooden buildings at the base of the towering ramparts of the Old City, where the practitioners of three distinct religions lived together harmoniously in one single neighbourhood. This afternoon, on the way back to the hotel, those who'd like to stop in once again to the Grand Bazaar to do some last minute shopping may do so. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### DAY 16: TUE 05 MAY Istanbul

After check out, we'll transfer to Istanbul International Airport for our departure flight back to Australia (or onward flights for those extending their travels).

### DAY 17: WED 06 MAY Arrive Home

Arrive home with wonderful memories of our trip away!

#### WHO TO CONTACT:



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