

# Highlights of Turkey

9-Day Land Tour

05/29/2025 - 06/07/2025

The apostle Paul was born here. Along with Peter, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Jude, and Simon, they lived, preached, and prayed here. Come with Steve Densley on this tour of Turkey, "the other Holy Land." Two-thirds of the 27 books in the New Testament were either written in Turkey or were addressed to communities there, including Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Galatians, 1 & 2 Timothy, 1 & 2 Peter, and Revelation, which was addressed to the seven churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. Join us and enhance your study of the New Testament like never before.

## Headliners:



Steve Densley

## Itinerary:

### Day 1: Depart From Home

May 29, 2025 (Thursday)

Depart for Istanbul. Overnight on the trans-Atlantic flight.

### Day 2: Arrive in Istanbul

May 30, 2025 (Friday)

Enjoy a relaxing dinner and, if you like, a traditional Turkish bath experience at "emberlita" Hamam which dates back to the 16th century. (D)

### Day 3: Hippodrome - Hagia Sophia - Hagia Irene - Blue Mosque -

# **Topkapı Palace - Basilica of Underground Cistern - Grand Bazaar Shopping**

May 31, 2025 (Saturday)

Today is full of surprises! After breakfast, we first visit the Ancient Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races, and the three monuments: the Egyptian Obelisk, the Serpent Column, and the Column of Constantine. Then we go to the Hagia Sophia, previously known as the Church of Divine Wisdom. For 1000 years it was the largest church in the world. Then, we see the Topkapı Palace, one of the largest and oldest surviving palaces in the world. Our trip includes a visit to the Blue Mosque. We visit Basilica Cistern which is built in 532 A.D. Our last stop is the Grand Bazaar, the largest covered market in the world! Tonight, we have an optional Whirling Dervish Ceremony at the HodjaPasha Culture Center. You won't want to miss this. (B,D)

## **Day 4: Archeological Museum - Kariye Church (if open)**

June 1, 2025 (Sunday)

We start our day at the Istanbul Archeological Museum which is one of the world's largest museums with over one million works. It is also the first museum in Turkey. We leave Istanbul and fly to Cappadocia and check into the Cave Hotel. (B,D)

## **Day 5: Cappadocia (Optional Hot Air Balloon at Sunrise) - Goreme Open Air Museum - Uçhisar Castle**

June 2, 2025 (Monday)

At sunrise, you have the option of joining us on a world-famous hot air balloon trip. When you rise to the sky in Cappadocia, you can enjoy the bird's eye view of this Biblical region adorned with unique rock formations. You will feel as if you are flying on another planet. Then we embark on a new adventure in the famous Cappadocia, home to underground cities used by Christians to hide from the Roman soldiers. We go to the Derinkuyu Underground City. The region is mentioned both in the New Testament and also in Doctrine and Covenants 138:5. We see a pottery workshop that reflects thousands of years of history. Pottery production in Avanos has been continuous since the Hittites. We head to the Goreme Open Air Museum, the heart of Cappadocia. Goreme Open Air Museum is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its frescoes that date back to the 10th century and depict the life of Jesus Christ. Then we continue to Uçhisar Castle, the highest point in Cappadocia where you can enjoy amazing views of the unique landscape. We overnight in Cappadocia. (B,D)

## **Day 6: Cappadocia - Pamukkale**

June 3, 2025 (Tuesday)

If it didn't happen yesterday, we have another chance to take a hot air balloon ride (Sometimes the hot air balloons are canceled due to the wind or rain.) We drive to Pamukkale. En-route we stop at Konya to visit The Home of the Whirling Derwishes. We arrive in Pamukkale, check into our hotel and eat dinner. (B,D)

## **Day 7: Hierapolis - Laodicea - Pamukkale**

June 4, 2025 (Wednesday)

After breakfast, we explore the travertine terraces and Hierapolis. The Apostle Phillip lived and was martyred in Hierapolis. We see Cotton Castle, a natural wonder of gigantic white waterfalls, stalactites, and natural pools formed over the centuries by the sliding of waters laden with limestone salts from hot springs. You don't want to miss a chance to swim in the Pamukkale antique pool between the historical monuments (optional). We visit the Hierapolis Open-Air Museum. Then we are on our way to Laodicea. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot" was told to the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:16) who were lukewarm. Laodicea is the last of the seven churches. We continue on our way to the city of Kusadasi. We are staying at the Charisma de Luxe Hotel. (B,D)

## **Day 8: Ephesus Terrace Houses - St. John's Church - Carpets, and Kilims of Turkey - Temple of Artemis**

June 5, 2025 (Thursday)

Today is filled with archaeological wonders: Our first stop is at an overlook where we can view the ruins of the Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Next, we go to Ephesus, the second most important city of the Roman Empire. Paul lived here and it is widely believed that the Gospel of John was written here. It had a population of 250,000 and monopolized the wealth of the Middle East. It holds treasures such as the impressive Roman Theater which housed more than 25,000 spectators, the magnificent Library of Celsus (the third largest library in the ancient world), Hadrian's Temple, and Marble Street. We will also see the Terrace Houses of Ephesus, which are luxury Roman Villas. We visit the impressive ruins of the Church of Saint John, where many believe John to be buried. We then visit a world-famous Turkish handcraft village. We learn the process of carpet making starting with live silkworms at this award-winning carpet factory. (B,D)

## **Day 9: Istanbul - Spice Bazaar - Bosphorous Cruise**

June 6, 2025 (Friday)

This morning we transfer to the Izmir airport for our flight to Istanbul. We visit the Spice Bazaar, built in

1664, is one of the most colorful bazaars in Istanbul and offers numberless souvenirs, spices, Turkish delights, dried nuts, and more. We take a cruise on the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus Strait is the heart of Istanbul and this cruise provides the best view of many of Istanbul's most popular and beautiful attractions including the Dolmabahçe Palace and the Rumeli Fortress.

This is the last day of the main tour. We eat dinner at the Hotel Arcadia Blue in Istanbul. (B,D)

## **Day 10: Arrive Home - Or Israel**

June 7, 2025 (Saturday)

Fly Home or continue with us to Israel.

### **Information:**

#### **INCLUDED**

Main Tour: 9 Days and 8 Nights at 5-Star or Best Available Hotels

Daily Breakfast

All Dinners at the hotels

Sightseeing as per itinerary

All entry fees to the sites and museums

English speaking, Bible-oriented tour guide

All transportation by private bus (water included)

All Airport-Hotel-Airport transfers

2 or 3 Domestic Flights

Tips to restaurant staff

Parking fees

Local service charges & taxes (18% VAT)

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

International Airfare

Lunches and all drinks (Budget about \$15 per day for lunches)

Food or snacks not listed

Tips to the guides and drivers (plan on \$5-10 per person, per day for the guide, \$3-5 per person per day for the driverâ€¦(depends on the size of the group)

Optional activities listed in the itinerary

All personal expenses, travel and health insurance

Anything not mentioned in the above "Included" section

## **Pricing:**

10-Day Land Tour 5/29/2025 " 6/07/2025

Price (Base Tour)

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\$2700 per person (ACH/Check price), based on double occupancy. (Minimum group size 16 people)

- \$2800 per person if paying with debit/credit card.

Payment Schedule

- \$250 per person due at time of booking (deposit is non-refundable " it can be transferred to another person on the same tour date. We will attempt to find someone to take your spot if you cancel but we cannot guarantee it).

- Final Payment: Final payment is due three months before the tour departure date.

Cancellation Policy

- If you cancel: Deposit is non-refundable; however, it is transferable to another guest on a new booking, traveling on the same tour date. After final payment, the full amount is non-refundable. If you cancel and you can find someone to take your spot, we will refund the deposit. If we have a waiting list, we will refund your deposit by placing someone in your spot.

- If we cancel the tour for any reason: Deposit is non-refundable; however, it can be transferred to any other tour or kept as a future tour credit to be used at any time on one of our advertised tours (cannot be transferred to a cruise). The balance will be refunded or applied to a future tour as a credit.

- The only way to avoid trip cancellation penalties is to buy trip cancellation insurance. If you are interested in the insurance, we can help you purchase it.

Check Your Invoice Names: Please check to see that your names are spelled correctly. Your first and last names must appear as they appear on your passport for International travel and Driver's™s

License for domestic tours.

COVID: Vaccines are currently required to enter Israel

PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED and should be valid 6 months after the end of the tour.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the nature of this tour you must be able to climb stairs and walk unassisted at a moderate pace.

Please note that minor changes to the itinerary may occur due to local conditions and to better accommodate our group.