

The Footsteps of St.Paul Tour in Turkey (13 Days / 12 Nights)

Day 1 (D)

Istanbul

- Upon arrival in Istanbul we are met at the Airport and **transferred** to our hotel. After check-in, our tour guide will give us a briefing about the tour and its program.
- Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Istanbul.

Day 2 (B-D)

Istanbul

- After breakfast, we set off on a full day of sightseeing in Istanbul. We will start with a visit to the renewed Sultanahmet Mosque, known popularly as **The Blue Mosque** an incredibly beautiful mosque known for its blue Iznik (Nicaea) tiles are 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 (chariots races and athletics) events and political activities of the old city. We continue our tour with the visit to the **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. Visit the **Hagia Iринi Church** - (at Topkapi Palace Garden) church built on the site of a Pagan temple to Aphrodite, Constantin the Great in 324 AD dedicated it to peace. The tour will end with the visit to 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. **** Unique Moment :** During the visit of the Grand Bazaar we will be experiencing **Turkish coffee** from **Sark Kahvesi**, historical coffee roasters located in the Grand Bazaar. Each variety has been prepared with a blend of traditional knowledge, experience and an abiding “Love of Coffee”



- **Welcome Dinner at Hamdi Restaurant, www.hamdi.com.tr**
Hamdi Restaurant has been serving its traditional south eastern kebabs since it originated in 1970 and is the place to go for this famous Turkish dish. The popular restaurant is situated in the historic Eminönü district (West of Sultanahmet), and offers stunning views over the Golden Horn. The menu provides a wide choice of meat dishes and superior quality of service, making Hamdi Restaurant one of Turkey’s first class restaurants.

Menu

White Flat Bread & Water
 ¼ Turkish “Tulum” Cheese (made in goat skin)
 Served with fresh butter
 Mini Turkish Pizza
 Stuffed giant meat ball



	<p>Appetizer Spoon Salad MIXED KEBAP PLATE; (Served with Rice, Tomatoes, Pepper, Onion) ½ Pistachio Kebab ½ Vegetable Kebab 2 Pieces of Shish Kebab 2 Pieces of Chicken Shish 2 Slices of Baklava (Dessert)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Istanbul.
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<p>Day 3 (B - D)</p>	<p><u>Istanbul</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After breakfast, we set off on a full day of sightseeing in Istanbul. We continue on to the Holy Savior In Chora (Kariye Museum), originally built as the primary structure of a Byzantine monastery complex, is a fascinating exploration of the only church-dedicated to Jesus Christ the Savior. Today, visitors flock to see its exquisitely beautiful frescoes and breathtaking mosaics. From here we go on to the Egyptian Spice Market, an arched complex of shops that have long and traditionally specialized in spices, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. ** Unique Moment : During the visit of Spice Market we will have a short break at Ali Muhiddin Haci Bekir's shop – the inventor of Turkish delight. From the time of its founding during the Ottoman Empire, the name Haci Bekir has become a legend in Ottoman and Turkish confectionery and a leading symbol of this art. Continue our tour with Cruise on the Bosphorus with private boat. We'll cruise up Istanbul's winding straits and relax and admire the shoreline of beautiful mosques, lavish palaces, and decadent yalis. <div data-bbox="422 1249 957 1467" data-label="Image"></div> <p>You'll see Dolmabahce Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Ottoman summer mansions, the Ortakoy Mosque, the defensive Rumeli Fortress, and the Bosphorus Bridge, one of the world's largest suspension bridges, all while passing fishing boats, yachts, huge cargo ships, and tankers. The tour will end with the visit to the 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.</p> <div data-bbox="1125 1534 1436 1747" data-label="Image"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overnight at our Hotel in Istanbul.
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<p>Day 4</p>	<p><u>Istanbul / Nicea / Bursa</u></p>
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(B-D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we drive to Nicea (Iznik). The importance of Nicea in Christian history is in the two major Christian meetings that were held here: the first Ecumenical Council of 325 and the seventh Ecumenical Council of 787. In this fascinating town we will visit the museum that was formerly the Church of Divine Wisdom. We leave Nicea to drive to Bursa. We explore Bursa with visits to the Grand Mosque, the Green Mausoleum and the Old Silk Market in the Covered Bazaar. • Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Bursa.
Day 5 (B-D)	<u>Bursa / Canakkale / Ayvalik</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we drive to Canakkale. We visit the legendary Troy. We continue our journey to Alexandria Troas, which was visited at least twice by St. Paul. In his third journey we know that St. Paul also traveled by land from Alexandria Troas to Assos. In Troas we visit the theater, the Temple of Athena and the agora. • Dinner and overnight at our Hotel in Ayvalik.
Day 6 (B-D)	<u>Ayvalik / Pergamon / Thyatira / Izmir</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we will drive to Pergamon to visit the Asklepion and the Acropolis, the theater, the temple of Athena and the Altar of Zeus, which St. John denounced to Pergamon church members as a “Throne of Satan.” We continue our drive towards to Thyatira, whose church members were commended for their “steadfastness against libertarianism,” which was viewed as a constant threat to the Christian church. • Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Izmir. • ** Unique Moment; Tonight you will enjoy a short ride of Phaeton/Fayton (typical horse carriage of Izmir) tour in Izmir along the famous shore promenade called Kordonboyu.
Day 7 (B-D)	<u>Izmir / Ephesus / Miletus / Kusadasi</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, drive up a to a scenically wonderful coastal road before you reach the ancient city of Ephesus. Our first stop will be the House of Virgin Mary. The belief is that the Virgin Mary had spent her last days in the vicinity of Ephesus. Short drive to Ancient Ephesus, which was the trade centre of the ancient world, a religious centre of the early Christianity. Our next stop will be the St. John Basilica. It is believed that the evangelist St. John had spent his last years in the region around Ephesus and buried in the southern slope of Ayosolug Hill. From here continue our drive to The Ancient City of Miletus, which was considered the greatest and wealthiest of Greek cities. • Dinner and overnight at our Hotel in Kusadasi.

**Day 8
(B-D)**

Kusadasi / Sardis / Hierapolis / Pamukkale

- After breakfast, we continue our drive on to **Sardis**, the capital of ancient Lydia which also ranked as one of the Seven Sister Churches and as a center of importance for various religious groups. Here we visit the temple of Cybele and Diana (which later became a Church), the beautiful synagogue, and the gymnasium. From Sardis we continue on to **Laodicea** where we visit its theater, Odeon, and gymnasium. The day will end with the visit of **Hierapolis** with its necropolis, baths, theater and the site of the martyrdom of **St. Philip**.
- Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Pamukkale.



**Day 9
(B-D)**

Pamukkale / Pisidian / Konya

- After breakfast, we drive to **Konya** (ancient Iconium), a city in which St. Paul and St. Barnabas used the synagogue as their forum. We will visit the museum complex of the **Whirling Dervishes**. Which is also the site of the **Mausoleum of Mevlana** (Rumi). Continue our tour to the **Antioch of Pisidia**, the city where St. Paul preached his first recorded sermon and was later expelled. Among the ruins we also visit the remains of two basilicas.
- Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Konya.



**Day 10
(B-D)**

Konya / Lystra / Derbe / Cappadocia

- After breakfast we begin our drive to Cappadocia. On the way we stop at **Lystra**, also a place that was visited several times by St. Paul. From there we continue on to **Derbe**, where St. Paul and St. Barnabas preached and won many converts. Arrive in Cappadocia. We check into our hotel.
- Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Cappadocia.

**Day 11
(B-D)**

Cappadocia

- After breakfast, we begin our explorations of the famous and intriguing valley of **Cappadocia**, a unique region in which Nature has created an incredibly strange and colorful world of cones, columns and needles that were shaped by the wind and water erosion of the area's volcanic tuff. Some of these strange shapes are as tall as 100 ft. But it is not only the Natural landscape that is unique here. Our forefathers used the soft features of the stone





	<p>to carve out this fantasy-like environment into homes, stables, shops, churches, hospitals, etc. etc. Many early Christians painted the walls of their chapels with their own renditions of Bible stories. Some of these frescoes are incredibly beautiful, attesting to the skills and religious fervor of the faithful. Among the places we will visit are Open Air Museum of Goreme, Underground City of Kaymakli and Zelve Valley the latter providing us with the opportunity to purchase some of the hand-turned pottery that has been shaped here for millennia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will enjoy our dinner and overnight stay in our hotel in Cappadocia.
<p>Day 12 (B-D)</p>	<p>Cappadocia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we will have private mass at one of the oldest church in Cappadocia Region from the 4th century A.D. Continue our tour with visit to the Devrent Valley to see the unique fairy-chimneys. Then drive onto Pasabag (Monk's Valley) to see the most interesting mushroom-shaped pinnacles. Afternoon we will continue our visit to the Uchisar, a pretty village situated at the highest point in Cappadocia. Visit Uchisar Castle which offers magnificent panoramic views of the surrounding area with Mount Erciyes in the distance. The castle features many rooms hollowed out from the rock connected to each other with stairs, tunnels and passages. Today most of the rooms on the north side of the castle have become home to flocks of pigeons, from which farmers collect droppings for use as a natural fertiliser. ** Unique Moment : Cave house visit: Here you will visit a historic cave house and experience how the inhabitants use to live. • Dinner and overnight at Hotel in Cappadocia.
<p>Day 13 (B)</p>	<p>Cappadocia / Istanbul / UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, departure transfer from our hotel to Kayseri Airport for our departure flight to Istanbul. Upon arrive in Istanbul connection flight to

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

INCLUDING	EXCLUDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel accommodation throughout the tour at specified selected hotels or similar • Sightseeing tours as per above itinerary • Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary • Specified meals • Transportation by A/C deluxe vehicle • English speaking professional tour guide throughout the tour • Tips to hotels, restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International & Domestic Flight tickets • Drinks and meals which are not listed in the itinerary • All personal expenses • Tips to the tour guide and driver.



SUGGESTED HOTELS

ISTANBUL

DoubleTree by Hilton Istanbul Old Town, 5 Star
www.DoubleTree.com
or similar,

AYVALIK

Grand Hotel Temizel , 5 Star
www.temizel.com.tr
or similar,

KUSADASI

Charisma De-Luxe Hotel, 5 Star
www.charismahotel.com
or similar,

KONYA

Hotel Dedeman, 5 Star
www.dedeman.com
or similar,

BURSA

Almira Hotel, 5 Star
www.almira.com.tr
or similar,

IZMIR

Hilton Hotel, 5 Star
www.hilton.com
or similar,

PAMUKKALE

Spa Hotel Thermal Colossae, 5 Star
www.colossae.com
or similar,

CAPPADOCIA

DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos Cappadocia, 5 Star
www.DoubleTree.com
or similar,