



*First Lutheran Church of Alexandria:*

# Turkey & Greece

*In the Footsteps of Paul*

TOUR DATES

*Turkey & Greece*  
Sept. 25 - Oct. 6, 2023

*Optional Cruise*  
*Extension*  
Oct. 6 - 10, 2023

*Hosted by:*  
*Terri Bursch*

Hierapolis



Troy



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*In partnership with Ed-Ventures, Inc.*





### Day 1: Monday, September 25, 2023 • Departure

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

### Day 2: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 • Cappadocia Region, Turkey

Upon arrival at the airport, we meet our Turkish guide and driver and travel to Cappadocia on the central Anatolian plain. Magnificent rock outcroppings (“fairy chimney’s”) are 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 to 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 3: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 • Konya (Iconium)

After breakfast, we drive to Konya (Iconium in Paul’s day). Paul visited this city on each of his three-missionary journeys. 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 4: Thursday, September 28, 2023 • 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 was 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



Derinkuyu

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 5: Friday, September 29, 2023 • 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 6: Saturday, September 30, 2023 • 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 addressed 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 7: Sunday, October 1, 2023 • 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 8: Monday, October 2, 2023 • 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



Vlatodon Monastery

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 9: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 • 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 Vlatodon 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 10: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 • 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 11: Thursday, October 5, 2023 • 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 12: Friday, October 6, 2023 • Return

For some of us, the journey with Paul ends today as we transfer to the Athens airport for our flight back to the USA. Others continue to the cruise for a post-tour extension. **B**



Lydia's Baptistry

## Tour Price: \$3,399

Prices are *per person, land only, double occupancy* with a minimum of 30 participants

**Single supplement: \$750**

Extension Price: \$2,089  
with a minimum of 15 participants

**Single supplement: \$550**

#### 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 by **January 16, 2023**. Final payment is due 100 days prior (**June 12, 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 cancelling 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.

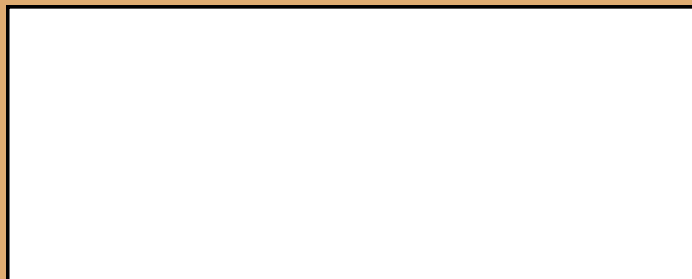
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Due to COVID-19, we have a right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

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.



# Footsteps of Paul: Greece & Turkey

Please register me for:

- BFSP22: Sept. 25 - Oct. 6, 2023 • \$3,399
- Single Supplement • \$750
  
- Optional Cruise: Oct. 6 - 10, 2023 • \$2,089
- Cruise Single Supplement • \$550

## Passenger Information (1<sup>st</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Authority:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Passenger Information (2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sleeping Preference** (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds

**Roommate name:** \_\_\_\_\_ OR **Single supplement:** \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

## Travel Insurance (Please check one)

- I wish to purchase Allianz 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** (\$1000 deposit and registration due by January 16, 2023)

Enclosed is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). **Make checks payable to Bursch Travel.**

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](http://www.tsa.gov) for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 9.21.22. 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 1<sup>st</sup> traveler:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of 2<sup>nd</sup> traveler:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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9.21.22 land only