

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

### Day 01 Istanbul/Adana

Meet and assist at the Adana airport and transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. ( D )

### Day 02 Adana/Antakya

After breakfast, drive to Antakya, Biblical "Antioch on the Orontes". Antioch is where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. By the time of Paul, Peter and Barnabas, Antioch has long been an important city. It was from the church in Antioch that Paul and Barnabas set out on their first journey. We will visit a grotto at the foot of the hills known as St. Peter's Grotto (first Christian rock church where early Christians of Antioch used to meet in secret). Visit the famous mosaic museum of Antakya and proceed to Samandağ, Biblical "Seleucia Pieria" which was the sea port of Antioch in Roman times, from which Paul and Barnabas set sail for Cyprus on their first missionary journey. Then we return to our hotel in Antakya for dinner and overnight. ( B, D )



### Day 03 Antakya/Cappadocia

After breakfast, leave Antakya and proceed to Tarsus which was the home of young Paul who was born there at the time Jesus was born in Bethlehem. After the visit of Tarsus, we continue our journey to Nevşehir (Soandus) in Cappadocia for dinner and overnight. ( B,D )



### Day 04 Cappadocia

Leave the hotel for a full day sightseeing of the unusual towns of Ortahisar and Uçhisar with their troglodyte dwellings, and the Göreme Valley. Several hundred churches are in this area, some of which are decorated with inscribed frescoes depicting scenes from the Bible or Apocrypha. Also visit the valley of Zelve and the underground city of Kaymakli or Derinkuyu. These were early Christian centers and must have housed several thousand people in the eighth and ninth centuries. They

### Day 05

### Cappadocia/Ankara/İzmir/Kuşadası

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed to Ankara, visiting the Ağzikarahan at least eight floors in a maze of Caravanserai on route. Upon arrival in Ankara, visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations and then transfer to the Ankara airport for the flight to Izmir. Upon arrival in Izmir, drive to Kuşadası for dinner and

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overnight. ( B,D )

### Day 06 Kuşadası/Pamukkale

Visit Ephesus, veritable cradle of early Christianity. Visit the Shrine of the Virgin Mary where supposedly she spent her last days. Proceed to the spectacular ruins from the period of St. Paul; see the Odeon, Boulaterrion, fountains, Great theater and Gymnasium. After lunch, visit the Basilica of St. John and the Temple of Artemis (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world). Proceed to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight. ( B,D )



### Day 07 Pamukkale/Izmir



Early morning start to one of Pamukkale's most spectacular sights known as cotton castles. See the wonderful formations of stalactites. Walk around the ancient city of Hierapolis, the monument and thermal baths. Then visit the ancient city of Laodicea, city of VIP's and wealthy people, home of Zenon, center of economy and military base. Visit the theater, odeon and one of the seven churches of the Apocalypse, the city walls, the Acropolis and the remains of the cathedral which still exists. Proceed to Sardis, the capital of ancient Lydia. View the significant ruins of Acropolis. Visit the Temple of Kybele (with whom Artemis was identified) which later became a church. Also visit the synagogue, the gymnasium and the new excavation area. Drive to Izmir for dinner and overnight. ( B,D )

### Day 08 Izmir/Çanakkale

Early departure for Pergamum. Upon arrival, visit the Acropolis; Temple of Athena, the famous library, Royal Palace, Temple of Trajan, steepest theater of the ancient world, Temple of Dionysus, Altar of Zeus and the Red Basilica. Then visit the Asclepion, the medical center of the ancient world, and depart for Troy, the legendary town in the Iliad of Homer, famous for its wooden horse. Archaeological excavations in Troy have proved that there had been nine separate periods of settlement. Continue to Çanakkale for dinner and overnight. ( B,D )





### Day 09 Çanakkale/Istanbul

After breakfast, depart for Istanbul via the Dardanelles. On arrival in Istanbul, visit the Chora Museum, the second most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul after St. Sophia. The walls are decorated with exquisite 14<sup>th</sup> century frescoes and mosaics on a gold background. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. ( B,D )

### Day 10 Istanbul

Full day sightseeing, visiting the Hippodrome where competitive athletic events and chariot races took place during the Roman times, Sultan Ahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque) famous for its six minarets and blue Iznik tiles, and St. Sophia, an architectural marvel of all times. In the afternoon, visit the Topkapi Palace, the administrative and residential palace of the Ottoman Sultans from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the palace, you will see the priceless crown jewels, the Imperial treasury and a unique collection of Chinese porcelains once owned by the Ottoman Sultans. Also visit the Grand Bazaar with more than 4000 shops under one roof. There, you will have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs, jewellery, silverware, carpets and kilims and much more. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. ( B,D )



### Day 11 Istanbul

Transfer to the Istanbul airport for the homebound flight. ( B )

#### Rates include:

- 10 nights accommodation at four stars hotels on half board (breakfast & dinner) basis. Transfers
- Touring as Per the program including entrance fees to the museums and historical sites. Government licenced guide.
- A/C 14 seated minibus for 6-9 pax, 25 seated midibus for 10-14 pax and 46 seated coach for 15 pax and above.
- Porterages at the airports and the hotels.
- Tips to the hotels.
- 1 person free sharing a twin room for every paying 15 pax (maximum 4 pax in 2 rooms)
- 18 percent VAT and service charges (any change in VAT will be reflected to our rates)

#### Rates exclude:

- Extras at the hotels
- Lunches
- Beverages at dinners
- Tips to the driver and the guide.