



TourMagination

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The World of Paul in Turkey and Greece With Optional Extension to Italy

May 21 to June 5, 2020

Leader: Tom Yoder Neufeld



Cliff-top monasteries at Meteora. Photo credit: Guillén Pérez

Hagia Sophia. Photo credit: Dennis Jarvis

The Apostle Paul lived twenty centuries ago, yet his words still reverberate today. Paul spread the news about Jesus throughout what is today Greece and Turkey. Guided by New Testament scholar Tom Yoder Neufeld, learn about the cultural contexts that shaped Paul, his message, and his congregations. Gain new insight as you tour ancient Philippi, Thessaloniki, Corinth, and Athens in Greece. In Turkey, visit sites related to the seven churches of Revelation. Also see cultural locations of interest including historic churches, Greek, Roman, and Islamic religious sites, and modern Istanbul. Optional extension to Italy available.

Itinerary

Thursday, May 21 Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul—Turkey’s economic, cultural, and historic centre. Meet your fellow travellers.

Friday, May 22 Istanbul

In the Golden Horn area of Constantinople, see the famed Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and an ancient underground cistern. Also see the Church of Saint George and the patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Bulgarian steel church. Tour the traditional Christian and Jewish quarters.

Saturday, May 23 Istanbul

Marvel at the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, Topkapi Palace, and the Kariye Museum, housed in one of the most beautiful examples of a Byzantine church. Enjoy a cruise on the Bosphorus and visit the Egyptian Spice Bazaar.

Sunday, May 24 Bursa, Turkey

Cross the Bosphorus and make a stop in Iznik (Nicaea) at St. Sophia Church, origin of the Nicene Creed. Then head to the Great Mosque (Ulu Cami) of Bursa and the city’s ancient covered bazaar.

Monday, May 25 Pamukkale, Turkey

Drive to Sardis, one of the 7 churches of Revelation. Tour Sardis’s synagogue, baths, and

Temple of Artemis with adjoining church. The synagogue says much about the standing of Jews in ancient times. Peruse Laodicea’s excavations. Planted by Paul, the church in Laodicea is also one of the 7 churches of Revelation.

Tuesday, May 26 Kusadasi, Turkey

See calcium-whitened cliffs of a natural hot springs resort founded in 200 BCE at Hierapolis. Learn about a church Paul planted and remember Philip, believed to be buried here. In Aphrodisias, a city dedicated to the Greek goddess of love, wonder at the remains of the temple, stadium, and theatre and learn more at a museum. Tom will give insight into Roman imperial “theology” of Paul’s time.

Wednesday, May 27 Izmir, Turkey

At Ephesus, Paul’s home base for two years, tour one of the most impressive archaeological sites on the tour. See temples, the Celsus library, the theatre, slope houses, and the Church of Mary. Visit an Archaeological Museum and the Church of St. John. Tour a workshop where you can purchase Turkish carpets to ship home.

Thursday, May 28 Canakkale, Turkey

Travel to Pergamum, the location of one of the 7 churches of Revelation. Visit the Acropolis, the

Temples of Athena and Tiberius, the altar of Zeus, the world's steepest amphitheatre, and the Asklepiion. Travel to Troy (near Troas where Paul left for Macedonia) and see the oldest remains on our tour (14th c. BCE) and the giant replica of the famous Trojan wooden horse.

Friday, May 29 Kavala, Greece

Take a ferry ride across the Dardanelles Strait. See Gallipoli's WWI battlefields and drive to the Greek border. Continue to Kavala (biblical Neapolis) where Paul first arrived in Europe.

Saturday, May 30 Thessaloniki, Greece

Visit the traditional site of Lydia's baptism, then the ruins of Philippi where Paul established the first European church. Walk the same road Paul travelled to Thessaloniki. Visit the agora, the church of St. Demetrius, the Arch of Galerius, and the Rotunda—which has been a Roman mausoleum, a church, and a mosque.

Sunday, May 31 Kalambaka, Greece

In Veria (biblical Beroea), see the mosaic commemorating Paul's mission, the ancient Church of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the old Jewish quarter. At a museum in Vergina, learn about the father of Alexander the Great, King Philip II of Macedon, and see his royal tomb. Either late today or early tomorrow, tour one of the Greek Orthodox monasteries built on immense natural rock pillars high above the Meteora plains.

Monday, June 1 Delphi, Greece

Watch or participate in an icon painting workshop before continuing to Delphi, ancient home of the

Temple of Apollo and the Oracle of Delphi. Tour the site either in the afternoon or the following morning.

Tuesday, June 2 Tolo, Greece

Continue through southern Greece with a stop at the monastery of Osios Loukas. Travel across the Corinth Canal to the Peloponnese Peninsula, stopping at Epidaurus, the most important site of the Greek god of healing, and the best-preserved Greek theatre. If time permits, pause at Nafplio, the first capital of Greece following Ottoman rule.

Wednesday, June 3 Athens, Greece

Potentially visit ancient Mycenae on the way to Corinth, where Paul worked for three years. In Corinth, explore significant sites including the ruins of the ancient city and first-century shops, the Fountain of Peirene, the agora, the Temple of Apollo, and an excellent small museum. Pause for a time of worship. On the way to Athens, pass by the site of Cenchreae, home of the church leader, Phoebe. Take a guided city tour of Athens.

Thursday, June 4 Athens, Greece

Explore more famous and important ancient sites in Athens—including the Acropolis with the Parthenon, the Areopagus on Mars Hill, and the Agora. During free time you may choose to shop, wander the city, or relax. Enjoy a farewell dinner together in Plaka, Athens' old town.

Friday, June 5

Depart for home with new insight into Paul's travels and teachings, and the life of the early church.

Optional Italy Extension Itinerary

Friday, June 5 Overnight Ferry

Continue your travels after the main tour by boarding an overnight ferry from Patra to Pompeii.

Saturday, June 6 Naples of Pozzuoli

Spend the day exploring the remarkably intact remains of Pompeii. Although Paul never travelled to this city buried by volcanic ash in 79 AD, it can help you understand the Roman world as Paul knew it. The Roman houses of Pompeii will give you a glimpse of what early Christian house churches were like.

Sunday, June 7 Rome

Travel to the Eternal City of Rome. Experience some of the wonders of ancient Rome on a tour including the famous Coliseum, the Roman Forum with the Arch of Titus, and the Augustan Temple.

Monday, June 8 Rome

Continue to explore Rome. See the Museum of the Altar of Augustan Peace. Visit the St. Prisca church, and perhaps see the ancient Mithraeum (temple to the Roman god Mithras) beneath it. Visit the Insula di San Paolo alla Regola, the location of Paul's first visit and house arrest. After lunch, visit Rome's famous catacombs and view some of the earliest Christian art on the walls of these vast ancient passageways. Continue to the Abbey of the Three Fountains—where Paul was martyred. End your tour at the great apostle Paul's final resting place, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Tuesday, June 9

Depending on your departure time, you may take an optional half-day tour of the Vatican, featuring important religious and cultural sites.

Main Tour Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$ 5,495, Single Supplement \$1,031

USD: Double Occupancy \$ 4,334, Single Supplement \$ 813

Main Tour Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Land transportation during tour
- Group airport transfers
- Transfer to Greek border; border crossing fee
- Bosphorus cruise and Cannakale ferry crossing
- All entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- Expert tour leaders and local guides
- Whisper headsets
- Greek residence tax
- All breakfasts, all dinners, 1 lunch
- Gratuities to coach driver, in-country guides, and group meals

Main Tour Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfers separate from group
- Lunches; drinks with meals
- Porterage
- Tourist visa for Turkey
- Travel medical (out of country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect Dec. 2018. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Italy Extension Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$ 2,098, Single Supplement \$175

USD: Double Occupancy \$1,624, Single Supplement \$136

Extension Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Bus transportation from June 6-8
- Group airport transfers
- City bus toll and hotel tax
- Entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- Expert tour leaders and local guides
- Whisper headsets
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Porterage at hotels
- Gratuities to coach driver, in-country guides, and group meals

Extension Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfers separate from group
- Porterage at airport
- Additional transportation
- Ferry to Pompeii
- Optional Vatican Museum Tour
- Lunches; drinks with meals
- Travel medical (out of country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

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