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Your Trip Name Here with Your Name Here

Your Trip Dates Here

\$x,xxx includes round-trip airfare (Includes: U.S. and Intl. departure taxes and std. gratuities)

Contact Devotion Travel at
310-857-5000
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to Custom Design your
Group Trip.



Day 1 • Departure from U.S.

We leave Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for our flight to Istanbul, Turkey.

Day 2 • Arrive in Istanbul

After arriving in Istanbul, we transfer to our hotel. Tonight we go out for dinner, our first taste of delicious Turkish cuisine!

Day 3 • Istanbul/Canakkale

This morning we leave Istanbul for the ancient city of Troy, driving along the north shore of the Sea of Marmara and sailing across the Dardanelle straits. Here on “the windy plains of Troy” we visit the archaeological remains of the city immortalized by Homer in the Iliad, and we conjure up memories of its great heroes: Achilles, Patroclus, Hector and Ajax. Countless others have visited the 46 levels of occupation

and nine cities that comprise the archaeological site, including Alexander the Great and Lord Byron. After an in-depth tour, we check into our hotel, where we have dinner and stay the night.

Day 4 • Canakkale/Izmir

Today we head for Izmir, along the way visiting Pergamum, the third of seven churches that the risen and glorified Christ commands John to write to in the Book of Revelation. Here, the Lord says, “I know where you live—where Satan has his throne” (2:13). In Pergamum we visit the archaeological remains of this once-great city, including the Great Altar of Zeus, probably the target of the reference in Revelation. During our explorations, we also visit the Asclepieum, the great medical and healing center of the ancient world. After lunch in Pergamum, we continue on to Izmir, where we check into the hotel.



Day 5 • Izmir/Sardis/Philadelphia/Thyatira/Izmir

Today we make a day-trip to Sardis, Philadelphia and Thyatira—three more of the seven churches in Revelation. The Lord says of Sardis, “You have a reputation of being alive; but you are dead” (3:1); of Philadelphia, “I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan ... acknowledge that I have loved you” (3:9); and of Thyatira, “I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess” (2:20). Few people have actually seen the archaeological remains of these communities, and today we join their ranks! The end of the day finds us back at our hotel in Izmir, where we have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6 • Izmir/Kusadasi

This morning we leave Izmir for Kusadasi, where we visit the stunning archaeological remains of Ephesus. Before proceeding to the site, we drive up a mountain to the traditional site of Mary’s house, where we celebrate Mass.

After Mass we descend the mountain to Ephesus, the largest and most complete archaeological site in Turkey—and one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the world. Paul spent nearly three years in Ephesus, having “discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus” (Acts 19:9), at the end of which, “all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10). Our apostle John later served as leader of the church in Ephesus, and it is the first of the seven churches that the Lord addresses in Revelation.

In the afternoon we visit a carpet school and have the opportunity to buy some of the most beautiful carpets in the world. Beginning with the worms that produce the silk and the vegetables that provide the dye, we follow the entire process of Turkish carpet making, ending with a beautiful display of this age-old art. Unlike Egypt, Turkey prides itself on not using child labor to produce its carpets. Rather, highly skilled craftsmen and women engage in this work, for which they have been trained for years. For many of our travelers, this shopping opportunity is a highlight of our tour. Turkish carpets are among the best and most beautiful in the world.

In Kusadasi we have dinner at our hotel.

Day 7 • Kusadasi/Patmos/Kusadasi

We leave our hotel at 6:30 AM, drive to Kusadasi pier and take a private boat to Patmos Island, a 4-hour boat ride. On Patmos we visit the Monastery of St. John, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, and the grotto where tradition holds that John wrote the Book of Revelation. Mid-afternoon we depart for Kusadasi, arriving in time for dinner at our hotel.

Day 8 • Kusadasi/Pamukkale/Denizli

After Sunday morning Mass we leave Kusadasi for Pamukkale, driving through the valley of the Meander River. Along the way we visit Colossae, where Paul founded a church by “remote control” and where a man named Philemon lived, along with his slave, Onesimus. Although Paul never visited Colossae, he wrote an epistle to the church here and a personal letter to Philemon.

After Colossae we make our way to Laodicea, the last of the seven churches in Revelation and the church about which Jesus says, “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (3:17).

Next we visit Pamukkale, the site of ancient Hierapolis, with its beautiful thermal pools and cascading, white calcium cliffs.

From Hierapolis we continue on to Denizli, where we spend the night.

Day 9 • Denizli/Antalya

We leave Denizli this morning for the long drive to Pisidian Antioch. In the afternoon we tour the archaeological site where Paul preached his first recorded sermon, and we study this sermon in the remains of the synagogue where Paul stood! After our study, we head south to Antalya and a late arrival at our hotel, where we have dinner.

Day 10 • Antalya

This morning we take a short drive north to Perge, where Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. Here we visit the theatre and the temple of Artemis. We then drive a half hour to Aspendos, visiting one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman theaters of antiquity. This afternoon we return to Antalya for lunch and a free afternoon. We have dinner tonight at our hotel.

Day 11 • Antalya/Ankara

This morning we have some free time till mid-day and we will drive to Antalya Airport for our flight to Ankara. On arriving at Ankara Airport, you will be transferred to our Hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 12 • Ankara

Today, we will explore the city of Ankara. We will visit the Anatolian Civilization Museum, where are displayed numerous remnants from the Stone Age, Neolithic Age, Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and many other civilizations. A short walk to Ankara Castle will give us a nice panoramic view of the city. Then we will drive to the Mausoleum of Ataturk (founder of the modern Turkish Republic).

In the afternoon, we visit the Temple of Augustus. East of Julian's Column and next to Haci Bayram Mosque are the ruins of a temple standing on a site that initially was a temple to Cybele, an incarnation of the Mother Goddess associated with Anatolia. Byzantium claimed it for the Eastern Church until Muslims built a Mosque on the site, next to the tomb of Haci Bayram. After that we walk to the Old Roman Baths, whose

ground plan is clearly visible. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 13 • Ankara/Iznik/Istanbul

After breakfast, we drive to Iznik (Nicaea), historically famous for hosting the First Ecumenical Council of the church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Upon arrival, we visit the Old City Walls from Roman and Byzantine periods, and the Green Mosque, beautifully decorated in light blue ceramics and built by the Ottomans. We then proceed to the remains of the St. Sophia Church, the site of the Second Council of Nicaea in 787 AD, and see the remains of the mosaic floor and frescoes. Then we will visit the Iznik porcelain workshops to see how the world famous Iznik tiles and other ceramics are traditionally crafted. We then return to Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

Day 14 • Istanbul

On our last day in Turkey, we tour Istanbul, visiting the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar. Istanbul is a beautiful city—one of the most beautiful in the world—and today we will enjoy it fully. This evening, we will board a private ferry where we will cruise the Bosphorus running between Europe and Asia. Following the cruise, we have our farewell dinner at the Angel Blue fish Restaurant, and we bid farewell to our Turkish adventure.

Day 15 • Departure Istanbul

Meet at the hotel lobby and transfer to the Istanbul Airport for your flight home.

Note: The sequences in which sights are visited may be adjusted and is subject to change.

