

**Your Trip Name**

**Your Trip Dates**

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## Days 1 • Arrival in Istanbul

Upon Arrival in Istanbul we will transfer to our hotel near the airport, where we will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Pilgrimage, have dinner, and a good night's sleep.

## Day 2 • Flight to Izmir

After an early morning flight to Izmir (ancient Smyrna), we will go immediately to the historic Church of St. Polycarp for Mass and a reflection in the garden. We'll then have lunch in a wonderful fish restaurant by the waterfront, and have some free time. An hour-long bus ride will take us to Kuşadası, near Ephesus, where we will spend three nights.

## Day 3 • Ephesus

This will be a full day in ancient Ephesus, where we will visit the Roman ruins, the Terrace Houses (similar to those St. Paul's early Christian community would have gathered), the Double Church of the Mother of God (the site of the Council of Ephesus in 431), St. Luke's Tomb, the Cave of the Seven Sleepers, the Site of the Temple of Artemis, the Basilica and Tomb of St. John the Evangelist, and the Ephesus Museum. After this full day of touring, we will return to the hotel to celebrate Mass and have dinner.

## Day 4 • Ephesus: Retreat day at Mary's House

Today we will spend a full day in the peaceful setting of the House of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be several spiritual reflections, readings and time for prayer, as well as Mass, of course. To end the day we'll have a little fun at a fashion show at a local leather goods production center, with, of course, an opportunity to shop for export quality leather goods at greatly reduced prices. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Kuşadası.

## Day 5 • Hierapolis

Today we will drive to Hierapolis (Pamukkale), about 3-4 hours on the road, and after checking into the hotel, where we'll



spend two nights, we'll tour the ruins of the ancient city of Hierapolis, including the Martyrium and newly discovered Tomb of St. Philip. We will celebrate Mass back at the hotel, and have a chance to relax in the famous thermal waters of Hierapolis before dinner and bedtime.

## Day 6 • Hierapolis, Laodicea, Aphrodisias, Colossae

Today we will visit the ruins of Laodicea, still in the process of excavation and restoration, and then drive to the magnificent ruins of Aphrodisias, where we will see evidence of the early blend of pagan and Christian cultures. Following lunch at the rustic Doğa Restaurant, we'll visit the unexcavated mound of the ancient city of Colossae on the way back to our hotel. After Mass at the hotel, we'll again have a chance to soak in the thermal waters, before dinner and bedtime.

## Day 7 • Antalya

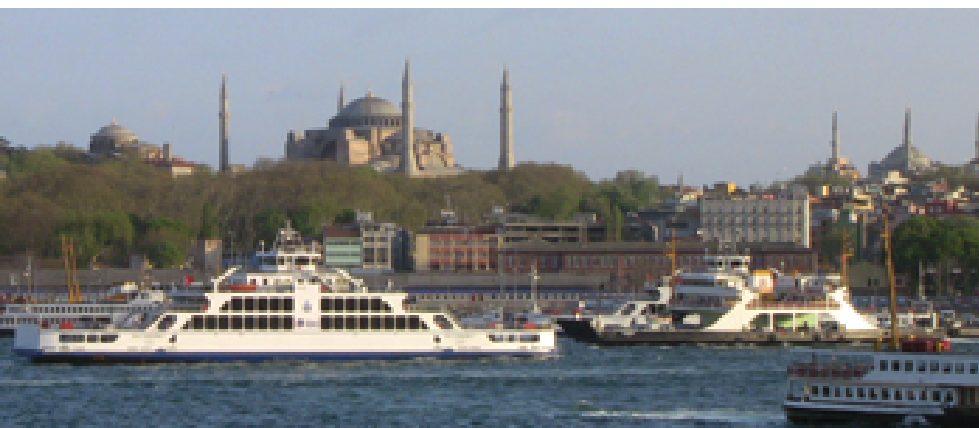
Today we will drive about four hours to Antalya (ancient Attalia), where we hope to be able to celebrate Sunday Mass in a German Catholic "House Church," St. Nikolaus Gemeinde. We will also visit the excellent Museum, and check into our hotel where we will spend three nights.

## Day 8 • Antalya, Myra, Phaselis

Today we will visit Myra, the city of St. Nicholas (a three-hour scenic drive each way) and hope to get permission to celebrate Mass at the ancient Basilica of St. Nicholas. On our way back to Antalya, we'll visit Phaselis, a picturesque ancient Lycian city. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

## Day 9 • Antalya, Perga

This morning we'll drive an hour or so to Perga, visited twice by St. Paul and an early center of Christianity. We'll return to Antalya for lunch and a tour of other sites, including a boat ride from the old harbor,



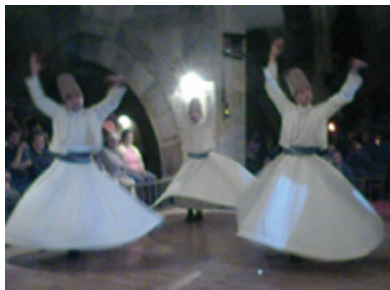
where Paul and Barnabas concluded their first missionary journey. We hope to visit, and possibly celebrate Mass at the St. Paul Cultural Center, an English-speaking Protestant community in Antalya.

#### **Day 10 • Aspendos, Derbe, Lystra, Catalhöyük, Konya**

Today we will travel from Antalya to Konya, approximately five hours total driving time. The trip will take all day, however, because we will stop at Aspendos, site of one of the best-preserved Roman theaters, still in use for concerts and plays. We'll have lunch in a small village restaurant in the Taurus Mountains, and drive past the unexcavated mounds of Derbe and Lystra, sites of St. Paul's missionary activities. Then, we'll stop for a tour of Catalhöyük, a fascinating active archaeological site where a 9,000-year-old neolithic farming settlement is being excavated and studied. When we arrive at Konya (ancient Iconium, one of the centers of St. Paul's missionary activity), we'll check into the hotel, and have dinner before bedtime after a long day. We'll spend only one night in Konya.

#### **Day 11 • Konya, Cappadocia**

We'll leave the hotel early to get to the little St. Paul Church in the heart of the city for Mass at 8 am. There we will have a chance to visit with Sisters Serena and Isabella and learn of their mission of presence and service with no resident priest and no permanent Catholic community. Following a visit to the Tomb of Mevlana (Rumi), the 13th-century Sufi mystic, poet, and philosopher who founded the order of the Whirling Dervishes, we'll drive to Cappadocia, about a four hour drive. Along the way we'll visit the Sultanhanı Caravanserai, one of the many places of rest and hospitality along the ancient Silk Road. We'll spend three nights in Cappadocia.



#### **Days 12 - 14 • Cappadocia**

We'll have three days to explore the wonders of Cappadocia, which boasts one of the most fantastic landscapes in the world, as well as traces of ancient Christian and pre-Christian life. The great theologians who helped to formulate the way we express our belief in Christ and the Trinity came from



here. Many rock carved monasteries and churches, as well as underground cities, give witness to an as-yet not fully understood way of life for many centuries in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages. One of the best ways to see Cappadocia will be from an optional, early morning, hot-air balloon ride. Cappadocia is also a center for the revival of ancient village carpetmaking techniques and finely crafted pottery. We will have opportunity to attend an optional sema of the Whirling Dervishes, and celebrate Mass in several cave churches. On Sunday, after a festive Mass and lunch at a small village restaurant/hotel with an ancient cave church on its own property, we'll take a late afternoon flight back to Istanbul, where we'll settle in to the Madison Hotel for four nights.



#### **Days 15-18 • Istanbul**

These three full days in Istanbul to include:

- Mass in significant Catholic churches, such as the St. Esprit Cathedral and St. Antoine Church.
- Great historic Orthodox Churches, such as the Hagia Sophia, St. Savior in Chora, Our Lady of the Mongols, Pammakaristos, Pantocrator, the cast-iron Church of St. Stephen of the Bulgars, among others.
- Great Museums, such as the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, the Topkapi Palace, and others.
- Meeting significant people, such as His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop Louis Pelatre, and Dr. Rinaldo Marmara (historian and secretary to the Turkish Bishops' Conference).
- Visiting the Mosques of Suleymaniye and Sultanahmet (Blue Mosque).
- Other places and events, such as the Hippodrome, the Basilica Cistern, and a cruise on the Bosphorus.
- Shopping at the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar, as well as the famous upscale Istiklal Street.

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