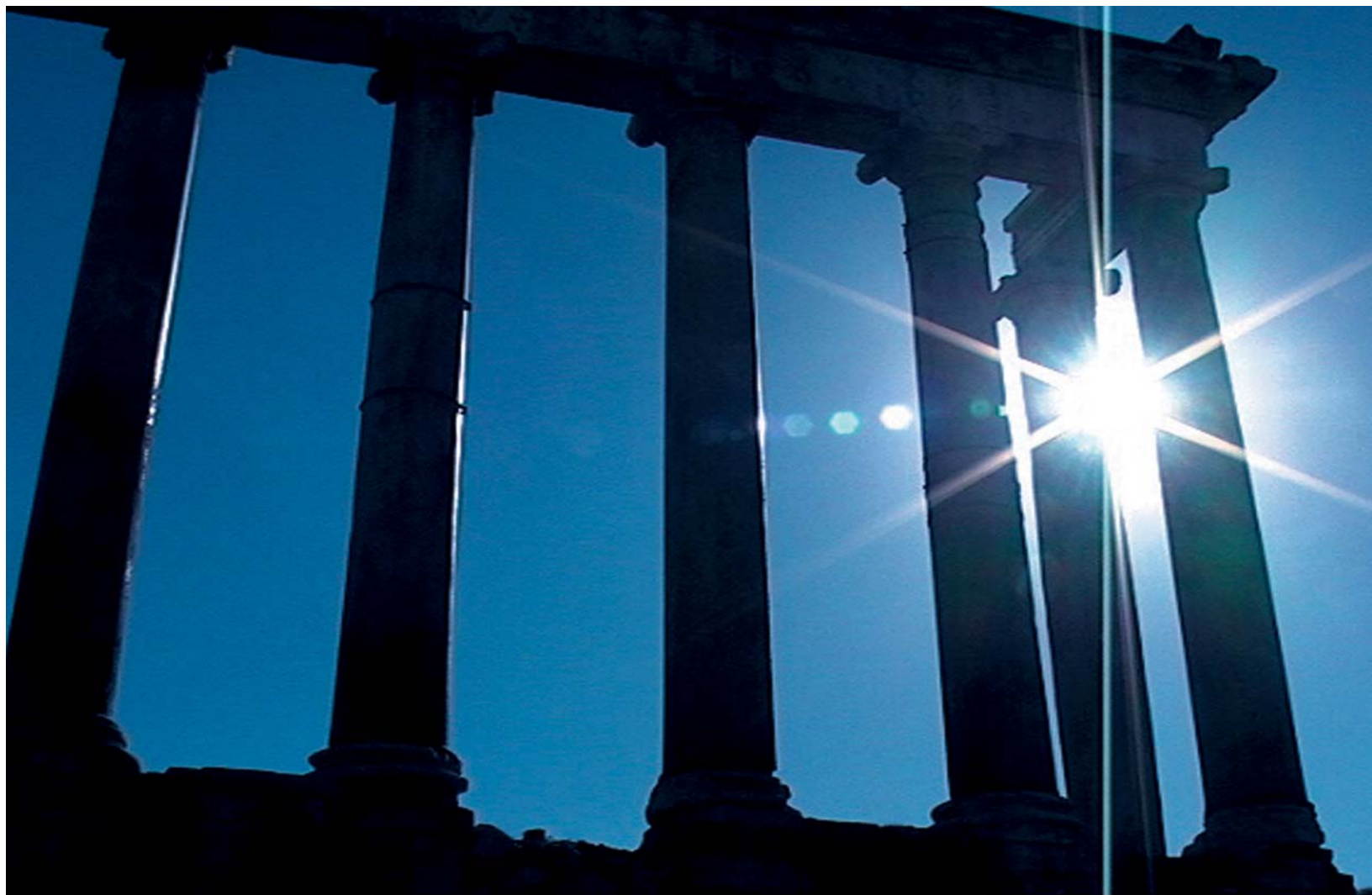


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Day 1 & 2 – Depart USA, Arrive Istanbul

Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – Istanbul

Field Trip: Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome

Visit the famous **Blue Mosque** with its six minarets and sparkling interior. Walk through **St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia)**, which was the largest church in Christendom for 1000 years. Built by Justinian (532-537 A.D.), the church has 107 columns, fossil imbedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. See the **Museum of Byzantine Art**. You will also visit the **Topkapi Palace**, once home to royal Sultans. Inside, you will see the **fabled jewels of the Treasury**, delicate displays of Chinese porcelain in the **Kitchen Quarters**, and the provocative **Harem Quarters**. Istanbul's **Byzantine Hippodrome** was the heart of Constantinople's political and sporting life, and the scene of games and riots through 500 years of Ottoman history as well. It's now a calm city park called the **At Meydani (Horse Grounds)** because of its function in Ottoman times. Later this afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight **Izmir**. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 4 – The Ministry of Paul and John in Ephesus

Field Trip: Ephesus, Roman ruins, Church of St. John.

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1: 11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today, you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You will view the **Library** and the huge **Agora**. The **Temple of Artemis** was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You will visit the **Basilica of St. John**, traditional site of his grave. From the basilica, enjoy a commanding view of the area. You will visit the **Museum of Ephesus** for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. You will have time to explore this powerful city on your own and recreate some of the footsteps of Paul.

Day 5 – Farewell to the Elders of Ephesus

Field Trip: Miletus, Priene, Didyma

Visit the excavations at **Miletus**, where Paul bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus at the end of his Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20). Though not mentioned in the Bible, **Priene** had a substantial Christian community during the Byzantine period and was the seat of a bishop. Four of Priene's bishops are known: Theosebius, present at the Council of Ephesus; Isidore, who was living in 451; Paul, present at the Council of Constantinople; and Demetrius. See the ruins of **Didyma**, whose oracle was considered second only to Delphi in the ancient Greek world.

Day 6 – The Seven Churches

Field Trip: Aphrodisias, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Colossae

Not far away is **Aphrodisias**, another town whose fame has been obscured by time. This city of marble thrived as the major center for worship of the pagan goddess Aphrodite until 500 years after Christ. **Hierapolis** is blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4: 13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You will see the impressive amphitheatre with seats still in perfect condition. You will see

the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches, which have stood through time and earthquakes. Today, the area is known as **Pamukkale**, meaning "Cotton Castle", named for the limestone-laden hot springs which cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. The Christians of **Laodicea**, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3: 14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3: 20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock . . .". Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the town of **Colossae** has fallen into obscurity. While you can still see traces of the **theatre**, the **Necropolis** and the **Church**, the ancient city is mostly indistinguishable ruins. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 7 – The Seven Churches

Field Trip: Izmir (Old Smyrna), Sardis, Philadelphia, Thyatira

The third largest city in modern Turkey is **Izmir**, long a center for Jewish and Christian communities. In Paul's day, the town was known as Smyrna. It was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2: 8-11). You will see the **Agora**, the colonnaded commercial center where Roman statues can still be seen. Travel to **Sardis**, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3: 1-6). Coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated in Sardis. Be impressed by the massive scale of the **Temple of Artemis**, by the white marble Royal Road, by the gymnasium, and by the synagogue. Visit the site of **Philadelphia** also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3: 7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem." (Rev. 3: 12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Visit **Thyatira** once a busy trading center, famous as a "seller of purple". Today, it is famous for Persian rugs. Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations, tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Overnight in Izmir.

Day 8 – The Seven Churches

Field Trip: Pergamum

Pergamum was another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations (Rev. 2: 12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which Christ hated (Rev. 2:13-17). Towering 1000 feet above the town and commanding a spectacular panorama is the fabled **Acropolis**. As you pass through the **Royal Gates**, you will enter one of the great centers of classic Greek culture. You will see the foundations of the **Temple of Zeus**, the **Temple of Athena**, and the ruins of the **Library**, which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. You will see the remains of the **Temple of Trajan**, the **Grand Theatre**, the **Gymnasium**, and the **Health Center (Aesclepiion)**. Overnight in Canakkale.

Day 9 – Paul's Ministry in Philippi

Field Trip: Philippi

Cross the **Dardanelle** by ferryboat into Greece. Continue to **Philippi**, where Paul spoke to the women gathered by the stream. Lydia, the seller of purple, had her heart open to the

words that he spoke (Acts 16) and became the first European convert to Christianity. This place is remembered with a small outdoor worship area. Nearby is a chapel whose acoustics will thrill your heart as you sing praises there! Further into Philippi, you will come across a chamber thought to have been where Paul was imprisoned here. See the famous Acropolis, Marketplace, Theater, and the remains of a great Christian Basilica that once served the Philippians. Travel to Thessaloniki for overnight.

Day 10 – Paul’s Ministry in Macedonia

Field Trip: Thessaloniki, Veria (Beroea), Vergina, Dion

Paul was accused of turning the world upside down with his preaching of Christ in **Thessalonika** (Acts 17). This city is home to the Thessalonians of his letters. Stop at **St. George’s Basilica**, built over the place tradition holds the synagogue where Paul preached once stood. Look out over the second largest city in Greece from the **Old City Ramparts**, portions of which were built in Roman times. Along the **Via Egnatia** stands the **Galerus Arch**, built to commemorate the Roman emperor’s visit to the city. Wander the halls of the local **Archaeological Museum**. The city is home to two beautiful basilicas, **St. Sophia** and **St. Demetrios**. St. Demetrios is dedicated to a distinguished Roman soldier who became a martyr for his Christian faith. **Veria (ancient Berea)** is where Paul discovered Jews and honorable Greeks who had accepted the New Faith in the local synagogue (Acts 17). Visit **Vergina**, famous as the site of the ancient city of Aigai. It is also the site of many great archeological discoveries, including the **tomb of Philip the II**, father of Alexander the Great. See the ancient city of **Dion**, an important archeological site of Macedonian culture. The village gets its name from the important sanctuary built there, which was dedicated to Zeus (Dias, “of Zeus”). Continue to Larissa for overnight.

Day 11 – Delphi

Field Trip: Sacred Way, Athenian Treasury, Theater, Temple of Apollo

Today continue your journey to **Delphi**, home to the religious center of the ancient Greeks and thought by them to be the center of the world. A conical stone marks the earth’s omphalos (“navel”). Walk the **Sacred Via** to the **Athenian Treasury**, the **Theater** and the **Temple of Apollo**. In the temple the oracle would perform the rituals of prophecy. With innumerable pagan ruins surrounding your walk, appreciate the challenge Paul faced in preaching the Gospel of Christ in Macedonia. Stop at the **Museum** where many ancient treasures are stored, including a 5th Century bronzed Charioteer so finely detailed that he even has eyelashes! Continue to **Athens** for overnight.

Day 12 – Paul’s Ministry in Athens and Corinth

Field Trip: Athens Acropolis, Areopagus (Hill of Ares or Mars Hill), the Agora, Corinthian Canal, Ancient Corinth

Enjoy the architectural splendors of the ancient city of **Athens** as you follow your guide to the world renowned **Acropolis**, the **Propylaea**, the **Parthenon**, and the **Erectheum**. View **Mars Hill** where the apostle Paul stood and said, “I found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Whom you therefore ignorantly worship, Him I declare unto you” (Acts 17:23). See the **Agora**, the ancient market place and center of Athenian public life. Here Paul preached “Jesus and the Resurrection” (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Drive to ancient **Corinth** and on the way view the amazing **Corinthian Canal**. Wander the streets of ancient Corinth, home to the tent makers Aquilla and Priscilla. Here the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, saying “I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city” (Acts 18:10). Here Crispus the chief ruler of the synagogue believed in the Lord, and many Corinthians also believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8). This was the beginning of the church at Corinth, to whom Paul would write two epistles. Stand on the **Bema** where Paul stood before the magistrate Gallo facing charges from the Jews. Walk the **Marketplace** and **Temple of Apollo**. Visit the **Archaeological Museum**. Return to Athens for overnight.

Day 13 – Return to the USA

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Prices are based on 10 or more travelling from a domestic city and are subject to change without notice.

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at www.jcbst.org

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Departure Date: **01/05/11** Departure City: _____

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first, middle and last as it appears on your passport
Mr, Mrs, Ms, Rev, Dr if different than above

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INCLUDED IN PRICE: Roundtrip Airfare, Deluxe Motorcoaches, First Class Hotels, Guided Sightseeing, Entrance fees to sites visited, Breakfast and Dinner daily; Basic Gratuities; Non-refundable Administrative Fee.

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CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is insurable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$90 non-refundable administrative fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following charges: 104-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, no refund for any services not used.

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THIS IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ASK FOR THE TRAVEL PROTECTION CERTIFICATE WHICH FULLY DETAILS THE COVERAGES, PROVISIONS, LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS OF THE PLAN OFFERED AND IS AVAILABLE TO YOU, UPON REQUEST, AT ANY TIME.

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