Greece & Turkey: The Cradle of Christianity

October 7–24, 2017

Tour Hosts: Dr. Wayne House

organized by

Tutku Tours Travel Programs Endorsed by Biblical Archaeology Society

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Greece and Turkey: The Cradle of Christianity

Dr. Wayne House, (M.A., Th.D., J.D.) is Distinguished Research Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Faith International University, and Faith Seminary, Tacoma, WA

“Explore the origins of the church in Greece and Turkey. All three of Paul’s missionary journeys were in ancient Turkey and two of them ended in Greece. Moreover, the apostle John’s ministry was centered in Ephesus where he wrote his gospel, three letters and the book of Revelation. Travel by deluxe motorcoach to the ancient cities of Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, Ephesus, Miletus, Didyma, Priene, Hierapolis and Assos. At these sites we will examine the birth, growth, trials and development of the earliest Christian congregations as they struggled not only to understand their new faith in Christ, but also as they dealt with false teachers and hostile forces opposed to the church. Likewise at the end of the first century, John wrote letters to the seven churches of Revelation which were coping with similar problems of false teaching and persecution. Thus, we will also visit the seven churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. We will cap off the trip with a tour of the island of Pamm, where John wrote the apocolypse and we will include a tour of time–honored Istanbul, where you can enjoy its rich culture, historical sites and impressive archaeological museum.

Tour Itinerary:

Oct 7 Sat DEPART NEW YORK – FLY ATHENS

Upon arrival to Athens Airport, our representatives will meet you after the customs and baggage claim with a sign “BAS – TUTKU TOURS” on it. Transfer to your hotel in Athens for dinner and overnight. (D)

Oct 8 Sun ARRRIVE ATHENS

Follow your guide to the world renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheum. View Mars Hill where the apostle Paul stood and said, “ I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:23). See the Agora, the ancient market place and center of the Athenian public life, where the apostle Paul preached “Jesus and the resurrection” (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical apostle Paul preached “Jesus and the resurrection” (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical.

Oct 9 Mon ATHENS

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Oct 10 Tue CORINTH and CENCHRAEAE – ATHENS

In Corinth, the city where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla, the tent makers, and where the Lord spoke to Paul by 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). Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place and Temples. Walk among the ruins and stand on the Bema where Paul stood before Gallio facing charges brought by the Jews that were dropped. Paul stayed awhile in Corinth before leaving for Syria from the port at Cenchraeae (Acts 18: 12-18). Overnight in Athens. (B,D)

Oct 11 Wed DELPHI – METEORA – KALAMBKA

Travel to scenic Delphi, the religious center of the ancient Greek world. Walk the Sacra Via to the Athenian Treasury, the Theatre, and the Temple of Apollo where the oracle performed his or her prophetic rituals. Visit the Museum. Drive to Kalamaka to visit the rock forest of Meteor in western Thessaly and ponder the rough terrain in which the apostle Paul during his missionary journey. See famous Byzantine monasteries perch precariously on summits of soaring, sheer-sided grey rock pinacles of varied and spectacular shapes. Visit one of these monasteries. Dinner and overnight in Kalamaka. (B,D)

Oct 12 Thu VERIA – THESSALONIKI

Short stop at Veria (Berea) (Act 17: 10-12). Continue on to Thessaloniki, the city where Paul was accused of turning the world upside down by his preaching of Christ (Acts 17: 3-6), and the church to which he addressed his Thessalonians epistles, visit St. George’s Basilica, where tradition holds it is built over the synagouge where Paul preached. View the Old City Ramparts, and the Galerius Arch that rises over the Via Egnatia. Visit the Archaeological Museum. See two of the most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Sophia and St. Demetrios, dedicated to a distinguished member of the Roman army and a martyred Christian convert. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. (B,D)

Oct 13 Fri AMPHIPOLIS – PHILIPPI – KAVALA

Drive to Philippi, where Paul, intending to find a place to pray by the riverside, spoked to women who had gathered there among whom was Lydia, the seller of purple and whose heart the Lord opened to hear the words that he spoke (Acts 16:13-15). Lydia was the first Christian to be baptized on European soil. Visit the place where this event is remembered and see a crypt dating from the Roman period, which is thought to have served as a prison for the apostle Paul. See the famous Acropolis, the Market Place, the Basilica, and the Theater. Overnight in the Kavala area. (B,D)

Oct 14 Sat ALEXANDROPOLIS – TURKEY BORDER – DRIVE ISTANBUL

Depart Kavala. Short visit to Alexandropolis. Drive to the Greece-Turkey border. Transfer to your Turkish bus and guide, and continue to Istanbul (about 5 hours drive after the border) for dinner and overnight. Istanbul is the only city in the world spanning on two continents. Overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

Oct 15 Sun ISTANBUL

Full day Istanbul tour; visit the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, Hagia Sophia Church, built by Constantin in the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the world’s greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site. Then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Evening, slide show & presentation of the major Biblical sites in Turkey. (B,D)

Oct 16 Mon ISTANBUL – TROY – ALEXANDER TROAS (Acts 16:8-11; 20:5, 6; II Tim. 4:13, II Cor. 2:12) – ASSOS

Drive to Canakkale. Cross the Dardanelles Strait by car ferry. Proceed to Troy to see the legendary city and the replica of the Wooden Horse. Continue to Alexandrian Troas, founded by Alexander the Great. Paul visited here at least twice. Dinner and overnight in Assos. (B,D)
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Travel to the heart of the ancient world, the Bible, and early Christianity, walk in the footsteps of Paul and John.

**Oct 17 Tue** ASSOS – PERGAMON (Rev. 1:11; 2:12) – BERGAMA
Morning tour of Assos. Leave for Pergamon. Visit the Acropolis with the steepest theater of the ancient world and the Temple of Trajan. Then visit the Red Basilica which was an Egyptian Temple, later converted to a church. Dinner and overnight in Bergama. (B,D)

**Oct 18 Wed** BERGAMA – THYATIRA – SMYRNA (Rev. 1:11; 2:8) – IZMIR
Drive to Akhisa town to visit the remaining of the Thyatira Church. Then, continue to Izmir to see the Smyrna Agora and its latest excavations. We will also visit the graffiti section which is closed to public. Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

**Oct 19 Thu** EPHESUS – IZMIR

**Oct 20 Fri** SARDIS (Rev. 1:11; 3:1-4) – PHILADELPHIA (Rev. 1:11; 3:7) – PAMUKKALE
Drive to Sardis, capital of the ancient Lydia where first coin of the world was invented. See the remains of the massive Artemis Temple. Continue to Hierapolis, World Heritage site and site of the church mentioned in Colossians 4. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Pamukkale. (B,D)

**Oct 21 Sat** HIERAPOLIS – LAODICEA (Col 2:1; 4:13-16, Rev. 1:11; 3:14) – COLOSSAE – PAMUKKALE
Morning tour of Hierapolis. See the Philip’s Tomb. Drive to nearby Laodicea to see the latest excavations. Then, drive to Colossae to see the unexcavated site. Return to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**Oct 22 Sun** APHRODISIAS – PRIENE – MILETUS – KUSADASI
Drive to Aphrodisias, the city of the Goddess of Love. See the well preserved stadium, the Odeon, the theater and the agora. Continue to Miletus which, due to its four harbors and strategic location on the Aegean coast of Asia Minor, became one of the great cities of commerce in the ancient world. Paul stopped in Miletus on the return leg of his third missionary journey where he summoned the elders from Ephesus to meet with him and hear his poignant farewell speech (Acts 20:17-35). After Miletus, we will visit the nearby city of Priene located on a cliff-side. In the late afternoon, we drive back to Kusadasi. (B,D)

**Oct 23 Mon** PATMOS – KUSADASI
We will take the 06:30 am ferry to Patmos. Arrive Patmos at 11:00 am. Visit the Cave of Revelation and the Basilica of John. Return to Kusadasi at 7:00 pm. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi. (B,D)

**Oct 24 Tue** TRANSFER TO IZMIR AIRPORT – FLY BACK TO NEW YORK

**TOUR MAP**

**INCLUDING**
- International Air Fare between New York – Athens & Izmir-New York
- Izmir–Istanbul domestic flight
- 3 Nights at 4 star Parthenon Hotel in Athens
- 1 Night at 3 star Meteoritis Hotel in Kalambaka
- 1 Night at 4 star Grand Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki
- 1 Night at 3 star Esperia Hotel in Kavala
- 2 Nights at 4 star Grand Halic Hotel in Istanbul
- 1 Night at 4 star Assos Dove Hotel in Assos
- 1 Night at La Bella Hotel in Bergama
- 2 Nights at 4 star Ege Palas Hotel in Izmir
- 2 Nights at 4 star Colossae Hotel in Pamukkale
- 2 Nights at 4 star Ramada Hotel in Kusadasi
- Daily breakfast and 16 dinners at the hotels
- All transportation by private AC Bus
- English Speaking, Government Licensed, Bible Oriented guides in Turkey and Greece
- All Entry fees to the sites and museums
- Sightsseeing as per the itinerary
- Attendance to the Ephesus Meeting
- Service charges and local taxes
- Tips to Tour Guide and drivers

**EXCLUDING**
- Turkish Visa Fee to be paid online prior to arrival [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr)
- Lunches and Drinks (Bottled Water is included)
- Personal Expenses (Laundry, phone calls, all kind of insurances, etc)

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**$ 4,990 Per Person in Double**
**$ 1,090 Single Supplement**

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PAYMENT PROCEDURE:

– $200 per person Deposit  : January 15, 2017
– Full Payment  : July 15, 2017

15 Days prior to departure: You will receive all the travel documents and the e-tickets.

Cancellation Penalty:
– 90–60 days prior to departure: No Penalty
– 59–45 days prior to departure: 25%
– 44–30 days prior to departure: 50%
– 29–15 days prior to departure: 75%
– 14 days & After  No refund

Air Cancellation Policy: We will be liable to the airlines standard rules for any name changes, dates changes or cancellations.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance may be purchased separately at an extra cost. Travel Insurance is a contract between the traveller and the Insurance Company (American Express, or other). To obtain your travel insurance, please call 1–800–TURKIYE and ask for Ms. Ayata.

Turkish Visa: US and Canadian citizens can get the Turkish Visa online before arrival. [https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/apply](https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/apply). Citizens of ALL other countries are responsible for checking their own countries’ visa regulations for Greece and Turkey.

Itinerary and site visits are subject to change and/or substitution depending on availability of site access.

For Registration please contact:

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