

**TURKEY & GREECE
JOURNEY
19 MARCH – 02 APRIL, 2011
ITINERARY OVERVIEW**

hosted by
Pastors Bob & Wendy Beasley

SAT. 19 MARCH: Canada to Istanbul

Today we depart from Toronto on our overnight flight to Istanbul. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

SUN. 20 MARCH: Istanbul

Upon arrival at Istanbul we will follow passport and visa formalities and meet our Turkish tour manager and driver. Driving through the Marmara region we arrive at the gateway between Europe and Asia, Istanbul (Constantinople.) Here we check-in to **The President Hotel**, for the next two nights. Dinner is at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**

MON. 21 MARCH: Istanbul

After breakfast we enjoy our full day visiting historic Istanbul. Visit the **Hagia Sophia Museum** (built in the 6th century), the **Topkapi Palace** with priceless collections of jewelry and rare porcelain, the **Blue Mosque**, famous for its blue Iznik tiles, the **Hippodrome Square** where ancient chariot races were held, and the **Grand Covered Bazaar** in search of treasures. Dinner will be served at our hotel. **(B,D)**

TUE. 22 MARCH: Istanbul, Adana

This morning we begin with a visit to take in the aromas of the **Egyptian Spice Market**, followed by a boat tour on the **Bosphorus**, viewing the picturesque beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side. In the afternoon visit of the **St. Sauveur in Chora** church, containing the most beautiful Byzantine mosaics in the Mediterranean! At the end of our afternoon we depart for the airport and board our flight to the region of central Anatolya and the airport of **Kayseri**. From here we drive to Cappadocia where we check-in for dinner and overnight stay at the hotel **Peri Tower hotel**. **(B,D)**

WED. 23 MARCH: Cappadocia

This morning we drive through the staggering geological Central Anatolian region of **Cappadocia**. Truly one of the most unique landscapes in the world, it was here that early inhabitants carved into the soft volcanic rock to create underground dwellings, which eventually grew to become entire cities. Over one thousand elaborate places of worship, Early Churches, were carved out from the landscape. Many of the lavishly decorated frescoes, from as early as 5th century, can be seen today. Sometimes as many as six thousand Christians escaped from persecution by hiding in this region.

Our overnight and dinner will be back at **The Peri Tower Hotel**. **(B,D)**

THU. 24 MARCH: Cappadocia

Today we remain in the Cappadocia region and spend the full day exploring such sights as **the Goreme open air museum, the underground city of Kaymakli, the pottery town of Avanos, the natural Citadel of Uchisar, the monastic Zelve valley and the carpet factory**.

Our afternoon sees us travel west towards the Aegean coast. Our first stop is the ancient mystic city of **Konya**. Here we will visit the **Mevlana Museum** and the **Whirling Dervish Monastery**, before arriving at our hotel, **The Ozkaymak**, for dinner and overnight stay. **(B,D)**

FRI 25 MARCH: Pisidian Antioch, Laodicea.

Today our journey follows that of Paul and Barnabas as we stop in **Pisidian Antioch**. Here we will visit the site of the synagogue that Paul visited during his journey. The ruins of an early Byzantine church are still visible with a mosaic of Psalm 42:4 found during recent excavations.

From here we enjoy a scenic journey through the mountains of Galatia until we arrive at ancient cities of **Colossae** and **Laodicea**.

Laodicea- The "luke warm" church that is neither hot nor cold. (Rev. 3:14-22)

Our day ends with a visit to the natural salt flats of **Pamukkale**, a truly spectacular sight indeed!

Dinner and overnight stay will be at **The Lycus River Hotel**. **(B,D)**

SAT. 26 MARCH: Ephesus

Today we have a full day visit to the unforgettable ruins of **Ephesus**:- The ‘desirable church’ that left its first love! (Rev. 2:1-7.)

In the ancient world, Ephesus was a center of travel and commerce. Situated on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of the Cayster River, the city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world. It was here that Paul visited, whilst on his return to Israel, but was forced to leave the city, vowing to return.

He never returned to Ephesus but, instead, held council from Melitus during his Third journey. Our day also includes a visit to the church of Apostle John.

Dinner is back at our hotel, **The Marina Hotel**, Kusadasi **(B,D)**

SUN. 27 MARCH: PRIENE-MILETUS -DIDYMA

Depart for Priene the first planned city of the ancient world. Visit the Theatre, the Temple of Athena, the Prytaneum, the Agora and the fish market and the Altar of Zeus. Proceed to Miletus, one of the principal Ionian cities and home of Thales. Visit the very well preserved Theatre, the Byzantine Fortress, the Delphinion, the Nymphanion, the Bouleterion, the Faustina baths and the mosque. Then continue to Didyma and visit the Temple of Apollo with its gigantic columns.

Later this afternoon we will return to Kusadasi and our hotel. **(B,D)**

MON. 28 MARCH: Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis

After breakfast we depart for a day visiting some more sights of the Seven Churches of Revelation.

Smyrna- The persecuted church that suffered poverty and martyrdom! (Rev. 2:8-11.)

Pergamum- The worldly church that mixed doctrines and needed to repent! (Rev. 2:12-17.)

Thyatira- The false church that followed a seductive prophethess (Rev. 2:18-29.)

A truly memorable day ends with a return to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.**(B,D)**

TUE. 29 MARCH: Izmir to Istanbul

This morning we take our domestic flight from Izmir to Istanbul. Upon arrival at Istanbul we shall drive to the border with Greece and say “goodbye” to our Turkish guide and “hello” to our Greek guide. Our resting point this evening is Kavala (ancient Neapolis) where we will have dinner and overnight stay. **(B,D)**

WED 30 MARCH: Philippi, Thessalonika

After our breakfast we depart for **Philippi**, where Paul established a large church. This church was very near and dear to Paul’s heart. (Acts 16:9-33)

Here we also visit the river where Lydia was baptized and the prison where Paul and Syllas were kept captive.

From Philippi we head towards Thessalonika where we learn about Paul’s teachings at the old synagogue. (Acts 17:1-4)

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

THU 31 MARCH: Berea and Athens

After breakfast we leave Macedonia and head south to Berea where we see the beautiful mosaics depicting Paul’s teachings to the Jews. (Acts 17:10-11) journeys.

Our final stop will be Athens where we shall visit the **Acropolis** and **Mars Hill** (Acts 17:16-30), before checking into our hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

FRI01 APRIL: Corinth and Athens

After breakfast we will embark on the short journey to ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-17). Situated between Athens and Sparta the archeological ruins of this city offer a wonderful insight into life at the time of Paul’s visit during his second and third journeys. Dinner will be at a local restaurant this evening.**(B,D)**

SAT. 02 APRIL: Homeward bound.

After breakfast we board our morning flight and depart, via Istanbul, for home. Our flights bring us back to Toronto in the late afternoon. Complimentary in flight service is provided on our flights, including breakfast and lunch. **(B,L)**

B = Breakfast. L = Lunch. D = Dinner.

Please read the following page for journey pricing and inclusions

**TURKEY & GREECE
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19 MARCH – 02 APRIL, 2010
INFORMATION**

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Toronto. Fares from other cities available upon request.

Hotels: First class hotels.

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner daily with tea and coffee.

Transportation: Air conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

Sightseeing: Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

Tour Guide : Government licensed Tour guide, will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

Porterage: One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches . (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

Any increased in fuel surcharges by the airline.

Any increases in Currency as noted above 3% surcharge if paying by credit card

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Please call us for prices

Turkish Entry Visa: USD \$60

Optional:

Bus from Chatham – CAD \$100 per person

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport, valid to 02 October 2011. Canadian and USA passport holders purchase their Turkish entry visa upon arrival into Turkey.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A deposit of \$400 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. \$200 of the deposit is non-refundable for administration costs. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable after 19 January 2011.

Fuel surcharges: These are included in the pricing but are subject to change.

Currency surcharge: If, in the event that the Canadian dollar devalues by over 7% between the time of printing and 90 days before departure, Vellinga's Travel may levy a currency surcharge.

Travel Insurance: Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against any cancellation penalties.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.

15 DAY TOUR PROGRAM

TORONTO PRICE:	CAD\$4435
AIR TAXES/FUEL SCHGE:	CAD\$ 390
GRATUITIES:	CAD\$ 160
TOTAL:	CAD\$ 4985
TURKISH ENTRY VISA (paid upon arrival)	USD \$60
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	CAD\$ 995

**Vellinga's Travel/Cruise Holidays
244 Queen Street, Chatham, ON N7M 5K3
Phone: 1 877 352-5150 519-352-5150
Email: grace@cruiseholidays.com
Website: www.vellingastravel.com**