

Exploring Revelation through the Footsteps of Paul

Turkey / Greece

11-Day Land & Cruise Journey

With Hosts John Eytchison & Jackie Lee (TBCTL-USA)

Guided by Omer Eshel (CEO TBCTL)

September 10—20, 2023



11-Day Land and Cruise Tour Price: \$4,890

Prices are per person, double occupancy (two people per room)

Single Room Supplement: \$995

Each Traveler Must Have:

- Current US Passport valid until at least six months AFTER the return date
- Turkish Visa Fee (\$50 per person) to be paid online before arrival (www.evisa.gov.tr)
- Travel insurance

Your Tour Includes:

- First class and deluxe hotels
- International roundtrip airfare from Chicago, Illinois
- Land transportation via a deluxe motor coach (wi-fi equipped)
- Professional tour guide and driver
- Entrance fees to all activities listed on the itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner daily (lunch is purchased on own EXCEPT while on cruise ship)
- Luggage handling at hotels
- Tips to hotel and restaurant staff
- Service charges and local taxes
- Port taxes

Your Tour Does NOT Include:

- Domestic travel to/from Chicago, Illinois
- Travel insurance
- Turkish Visa Fee (\$50 per person) to be paid online before arrival (www.evisa.gov.tr)
- Gratuities for guide and driver (please allow \$120 per person)

Payment Schedule:

- \$300 NON-REFUNDABLE Registration Fee is due at the time of registration
- Half of remaining balance due Thursday, April 13, 2023
- Remaining balance must be received no later than Tuesday, June 27, 2023

REGISTER Online at: www.tbctl-usa.com

For questions contact Jackie Lee

Email: jackie@tbctl-usa.com



Hierapolis City Ruin in Pamukkale



Ancient Ephesus from Selcuk and Kusadasi

Day 1: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Today we depart on our *Exploring Revelation through the Footsteps of Paul* journey from Chicago, IL on our overnight flight to **Turkey**.

Day 2: Monday, September 11, 2023

Upon arrival in **Turkey**, we will transfer to our hotel in **Izmir** where we will stay for the next two evenings. We will enjoy a relaxing evening at our hotel facilities. **Izmir** is the third largest city in **Turkey** and a long time center for Jews and Christians.

Day 3: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for **Pergamum**. The church of **Pergamum** was praised for its forbearance; (Rev. 2:12-17) it was here that the first Christians were executed by Rome. We'll visit **Acropolis**, pass through the **Royal Gates**, view the foundations of the **Altar of Zeus** and visit the **ruins of the Library** (which once held 200,000 volumes). Next we travel to **Thyatira** viewing the ancient roadway and period columns. **Thyatira** was once a busy trading center and famous as a "seller of purple."

Afterward we will return to **Izmir**. In Paul's day, Izmir was known as **Smyrna** and was another of the Seven Churches (Rev. 2:8-11). Dinner and overnight at our **Izmir** hotel.

Day 4: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll see **Polycarp's Church** and visit the **ancient Roman Agora**. Then, we travel to **Sardis**, which John condemned for its facade of strength when, in reality, it was weak (Rev. 3:1-6). Here coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated. We'll visit the **Gymnasium** and **Synagogue**. Our next stop is nearby **Philadelphia** from where we are challenged to "hold fast" and look forward to the coming of the "new Jerusalem" (Rev. 3:7-13). Only the ancient wall and a portion of a Byzantine basilica remain in the modern city of **Alasehir**. Dinner and overnight at our **Pamukkale** hotel.

Day 5: Thursday, September 14, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we will visit **Hierapolis**, meaning "Sacred City." **Hierapolis** was an ancient center for pagan cults until it was transformed into a Christian center in the first century. According to tradition, the Apostle Philip lived and was martyred in **Hierapolis**. It was likely the hot springs of **Hierapolis** (in contrast to the cold mountain springs near **Colossae**) that combined to bring application to the "lukewarm" Laodiceans (Rev 3:14-22). This connection between the cities lies behind Paul's reference to **Hierapolis** and **Laodicea** in his epistle to the **Colossians** (Col 4:13). **Laodicea** contains many acres of ruins to visit including a **stadium** and **remnants of a sophisticated water system**. Nearby **Colossae** is well-known throughout Christian circles as the receiver of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Today, the town has fallen into obscurity and nothing remains. We spend the remainder of the day traveling through the Turkish countryside arriving in the port city of **Kusadasi** where we spend two nights. Dinner and overnight at our **Kusadasi** hotel.

Day 6: Friday, September 15, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we will travel to the nearby town of **Selcuk** for a visit of ancient **Ephesus**. Ephesus was once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. Today you can still see the spectacular excavations of the major streets in this ancient city. We will view the **Library, Agora, Theatre, colorful mosaics** in the **aristocratic Terrace Houses**, and a **panoramic outlook of the surrounding ancient port area** (including a wealth of church history and cultural insight). Then we continue with a visit to the **Basilica Church of St. John**, which houses an immersion baptismal and is believed to be resting place of John. From here we have an excellent overview of the **Ephesus harbor**, the **Mosque of Jesus**, and can see the site of the **Temple of Artemis**, which is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Dinner and overnight at our **Kusadasi** hotel.



Isle of Patmos



Palace of Knossos; Heraklion

Day 7: Saturday, September 16, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark our cruise ship and sail for a visit to the beautiful **Isle of Patmos**, which is under statutory protection as a historic monument. Here we have a tour to see the fortified **monastery of St. John** and the cave claimed to be where John received the Revelation. Afterward we return to the ship for dinner and overnight.

Day 8: Sunday, September 17, 2023

After breakfast on the cruise ship, we will visit **Crete**, the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands. We will tour **Heraklion** and the amazing ruins of the **Palace of Knossos**. Discovered in 1899 and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. This afternoon we will visit the **island of Santorini** which is perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. We will view some of the most spectacular scenery of the **Aegean**. Travel through countless villages and settlements with delicate architecture and beauties eventually arriving in **Oia**. While in **Oia**, we will see the many narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques. Upon returning to the ship, we view the **lace-like caldera**, the **little islands of Thirasia, Palea, and NeaKameni**. We arrive at the ship for dinner, evening entertainment and overnight.

Day 9: Monday, September 18, 2023

After breakfast on the cruise ship, we disembark and travel to ancient **Corinth**. Along the way we will stop at the **Corinth Canal**. **Corinth** is the city that inspired many of Paul's most familiar letters and is a highlight for the New Testament scholar. Here we will see the **Archaeological Museum**, the **Market Place**, the **Bema**, and the **Temples**. The engineering skill and intellect of these people are evident in the water systems that still flow from ancient to modern day.

We will travel on to the top of the nearby **Acropolis** where we will learn of the worship practices and see the bird's eye view of what was a bustling city of around 800,000 during Paul's stay. We will then visit **Diolkos** where we view the paved trackway which enabled boats to be moved over land across the **Isthmus of Corinth** and served as a life line for **Corinth**. This shortcut allowed ancient vessels to avoid the long and dangerous circumnavigation of the **Peloponnese peninsula**. Next we will visit **Cenchreae**, the ancient port region of **Corinth**. Acts 18:18 states the Apostle Paul stopped at **Cenchreae** during his second missionary journey. We will continue on to **Athens** for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 10: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we will tour **Athens**, the foundation of democracy. We visit the **Acropolis**, the **Parthenon**, and **Erectheum** before viewing **Athens** atop **Mars Hill** where Paul stood and preached the truth to the Gentile nation. From atop **Mars Hill** we view the **Agora** below, the ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life. We will also see the **House of Parliament**, the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, **Olympic Stadium**, and **Presidential Palace**. Dinner and overnight will be at our **Athens** hotel.

Day 11: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

After breakfast at the hotel, we set out for the airport for our flight home.



Parthenon Temple; Acropolis in Athens

TOUR TERMS and CONDITIONS:

Prices quoted are in US dollars and are based on fares and costs in effect at the time of publication. Whenever possible, **TBCTL-USA** obtains price guarantees from suppliers. However, depending upon the strength of the US dollar and the fluctuating nature of oil, gas and other costs, published rates are subject to change without notice.

HOTELS: Deluxe hotels. Price based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room. A single room is subject to availability and an additional charge to the price of the tour. A tour participant must pay this supplement if he/she is the sole occupant of assigned accommodation.

MEALS: Breakfast and dinner daily. Any other specially meals are identified on the itinerary.

ATTRACTIONS: Transportation and touring via deluxe motor coach with English-speaking guides. All entrance fees are included.

TAXES/TIPS: Tips, airport taxes, fuel surcharges / gratuities for guide and driver are dependent on individual group agreements and are communicated to each participant by Tour Host(s).

NOT INCLUDED: Food and beverages outside our scheduled meals (i.e soft drinks); room service not included with regular meals; room service charges; travel or accident/baggage insurance; luggage fees incurred by airlines; Turkish VISA fee.

DOCUMENTS – HEALTH - HANDICAPPED: A passport with a 6-month validity past the tour return date is required and must be obtained in person by each tour member. Turkey requires a visa for U.S. citizens. Tour participants are expected to be in good health and able to walk, get on and off the bus and get around without the assistance of another individual. If unable to do so, participant must bring someone to assist you, at your expense. **Due to the continued changes to regulations, your group host will notify you in the event of any vaccination requirement.**

REGISTRATION FEE: A non-refundable \$300 per person Initial Registration Fee is required at the time of registration and will be applied to the total trip cost. Registrations received inside ninety (90) days of departure must be accompanied by full payment.

PAYMENTS: All payments should be made payable to TBCTL-USA. Credit card payments will incur a processing fee. Late payments may incur a late charge fee. Returned checks will incur a returned check fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations **MUST** be submitted in writing. **NO** cancellation will be accepted by phone. No refund is available for cancellations less than 75 days of departure date. **Travel & Trip Insurance is required.**

In the event of a travel interruption 84 days or less than the departure date due to occurrences beyond the control of **TBCTL-USA**, including, but not limited to, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, war, rebellion, riot, civil commotion, earthquake, fire, floods, accident, pandemic, epidemic, viral outbreaks, or any act of God (Forced Majeure event), every effort will be made to reschedule travel upon interruption resolution.

TBCTL-USA is not liable for any loss, injury or damage to travelers or belongings in connection with any accommodations, airline cancellation or delays and are not responsible for any occurrences beyond their control. This includes, but is not limited to, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, war, rebellion, riot, civil commotion, earthquake, fire, floods, accident, pandemic, epidemic, viral outbreaks, or any act of God (*Forced Majeure* event).

TRAVELER AGREEMENT – RESPONSIBILITY: By registering for this tour:

- I agree to the Terms and Conditions as outlined in this document.
- I agree that I am in good health and able to walk, get on and off the bus and get around without the assistance of another individual, or that I am bringing someone with me to assist me, at my own expense.
- I agree that I have, or will obtain, a passport with a 6-month validity past the tour return date.
- I agree that all travel documents, as well as compliance with customs regulations, are my sole responsibility.
- I agree to make payments according to the outlined payment schedule provided by my Tour Host(s). Late payments may incur a late charge fee. Returned checks will incur a returned check fee. Failure to comply and respond after notification will be considered an act of intent not to travel and will result in the termination of my registration and forfeiture of all previous payments.
- I understand that travel insurance is not included in the tour cost and that **TBCTL-USA** requires that I purchase this coverage to protect my travel investment.