

## 16 DAYS TFOOTSTEPS of St. PAUL in TURKEY HOLY PLACES TOUR (Valid Till : 16 Mar – Dec 2019)

Tour Code - **BLC3**  
City - Istanbul to Istanbul

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 – ISTANBUL ARRIVEL

Arrival in Istanbul airport and meeting with guide at the airport, transfer to the hotel and check-in. Take a relax in your hotel and Discover to Istanbul on your free time. Overnight stay in *Istanbul*. (B)

#### DAY 2 – SULTANAHMET TOUR HAGIA SOPHIA – TOPKAPI PALACE – BLU MOSQUE – GARND BAZAAR

After breakfast meet with our guide and start Istanbul Tour at 08:45 Today we will visit **theTopkapi Palace**. which was the home of the Ottoman sultans (15th-19 th century A.D. ) You will see the Imperial Treasury, diamond, gold and the famousSpoonmaker Diamond. (Harem section is optional and due an extra entry fee). After visit the **Saint Sophia** (Haghia Sofia) which was built by the emperor Justinian in the 6th century A.D and stands over much older remains of a church. See beautiful mosaics of biblical scenes and the Byzantine emperors and empresses. We take a selected restaurant .

We will see incredible beautiful the Blue Mosque, which was built in the 17th century and is the only imperial mosque with 6 minarets. Walking in the Hippodrome, a stadium and meeting place in Byzantine times, theSerpent Pillar from Delphi and the Egyptian Obelisk, with the Fountain of Wilhelm.

Finaley visitngng Grand Bazaar, which has over 4000 shops full of treasures nenorial riche otantic shops.

\*Note that on Sunday the Grand Bazaar is closed. On Monday the St Sophia is closed and on Tuesday the Topkapi Palace is closed. (All sights that are closed except for Grand Bazaar are replaced by a visit to the Yerebatan Underground Cistern). The end of tour return back to hotel Overnight stay in Istanbul. ( B. L. )

#### DAY 3 – BOSPHORUS BOAT TOUR - BYZANTINE CITY WALLS - CHORA CHURCH – ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE – IRON CHURCH

Departure from your hotel at 08:45. We will see Istanbul’s Byzantine City Walls that were for the most part built during the 5th century by Emperor Theodosius and are 8 km long. We visit the **Kariye Museum** (Chora Church )with its 14th century mosaics and frescoes with scenes from the Bible. After continiu to the **Tekfur Palace** (view only) built during the 13th century, it is the only Byzantine Palace still standing today. We are visiting the **Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople** which has been in service since the 6th century. After lunch we continue to **Bulgarian Iron Church** The most metal church of all time . It was wery old building and non use. But it was restored by the Turkish Government in 2015 and opened for worship. We take a lunch in a selected local restaurant.

We are boarding the boat for a cruise along the Istanbul Bosphorus. That is separates Europe and Asia and connects the Black Sea with the inland Sea of Marmara.

Our journey continues with magnificent view of the Istanbul Straight that separates Asian and European lands. You will see beatiful view on the both sides of bosphorus.

These, Dolmabahçe Palace, Çiragan Palace, Ortakoy Mosque, Kuleli Military School, Beylerbeyi Palace, Rumeli Fortress and beautiful private villas. This is your time to relish the views of the old

wooden mansions.

We are completing our boat tour by taking pictures and watching the beautiful Midan tower . The end of tour transfer and overnight stay in Istanbul. ( B.L.)

#### **DAY 4 – CAPPADOCIA**

Early Flight to Kayseri Airport or Nevsehir airport.

After breakfast, start the Cappadocia tour.

Visit: Göreme open air museum, Esentepe, Avanos, Devrent valley, Paşabağı valley .

Fairy chimneys formed over many centuries by wind and water erosion on soft volcanic rock, these rock formations rise high from the valley floor like chimneys.

**The Goreme Open Air Museum** is a must-visit for any traveler in Cappadocia. A large monastery complex with dozens of monasteries, each of which has its own church, each with its own navies and various rooms. The best examples of Byzantine art of Cappadocia. The churches carved into the rock are carved in paintings and frescoes from the tenth to the thirteenth century, whose colors still retain their original freshness. For the panoramic view of Goreme, the first stop will be Esentepe. Time to take pictures. **Paşabağı Valley** (Priests' valley) is located on a vineyard on Zelve road. Some mushroom-shaped rock formations are several meters high. Fairy chimneys shaped by erosion for many years were used as houses by various religious groups, so it is known as the **Monks Valley**, **Devrent Valley**: Famous for its rock formations giving a reddish moon landscape view. Most of their formations have animal figures such as a large camel, seals, dolphins. There is a boulder that resembles the Virgin Mary who holds the baby Jesus. Fly your imagination to make it look like other figures. So it is known as the Imagination Force. Overnight staying in *Cappadocia*. B.L.D.

#### **Cappadocia Optional tours.**

**Turkish Night & (Whirling Dervish dhow)** : Per person **40 €** ( Dinner, beverages, Show, Belly dance.)

**Balloon Tour** : per person : **165 EURO**

#### **DAY 5 – CAPPADOCIA**

This Day we will visit Rose Valley, Cavusin, Kahmakli, uchisar,

Rose Valley : A wide valley and a few small valleys between the village of Goreme and Cavusin are divided into : Güllüdere, Kızılçukur, Mezkendir and valleys Zindanonu. These days, the temperature, the season: owes the name of pink rock to the densities of rocks that vary according to different shades and weather conditions. There are several levels of difficulty in this for sightseeing and hikes: easy, medium and difficult. The Valley is Mesken, with a length of 4400 m. The valley to the entrance is covered with cedar. trekking trail large vegetation opens fairy chimneys, cave houses, passages, underground tunnels and the Church of the Meskent, the exquisite underground church of ancient Christian civilization.

**Çavuşin** : A very abandoned troglodyte village offering an amazing landscape. The houses were excavated on the edge of a hill with richly decorated facades enriched with time. Visit San Juan Bautista Church, which was built in the fifth century during the Byzantine period. **Kaymaklı Underground City** This is the largest of the 36 underground cities in Cappadocia. the most impressive of the subterranean settlements due to its ventilation system. **Pigeon Valley** you see different rock formations and where pigeons put their nests into their fairy chimneys. Uchisar is the highest point of Cappadocia. Then visit a factory of onyx and turquoise clothing. The end of the tour transfer to your hotel, overnight stay in Cappadocia B.L.D.

#### **DAY 6 – CAPPADOCIA – ADANA – ANTAKYA**

After breakfast early departure to Antakya distance 450 Km around 7 hours by bus. We will drive to the city of Antakya (Antioch), an important seat place of early Christianity. (Antioch on the Orontes) this is the place where the followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11;

26). We take a Lunch on the way.

Upon arrive to Antakya we will visit the Mosaic Museum, which is the second largest collection of classical and Roman mosaics in the world. Afterwards, we will visit one of the oldest churches in Christianity, the Church of St. Peter. This church is actually a cave carved into the side of Mount Starius where the first Christians of Asia Minor worshipped. Dinner and Overnight in Adana. ( B.L.D.)

#### **DAY 7 – ANTAKYA - TARSUS – KONYA**

We take delicious breakfast before returning to Konya, we will see **Selucia Pieria**, the ancient port of Antioch from which the Apostle Paul and Barnabas embarked on their first missionary journeys as chronicled by Acts (Acts:13:4).

Afterwards we drive to **Tarsus** where Paul was born. Once the capital of the province of Cilicia, Tarsus was the site where Mark Antony and Cleopatra first met, and is the birthplace of Paul the Apostle. According to Acts, Paul was born “**Saul of Tarsus**”, but was brought up in Jerusalem and became “Paul the Apostle” after his encounter with Christ (Acts 9:11; 21:39; 22:3). Here, we will visit the Well of **St. Paul** and the Gate of Cleopatra. Afterwards, we head to Konya . Arrive and overnight in Konya ( B.L.D.)

#### **DAY 8 – KONYA - ANTIOCH PISIDA ( YALVAC ) - ANTALYA**

After breakfast our tour is start. Ancient **Iconium**, where Paul the Apostle and Barnabas invested a lot of their missionary efforts preaching the Gospel despite persecution. According to Acts, they spoke boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders (Acts 14:1-3). Visit the **Mevlana Museum**, which houses the tomb of the great 13th-century Persian poet and founder of the Order of the Whirling Dervishes, Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi. Popularly known as Rumi in Western countries, meaning “Roman” in Arabic, his followers and Muslims alike call him “**Mevlana**”, meaning “our master”. We will then end our day at the **Karatay Museum**. This former medrese, or place of learning, was founded in 1251 by the Seljuk emir Celaleddin Karatay as an institution for Islamic studies. However, the building is now a museum showcasing the most beautiful examples of Seljuk tile work. We take a Lunch in a local restaurant. Afterward we depart Konya and head to the modern town of **Yalvac** to see the ruins of **Antioch in Pisidia**. Sitting on the southern foothills of the Sultan Mountains, this city was once a major Roman colony that Paul the Apostle visited on his First Missionary Journey with **Barnabas**. Here we will tour the archeological site and visit the Yalvaç Archaeological Museum to see a display of many of the site’s discovered artifacts. Afterwards, we will continue onto **Antalya**, Turkey’s famous and modern touristical resort city, largest international sea resort which sits on the beautiful Mediterranean coast. Arrive and Overnight in Antalya

#### **DAY 9 – ANTALYA – PERGE – ASPENDOS**

Today our tour start After breakfast. we are visiting to the archeological site of Perge, a chief city of Pamphylia that was visited twice by Paul the Apostle and his companion St. Barnabas (Acts 13:13–14 and 14:25). There are Here, we will explore Perge’s extensive ruins, including a well-preserved theatre, the Agora, Roman baths, a colonnaded boulevard, great gymnasium, the necropolis, usefull memorial fountain, and the Greek and Roman gates.

We take a lunch in a local restaurant. After Word we are off to the ancient Greco-Roman city of Aspendos to see the best-preserved Aspendos theatre of antiquity. Today, concerts and art events are organized in this magnificent theater.

Here, we will also see the ruins of a basilica, agora, Roman aqueduct, and the Roman Eurymedon Bridge. The end of the tour return our hotel and overnight at Antalya.

#### **DAY 10 – DENİZLİ – COLOSSEA ( HONAZ ) – PAMUKKALE**

This morning we leave from Antalya to Pamukkale ( 240 Km ) We visit to Colossea holy land in Honaz 40 Km befor Pamukkale. **Colossea** was a city in the Roman province of Asia, Colossae was

located in western Asia Minor in the upper **Lycus River** valley. Which accounts for the early missionary work done there.

Ancient 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.

It is possible the gospel came to Colossae while **St. Paul** was living at Ephesus (Acts 19:10). Paul had apparently not visited Colossae when he wrote his epistle, and it is likely the gospel was preached through Paul's companion, Epaphras, who was from Colossae (Col. 1:7; 4:12-13). Members of the early Colossian church included Philemon and his slave Onesimus (Col. 4:9; Philem. 10, 23).

**Laodicea** (present name Denizli) yet another of the **Seven Churches of Asia Minor** [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13 - 16]. We see the ancient theatre, the remains of basilica and ancient stone water pipes.

After 35 Km from Colosseum we are visiting the ancient **Laodicea** (present name Denizli) yet another of the **Seven Churches of Asia Minor** [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13 - 16]. We see the ancient theatre, the remains of basilica and ancient stone water pipes. Laodicea thrived as the major center for worship of the pagan goddess Aphrodite until 500 years after Christ. 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...".

Excavations still continue in Laodicea and an ancient city as beautiful as Ephesus is emerging. Ancient theaters, marble paths and row columns on both sides of this road, recently uncovered basilica ruins, antique stone water pipes, temple, agora, monumental fountain.

We arrive and take a Lunch in **Pamukkale**. And start our tour in Pamukkale. In Hierapolis [Col. 4:13] we visit the Martyrium of the Apostle Philip where he was martyred during the persecutions ordered by Domitian. We visit the Gate of Domitian, the Arcadian Way, the 2nd century AD Theatre, the Nymphaion, the Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium and the Necropolis.

You discover the travertine terraces and the Hierapolis by passing the Roman Gate, the ancient Pamukkale Theater, the path between the heroic tombs. Each tomb tells a story and is a small work of art. The travertine terraces in Pamukkale fly with carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide since thermal waters flowing for millions of years have passed through air. Walking on the white travertines. overnight in a Thermal Hotel at Pamukkale. (B.L.D.)

## **DAY 11 – PHILADELPHIA - SARDIS – SMYRNA – IZMİR**

After breakfast departure to Izmir (240 Km) we continue our journey to **Philadelphia**, nowadays called **Alasehir**, another church of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:7], and the only church not censured. There we see the remains of a Byzantine basilica built of brick, with a bit of high arch and some 11th century frescoes. And continue Salihli city ( **Sardis** ), presently Sart. This was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the 6th century BC, portrayed as a dying church. We visit the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele, which became a Byzantine Church. We will also visit the restored gymnasium and reconstructed Synagogue. We take a Lunch in a Local restaurant. And continue Izmir.

Nice and modern city of Izmir and visit the ruins of ancient **Smyrna**, one of the Seven Churches that the Apostle John relays the promise from God: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10). Here, we will see what remains of the Agora, the ancient market place that was built in the 4th century BC. Sight seeing in Izmir, Karsiyaka, Guzelyali, Alsancak, Kadifekale fortification. Enjoy your night in Kordanboyu cafeterias. Overnight in Izmir ( B.L.D.)

## **DAY 12 – EPHEBUS – THE HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARRY – ST. JOHN CHURCH- KUSADASI**

Today our tour start in Ephesus 80 KM from Izmir. Ephesus is the most important of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. It is thought that the Gospel of John was written here. Visit the famous ancient city of **Ephesus** (Acts 18:19-24; 19:1-35), and its **Terrace Houses**, the **Ephesus**

**Archaeological Museum** and the **Basilica of St. John**. Today we enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Ephesus including the **Basilica of St. John**. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an epistle from him. We tour the spectacular ruins where excavations still continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Theatre. The Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city.

Lunch at a selected local restaurant. After visit Temple of Artemis is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. We visit the **Basilica of St. John**. See the final abode of the Virgin Mary where she spent her last years. Overnight stay at hotel in Kusadasi. ( B.L.D.)

### **DAY 13 – THYATIRA – PARGAMON - AYVALIK**

After breakfast we continue to Akhisar 180 Km arrival and visiting to **Thyatira**, now called **Akhisar**, another one of the **Seven Churches of Asia** [Rev. 1:11; 2:18 - 24; Acts 16:14]. It was a city famous for purple dyes. We visit the remains of a basilica and some architectural fragments from the Roman period. Lydia, the seller of purple in Philippi, was from Thyatira.

After drive to **Pergamon** ( 90 Km ) arrival and we have a lunch in a local restaurant.

, one of the most powerful cities in the ancient world. The city rose to prominence following the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. and eventually came under Roman control in 133 B.C. Although the city benefited from immense wealth, in the Book of Revelations, the risen Christ instructs John to convey the message that the people of Pergamum, the site of "Satan's throne", needed to repent (Rev 2:13-16). Today, we will tour the Acropolis, which sits atop a 1000-foot windswept mountain, offering a view of the neighboring modern towns, the azure waters of the Aegean, and the ruins of **Pergamum** that cascade down from the ancient city center. Here, we will explore the Temple of Trajan, Temple of Athena and the Altar of Zeus. Unfortunately, 63 of the altar, which was once among the grandest monuments of the ancient world. In fact, every stone of the structure, including its 400-foot long frieze depicting the battle of the gods and giants, was shipped off to Berlin by German Archaeologists leaving only the altar's foundation. Thankfully, much more remains of the Great Theatre. Among the steepest of its kind and an acoustic phenomenon, this theatre could entertain up to 10,000 spectators. Nearby are the remains of the famous Library of Pergamum. Once housing some 200,000 scrolls, the library's collection even exceeded that of the great library of Alexandria before Mark Anthony gave it to Cleopatra as a wedding gift. Afterwards, we will drive to Assos or Ayvalik for the night. *Dinner and Overnight in Assos or Ayvalik. ( B.L.D.)*

### **DAY 14 – ASSOS – ALEXANDRIA TROAS – TROIA – CANAKKALE - BURSA**

After breakfast you visit ancient **Assos**. Assos is one of the important settlements of Antiquity that was founded in the Bronze Age (M: Ö.3000-1200) on the slopes of a volcano, on the slopes of a volcano, in the face of Edremit Bay and Lesbos Island. Located on the hill, the Athena Temple offers a magnificent view with its mystical atmosphere.

It has been suggested that Paul's statement in Acts 17:28 ("as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring'" ESV) is quoting from Cleanthes. On the last leg of his third missionary journey, **Saint Paul** walked from **Alexandria Troas** to Assos (Acts 20:5-6, 13-14), where he met his companions, who had gone ahead of him by sea. It was about a 20-mile (32-km) journey, and judging from the positions of the cities, he likely entered Assos through this northwest city gate. Saint Paul and his companions sailed to Mitylene on the island of Lesbos as they traveled to Jerusalem from Assos harbour. Continue Ancient Alexandria Troas and visit.

**Alexandria Troas** is an ancient city located in the Canakkale in Turkey.

The city of Aleksandria Troas BC It was founded in the late 4th century by Antigonos under the name Antigoneia. The people of the cities of Gargara, Hamaksitos, Neandria, Kolonai, Larisa, Kebren and Skepsis were settled here. Herodes Atticus Bath, which is known as Maldelik in the city, is remarkable with its size. A gymnasium with large dimensions adjacent to the west of the

bath is located.

Alexandria Troas was mentioned several times in the **Bible**. And it is an important site for the history of Christianity, because **Saint Paul** passed some time in Troas during his second missionary journey where he goes to Macedonia to help them (Acts 16:9), so he sailed to Europe (Acts, 16:8 - 11) where he first preached. Luke joined Paul at Troas and they continued their mission. On his third missionary journey Saint Paul had a long preach at Alexandria Troas (Acts 20:6 - 10). There are other biblical references to Troas in 2 Cor 2:12 and 2 Tim 4:13. Alexandria Troas remains a titular see of the Roman Catholic Church by the way.

**Troia** : we visit the Legend Troy and the Trojan War was true location of ancient Troy. visiting the tangible remnants of ancient Troy the legendary archaeological site, portrayed in Homer's Iliad. Take a Lunch in Canakkale and continue Bursa 270 Km. Arrive and Overnight Bursa. ( B.L.D.)

#### **DAY 15 – BURSA – IZNIK (NICEA) - ISTANBUL**

Today we start our tour in Bursa. Discover the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa, a city and the fourth most populous city in Turkey. 2016 world livable city in the world ranking of 28 ranks and 1 in Turkey. Visiting the Old Silk bazaar ( Koza Han ) and Green Mosque afterward departure to Iznik (90 Km).

Arrive Iznik and take a lunch in local restaurant. Afterward discover the ancient Nicea.

**Iznik** was a religious center of Christianity. In the middle of the city, which was the center of metropolitanism in 365 BC, the **Iznik Hagia Sophia Church** was a 4th century basilica.

The foundations of Koimesis and Hisios Trifonos churches in Iznik have survived to the present day. The Byzantine palace was under the waters of Iznik Lake. The city's aqueducts also remain from the Byzantine period. Places to see in Iznik, Saint Sophia Church, Green Mosque, Iznik museum, city walls.

**The First Council of Nicea** was collected in 325 AD by Emperor Constantine I to clarify some of the issues discussed in Christianity as an official religion in the Roman Empire. The main subject of the Council of Nicaea was whether or not Jesus was a true God. The Council acknowledged that Jesus Christ is the true God, who has the same essence as the Father of God, who has existed since the eternal eternal.

**The Second Council of Nicea** was the seventh and last ecumenical council, which was convened on September 24, 787 in Hagia Sophia. It is also the last consensus adopted by the Orthodox and Catholics. The Second Council of Nicaea, Western Orthodox resolutions were adopted to return to iconographic images made during the period of the image enemy (Iconoclasm) adopted by Roman Catholics. The end of the Iznik tour departure to Istanbul. 140 km Arrive and overnight in Istanbul ( B.L)

#### **DAY 16 – THE END OF TOUR – RETURN TO COUNTY**

Free time in Istanbul to till your flight time. Our successful tour concludes and are transferred to the airport for your onward flight to your country. Hope to see you at the another tour.

## PRICE

### Private Tour Price list ( Guaranteed Departures Daily )

(Rates In Euro)

<b>Winter Season Date : 01.11.2019 - 29.12.2019 //</b>						
Rates are based on per person						
Hotels	2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10	11 - 12
	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person
<b>HOTELS 4*</b>	<b>4190 €</b>	<b>3100 €</b>	<b>2230 €</b>	<b>1860 €</b>	<b>1660 €</b>	<b>1530 €</b>
<b>HOTELS 5*</b>	<b>4460 €</b>	<b>3375 €</b>	<b>2510 €</b>	<b>2138 €</b>	<b>1932 €</b>	<b>1800 €</b>

Single Supplement for Hotels 4\* : 298 €

Single Supplement for Hotels 5\* : 460 €

- Child 03 - 06,99 : 190 EURO

<b>Summer Season Date : 16.03.2019 – 31.10.2019 //</b>						
Rates are based on per person						
Hotels	2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10	11 - 12
	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person
<b>HOTELS 4*</b>	<b>4310 €</b>	<b>3230 €</b>	<b>2365 €</b>	<b>1990 €</b>	<b>1786 €</b>	<b>1655 €</b>
<b>HOTELS 5*</b>	<b>4625 €</b>	<b>3540 €</b>	<b>2670 €</b>	<b>2300 €</b>	<b>2096 €</b>	<b>1960 €</b>

Single Supplement for Hotels 4\* : 390 €

Single Supplement for Hotels 5\* : 560 €

- Child 03 - 06,99 : 220 EURO

- Please kindly contact us for your group requests

#### Prices includes

- Istanbul Airport to hotel 2 ways return transfer
- Nevsehir or Kayseri Airport - hotel transfer
- Istanbul - Nevsehir Airport or Kayseri Airport Domestic Flight for Cappadocia
- New model non smoking Mercedes sprinter or Wogswagen Crafter Minibus from Cappadocia to Istanbul.
- All Entrance Fees the sides and museum. All tours in the program
- Professional licenced educucational tour guide.
- 15 Nights Accommodation at your preferred hotel.
- Transportation Private A.C. Luxurius Car, Van, or Midibus, parking and VAT.
- Breakfast included in the hotel.
- 13 Lunches during tour. + 11 Dinner + 15 Breakfast ( Istanbul Hotels 4 Nights no dinner )
- Transfers Car, Van, or Midibus, parking and VAT.

**Tour Excluding**

- Personal expences
- Beverages in hotel and at all Lunches and dinners.
- Tips to guide, driver and hotel personnel.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(AT-10/06/2019)