



*Proudly presents ...*  
***Promotional Tour of Turkey***  
***"In the footsteps of Paul"***

**Tour Hosts:** Professor Mark Braun and Heavenly Tours

**DATES:** January 8-17, 2003

**Cities and Sites on Tour:** Istanbul, Canakkale, Ayvalik, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, the Acropolis, Izmir, Kusadasi, Heirapolis (Pummakkale), Colossae, Laodicea, Philadelphia, Antiochia in Pisidia, Konya, Cappadocia, Sultan Ahmet, Hagia Sophia

Heavenly International Tours and Professor Mark Braun are honored to invite you on a special Promotional Tour of Turkey In the Footsteps of St. Paul. This unique tour will include visits to Istanbul, Izmir, Ephesus, Seven Churches of Revelation, Capedoccia, and so much more. This tour is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore and learn about the Holy Sites of early Christianity in Turkey, where the Apostle Paul preached the Gospel.



**Tour Features Include:**

- Round-trip flight from Chicago/Istanbul
- Domestic flight within Turkey
- Meet and greet at airports
- 3 Nights Istanbul
- 1 Night Ayvalik
- 1 Night Izmir
- 2 Nights Pamukkale
- 1 Night Cappadocia
- Welcome Cocktail
- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches, 8 dinners
- Air-conditioned motorcoach for travel
- English speaking professional tour guide (specialist in history and Archaeology)
- Transfers, Entrance fees, Porterage

## **Daily Tour Itinerary:**

### **January 8 Wednesday**

Today we depart for Turkey. Enjoy superb in-flight service and wonderful meals on our flight across the Atlantic.

### **January 9 Thursday - Istanbul**

Upon arrival, meet with Tour Escort and transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day is at your leisure. In the evening enjoy a Welcome Cocktail hosted by your Tour Escort. Afterwards, sample the fine Turkish cuisine at your dinner. *Dinner and Overnight - Istanbul (D)*

### **January 10 Friday - Canakkale - Ayvalik**

Breakfast in hotel. Morning departure from Istanbul by motor coach to Canakkale (Dardanelles), the cradle of many ancient civilizations taking visitors back into the depth of history. Discover the ancient city of Troy and a symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorating the legendary war. Travel to Ayvalik where we spend the evening. *Dinner and Overnight - Ayvalik (B,L,D)*

### **January 11 Saturday - Ayvalik - Pergamum - Thyatira - Sardis - Izmir**

Breakfast in hotel. This morning we drive towards Izmir. On route to Kusdasi, stop at ancient Pergamum, once ruled by Alexander the Great. Famous for the invention of parchment paper, Pergamum had a library containing 200,000 books. Visit the Acropolis, the Alter of Zeus, referred to as the "Throne of Satan" in the Book of Revelations, and the 10,000 seat ampitheater. Tour the marvelous Asclepieion, a 4th century B.C. shrine to the healing God Asclepios. After lunch, we visit Thyatira (Akhisar) to see the remains of a basilica and fragments from the Roman period - also one of the Churches of Revelation. (Rev.1:11; 2:18-29). Continue your day with a visit to Sardis berated by John the Prophet for its façade of strength when, in fact, it was weak (Rev. 3:1-6). Explore the temple of Artemis, marble royal road, gymnasium and the Synagogue. *Dinner and Overnight - Izmir (B,L,D)*

### **January 12 Sunday - Izmir - Kusadasi - Hierapolis (Pamukkale)**

Breakfast in hotel. After breakfast, we leave Izmir and drive towards Ephesus. (Rev. 1:11). Incomparable with any other archaeological site, Ephesus ruins are a feast to the visitor's eye. Ruins dating back to the Roman period are probably the most interesting part of the excursion. Most trade routes ended here and goods were shipped to overseas countries. Two important Ecumenical Councils were held in the Church of the Virgin Mary, which is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. The town was left for the Ayasoluk Christian Settlement, which was built around the Easilica of Saint John. The Selcuk town was built at the same area at the end of Christian domination. The Virgin Mary spent the last days of her life and died here after being entrusted to Saint John by Christ and therefore was brought to Ephesus. Next we visit the Museum and see the statue of Diana of the Ephesians. Continue through the Meander Valley to Hierapolis (Pamukkale-Cotton Castle), with its fantastic Calcareous formations and pools of natural warm water. *Dinner and Overnight - Pamukkale (B,L,D)*

### **January 13 Monday - Hierapolis (Pamukkale) - Colossae - Laodicea - Philadelphia**

Breakfast in hotel. This day begins with a visit to Heirapolis (Pamukkale) where solidified calcium from the water has formed "frozen waterfalls" which lead to shallow pools. Next we tour the ruins of the ancient Heirapolis. This town was a cure center founded about 190 B.C. It had a large Jewish community and an early Christian church. Christianity came here via Paul (Colossians 4:13). Heirapolis contains perhaps the biggest cemetery in Asia Minor with tombs dating from the Hellenistic Era to the early Christian period. Have the opportunity to enjoy a thermal bath to rid you of the day's dust and tiredness. Afterwards we drive to Colossae which is famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Also we view the traces of the Theatre, the Necropolis and the Church. Continue your day to Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14-22). In the famous scripture, Jesus says to the the Laodicean Church: "Behold, I stand at the door." Next we visit Philadelphia Church (Rev. 3:7-13) referred to as the New Jerusalem. *Dinner and Overnight - Pamukkale (B,L,D)*

### **January 14 Tuesday** - Heirapolis - Antiochia in Pisidia - Konya - Cappadocia

Breakfast in hotel. Today we check out of our hotel and travel to Cappadocia via Konya. On the way to Konya, we visit Pisidian Antioch, where Saint Paul decided to turn Gentiles by opening the gates of Christianity to the Pagan world. Konya, known as Iconium in the Roman times, was visited by Saint Paul during his missionary trips. In Konya, known by the Islamic world as the city of Mevlana and his Whirling Dirvishes, we visit the Mevlana Mausoleum and Mevlana Museum. In the afternoon, we travel to Cappadocia for our overnight. *Dinner and Overnight - Cappadocia (B,L,D)*

### **January 15 Wednesday** - Cappadocia

After early breakfast, we depart. The ancient region of Cappadocia lies in central Anatolia, between the cities of Nev ihir Kayseri and Ni de. Here we find the most fantastic landscapes in the world. Three million years ago, violent eruptions covered the surrounding plateau with tuff. Wind and weather eroded the soft volcanic rock into hundreds of strange pillars, cones and chimneys. Since ancient times, men have hollowed dwellings in this soft rock. The early Christians made cave churches, chapels and monasteries. There are over 600 scattered throughout the valleys. Also in this region are a number of underground cities which were used by the Christians as places of retreat to live until danger had passed. These cities were well hidden and safe and are located in the Goreme Valley. Afterwards, we visit a Turkish carpet manufacturer. Later we have an underground visit to the city of Kaymakali. In the evening, we depart for a flight to Istanbul. Transfer to our hotel. *Dinner and Overnight - Istanbul (B,L,D)*

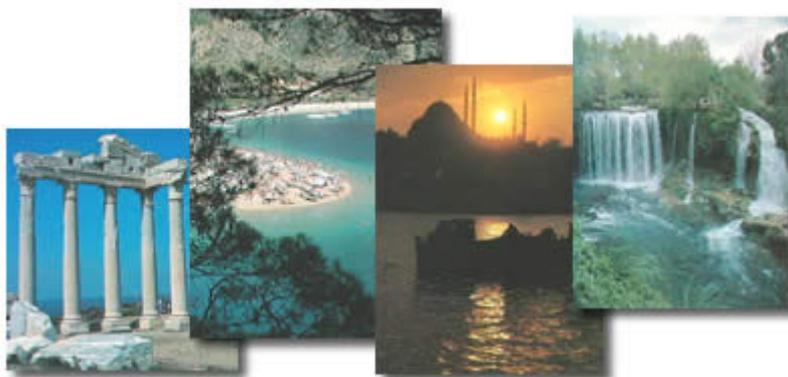
### **January 16 Thursday** - Istanbul

Breakfast in hotel. This morning we begin from Hippodrome, once the center of Byzantine life, which houses the impressive granite obelisk of Emporer Theodosius and was carved in Egypt in 1500 B.C. Theodosius brought the obelisk to Constantinople in 390 A.D. and added military engravings of this likeness. Next a visit to the Sultan Ahmet, the Blue Mosk, the most famous mosk in Turkey built in 1603, and the only one to have six minarets, a style borrowed from the sacred mosk of Kaaba in Mecca. It stands boldly silhouetted against the sky and the cascade of domes and half domes. The architect, Mehmet Aga, decorated the interior like a jewel. The tiles, stained glass windows and decorations inside are magnificent. Upon entering, participants must remove their footwear and cover their heads and shoulders. Afterwards, we visit Hagia Sophia, (Saint Sophia) considered one of the eight wonders of the world and once the biggest cathedral of the Christian world. It was built by Constantine the first in the fourth century, and its name means Holy Wisdom. Continue to the sixth century Basilica Cistern with 336 columns brought from nearby temples was one of the many water supplies. We travel to the Grand Covered Bizarre in the old city. This bizarre was originally built as a horse stable to the Ottoman cavalry. Enjoy some free time among thousands of shops. In the evening, we will enjoy our Farewell dinner. *Dinner and overnight - Istanbul (B,L,D)*

### **January 17 Friday**

After early breakfast, we transfer to Istanbul Airport for our return flight to the United States. (B)

**Welcome home with fond memories...**



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