



# Turkey

## Cradle of Christianity

with Ben & Ann Witherington

May 18-31, 2021





**Ben Witherington III** is the Jean R. Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. He has written over 40 books. In addition, he writes articles for many church and scholarly publications and is a contributor to *Patheos* and *Beliefnet*. Ben is a popular lecturer who has presented seminars for churches, colleges, seminaries, academic and biblical meetings around the world. He has led numerous study groups and churches through the lands of the Bible and is known for bringing text to life through incisive historical and cultural analysis.

**Ann Witherington** is a professor of biology newly retired from Asbury University. She spends her time helping with the Mission Farm at the university, and doing the gardening at the historic home at Waveland in Lexington. She and Ben have been married for 43 years, and have one son, David, married to Emily, and a brand new grandson named Elliot.

# ITINERARY



## May 18 – Depart USA

Depart the US on your international flight to Istanbul.

## May 19 - Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul and begin your tour by exploring **Hagia Sophia**, the former Greek Orthodox Christian cathedral, later an Ottoman imperial mosque, and now a spectacular museum. Built in AD 537, it was famous for its massive dome. Known as the **Blue Mosque** because of the beautiful blue tiles, the **Sultan Ahmed Mosque** remains a functioning house of prayer to this day; you'll notice the culmination of two centuries' worth of architecture, Ottoman and Byzantine. Be prepared to take your shoes off and wear mosque-appropriate clothing when entering. Then walk through history, thousands of years old, when you come to the **Istanbul Archaeology Museums**, a cluster of three museums that house approximately one million artifacts, including the tomb of Alexander the Great and the Kadesh Treaty.

## May 20 - Istanbul

Continue your time in Istanbul with a visit to **Chora Church**, originally built right outside the city walls of ancient Constantinople. Today Chora Church is one of the most remarkable remnants of the Byzantine Empire with exquisite mosaics depicting the infancy of Christ, miracles of Christ, the journey of the Magi, and much more. Explore the underbelly of Istanbul within the **Basilica Cistern**. This massive water temple carved from the earth in 532 AD holds busts of **Medusa** and the iconic **Column of Tears**. Enjoy a look at modern Turkish culture when you explore the **Grand Turkish Bazaar**, first established in 1461. Peruse intricate textiles, beautiful light fixtures, world famous carpets, aromatic herbs and spices, and much more. End the day with a boat ride on the Bosphorus, a narrow strait that connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara.

## May 21 - Izmir

Take a morning flight to **Izmir**, which is ancient Smyrna. Before checking in to your hotel, enjoy a bus tour of **Pergamum**. This city, most favored of the Seven Churches of John's Revelation, was praised for its forbearance during hard times. As you pass through the **Royal Gates**, you will enter one of the great centers of classic Greek culture. You will see the foundations of the **Temple of Zeus**, the **Temple of Athena**, and the ruins of the Library which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. You will also see the remains of the **Temple of Trajan**, the **Grand Theatre**, the **Gymnasium**, and the **Health Center** (Aesclepiion).

## May 22 - Ephesus

Travel south to **Selcuk** and tour **Ephesus**, where the apostle Paul spent three years of his ministry. Visit the Agora and the Library. Stroll through the great theater where Paul witnessed faithfully for Christ. Not far away is the stadium where chariot races took place and gladiatorial combats were held. View the **terrace houses**, also known as the "houses of the rich," which give a true impression of ancient lifestyle. Travel to the **Basilica of St. John**, believed to be built over the remains of the Apostle John. Modeled after the now lost Church of the Holy Apostles, this basilica was originally built in the 6th century, during the reign of Emperor Justinian I. Enjoy a visit to an authentic Turkish carpet factory before making your way to your hotel in Kusadasi.

## May 23 - Sardis

Journey north to tour **Sardis**, the ancient capital of the Lydian empire. This city was a central location for trade and was exhorted to wake up and be strong by John in his Revelation. You will be impressed by the massive scale of the Temple of Artemis, by the white marble Royal Road, by the gymnasium and by the synagogue. Continue to **Aphrodisias**, built around the **Temple of Aphrodite**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded as a city-state in the early 2nd century BC, portrays its cosmopolitan social structure, with inscriptions from Greek, Roman, Carian, Pagan, Jewish, and Christian cultures found among the site's 2,000 surviving inscriptions. Then travel to **Denizli** to check in to your hotel.

## May 24 - Laodicea

Laodicea, home of the "lukewarm" Christians, has many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Continue on to **Hierapolis**, known for its hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Christianity came to Hierapolis via Paul. Today, you will visit the area known as **Pamukkale**, which means "Cotton Castle," inspired by the ivory web of cascading limestone-laden thermal pools. Overnight in Denizli.

### May 25 - Cappadocia

Make your way to **Cappadocia**, famous for **Uchisar Castle**, a tall volcanic rock outcrop and one of the region's most prominent landmarks. With Bronze Age homes carved into valley walls by cave dwellers which were later used as refuges by early Christians, Cappadocia is packed with exotic history. Overnight in Göreme.

### May 26 - Cappadocia

Awake before dawn for a sunrise hot-air balloon ride over a rocky wonderland (optional, additional charge). In the afternoon explore the **Open Air Museum of the Göreme Valley**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a fascinating study of natural phenomena combined with church history. The "fairy chimneys" and rock-cut churches resemble a vast monastic complex complete with beautiful frescoes that have retained their vibrant colors.

### May 27 - Cappadocia

Get an up-close look at the vast tunnel systems and amazing architectural engineering of the ancient peoples when you tour the underground cave churches in **Kaymakli**. Explore 4 of the 8 levels that were fashioned and learn about how the modern locals still utilize these amazing tunnels. Then travel to your hotel in **Konya**.

### May 28 - Konya

Tour the ancient city of **Iconium**, now modern **Konya**. Iconium was one of the principal cities in the Roman province of Galatia and on the main trade route from Ephesus to Syria. Paul and Barnabas, after being forced to leave Antioch, preached in the city and synagogue of **Iconium** and led many Jews and Greeks to believe in Christ. Then you may choose to enjoy an evening full of local cultural importance watching the **Whirling Dervishes** in **Caravanserai** display a religious act of meditative dance meant to enlighten and inspire (optional, additional charge).

### May 29 - Antalya

Drive south, skirting the Aegean Sea, to arrive at **Antalya**, a resort city with a yacht-filled Old Harbor and beaches. Gateway to the "Turquoise Coast", this region holds remnants from its ancient port days, including Hadrian's Gate and Hidirlik Tower. Then enjoy the day touring **Perga** and **Aspendos**, with ruins ranging from the Hellenistic era to the Roman period, including Roman Baths, Hellenistic Gates, and even an ancient stadium.

### May 30 - Antalya.

Stroll through the **Antalya Archaeological Museum**. One of Turkey's largest museums, it includes 13 exhibition halls and an open air gallery, exhibiting over 5000 works of art. As an inhabited region ever since the Paleolithic Age, the Antalya Museum offers thousands of years' worth of history for you to observe. After your time in the museum, continue exploring Antalya on your own. With mountains and beaches, shopping and history, your last day in Turkey is sure to be filled with adventure.

### May 31 - Fly home from Antalya.

Return home with a better appreciation of this important biblical region.



**\$20 Turkish Visa is not included  
in your tour cost.**

Guests travelling to Turkey will need to visit <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> to apply for their visas and will submit the \$20 USD Visa fee online.

For questions regarding the visa submission process, call your Travel Agent

STARTING AT  
**\$4,548**  
FROM NEW YORK

### YOUR ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing

Round-trip International Airfare

Additional baggage & optional fees may apply; see fine print for details

Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes

Subject to change

Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities & Program Fees

Daily Breakfast & Dinner, Deluxe Motorcoaches

First Class Hotels & much more!

**TRAVEL REGISTRATION FORM**

Host: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Tour: **XT21**  
 Departure City: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: **05/18/21 (W)**

**First, Middle & Last Name must be submitted as it appears on your passport:**

**Guest 1: First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Preferred Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Middle Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  Send me emails about my trip/promos  
 Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
**How did you learn about this tour?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest 2: First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Preferred Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Middle Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  Send me emails about my trip/promos  
 Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
**How did you learn about this tour?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**If No Roommate:**  Try to Match Me  Single Room (availability limited)

Important Information Regarding Travel Protection Plan:	Guest 1:
1 Travel Protection coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full.	<input type="checkbox"/> I Accept <input type="checkbox"/> I Decline
2 Premium is based on TOTAL cost of trip and is non-refundable.	
3 Coverage begins when your premium payment is received. (separate from deposit & clearly designated as your travel protection premium).	<b>Guest 2:</b>
4 Premium must be paid in full no later than 02/02/21.	<input type="checkbox"/> I Accept <input type="checkbox"/> I Decline

**\$300 DEPOSIT PER PERSON REQUIRED**

Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  via check: # \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I/We certify that I have read the "Fine Print," understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to the potential for price increases that may apply before payment in full has been received as set forth in the "Fine Print" and potential price increases after payment in full has been received due to government imposed taxes and fees.

**Guest 1 Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest 2 Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour: XT21 Date: 051821 Code: W** 02/10/20

**Travel Protection Plan - Premium Rates For All Tours**  
 For a full description of the plan, go to: [www.tripmate.com/wpF427E](http://www.tripmate.com/wpF427E)

Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost
\$ 0 to \$1000	\$ 99	\$2501 to \$3000	\$299	\$4501 to \$5000	\$499	\$6501 to \$7000	\$699
\$1001 to \$1500	\$149	\$3001 to \$3500	\$349	\$5001 to \$5500	\$549	\$7001 to \$8000	\$799
\$1501 to \$2000	\$199	\$3501 to \$4000	\$399	\$5501 to \$6000	\$599	\$8001 to \$9000	\$899
\$2001 to \$2500	\$249	\$4001 to \$4500	\$449	\$6001 to \$6500	\$649	\$9001 to \$10,000	\$999

Schedule of Coverages	Maximum Benefit	Additional Cancellation Protection
<b>Part A *</b>		
Part B		
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000	When you purchase this Travel Protection Plan at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip, you also receive the Educational Travel Services Pre-Departure Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Educational Travel Services travel arrangements up to the day of departure for any reason (excludes no shows and those not permitted boarding). With this Educational Travel Services Cancellation Waiver, your non-refundable land cancellation penalties will be refunded in Educational Travel Services travel certificates. Certain travel programs are not eligible for this benefit, such as cruise and land programs listed and detailed on the Educational Travel Services website ( <a href="http://www.eltours.com">www.eltours.com</a> ). Premiums must be paid in addition to initial or second deposit prior to the final payment for coverage to be in effect.
Medical Expense / Emergency Assistance	\$50,000	
Trip Interruption	Trip Cost	
Travel Delay (Up to \$100 Per Day)	\$500	
Missed Connection	\$500	
Baggage and Personal Effects	\$1,000	
Baggage Delay	\$100	

Part A - Travel Arrangement Benefits are provided by Educational Travel Services. Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Co. \*For New York Residents Only; Part A Benefits are travel arrangement benefits underwritten by United States Insurance Company.

**Conditions and Limitations**

This is a brief description of the plan available for all Travel Protection sales for Trips departing January 1, 2013 and after. Certain exclusions and limitations apply and are detailed in the Certificate of Coverage. For example, coverage does not apply to: any Sickness or condition of you, a Traveling Companion or a Family Member traveling with you that existed during the 60 days prior to the effective date of the coverage (The Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion is waived if payment for this plan is received by Educational Travel Services at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip or 105 days before departure date, whichever occurs first.); suicide, normal pregnancy, war or any act of war. Other Covered Reasons, as defined, includes the following events or their consequences: Cancellation or interruption of your Trip due to: Inclement Weather, unannounced Strike, mechanical breakdown that causes complete cessation of services of Your Common Carrier for at least 12 consecutive hours; a documented traffic accident while en route to departure; being hijacked or quarantined; jury duty; destruction of your home or destination by fire, flood, burglary or natural disaster; being called to the emergency service of government to provide aid or relief in the event of a natural disaster; a documented theft of passports or visas; a transfer of employment of 250 miles or more; or Revocation of military leave. For further information ask for the Certificate of Coverage which fully details the coverages, provisions, limitations and exclusions of the plan offered and is available to you, upon request, at any time prior to your purchase of the plan. This plan is underwritten by: United States Fire Insurance Company, Eatontown, NJ. Benefits are administered by: Trip Mate, Inc., 9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO, 64114, 1-800-888-7292 (\*in CA, dba Trip Mate Insurance Agency).

**THE FINE PRINT**

**INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

- Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing
- Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in itinerary) • Breakfast & dinner daily • Hotel gratuities
- Program fees • Fuel surcharges \$300 • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

**NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

- Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule)
- Optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure
- Miscellaneous fees such as individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, beverages at meals & baggage fees
- Tips for guide and driver • \$100 Document fee for Non-US/Canadian residents
- Turkish Visa - Approx. \$20 per person

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While we will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 30 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or you request a single room, the following charges apply: \$798 during the basic tour.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

Deposit	Payment Amount	Due Date
<b>Registration deposit</b>	<b>\$300</b>	Due at registration
<b>Final Payment</b>	<b>Full Payment</b>	02/02/21

*If paid after the due date, a late payment fee of \$100 will be assessed.*

**Travel Protection Premium Amount** No later 02/02/21 to be in full effect.  
*Travel protection premiums must be paid in advance of the final payment for coverage to be in effect.*

**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED less than February 2, 2021:**

We welcome registrations after 02/02/21. Registrations received between 02/03/21-02/17/21 will incur a \$100 per person fee. Registrations received between 02/18/21-03/04/21 will incur a \$200 per person fee. Registrations received by 03/05/21 or later will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

**CANCELLATION FEES:**

100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable administrative fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following charges: 104-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

**FIT TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:**

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, those needing oxygen, wheelchairs, or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting to their experiences.

**PASSPORT INFORMATION, CONFIRMATION OF ITINERARY & CHECK IN PROCESS:**

Photo copies of the passport must be submitted to our office no later than 02/02/21 prior to your trip. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date will result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information or failure to check in for your tour may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the return date.

**PRICE INCREASES:**

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

**AIRLINE ROUTES AND TICKETS:**

In order to keep prices low, we do not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once "printed", airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or travelling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact your travel agent for further details.

**FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING**

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. We are not responsible for such changes or delays and does not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines. You will receive your flight information 60-30 days prior to departure. Final documents are sent approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

**ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:**

You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. Additionally, you may incur optional fees (food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.) as well.

**DEVIATIONS AND AIR UPGRADE REQUESTS:**

Deviation and Air Upgrade requests must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees. Deviations and Air Upgrades are not always possible given the group schedule and time of ticketing. Passengers who are ticketed with air deviations and/or upgrades will likely not fly with the group and will therefore need to provide their own transfers.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$125 per night; single rooms \$175 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

**VALIDITY DATE:**

This brochure is valid until 08/10/20. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date

**RELEASE INFORMATION**

Payment of deposit indicates permission for us to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which we deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies us in writing prior to departure.

Except where otherwise stated, we act only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall we be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. We assume no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. We do not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold us harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party.