



Ridley College Tours
Expertise, Fellowship & Value



June 5-21
2019

Greece & Turkey Study Tour

In the Steps of Paul plus the
Seven Churches of Revelation,
Istanbul & Cappadocia Extension

+

Tour Highlights
Corinth, Ephesus & Gallipoli





In the Steps of Paul plus Seven Churches of Revelation 5 to 21 June, 2019

Cost
\$4,800 (plus airfares,
lunches and visa)

Single supplement
\$1,080 (subject to
terms and conditions)

This unique experience will bring the Bible to life as you study the Scriptures in their ancient context. Travel through Greece and Western Turkey walking in the footsteps of Paul and visiting the Seven Churches of Revelation. Explore ancient cities, discover Roman culture and stand where Paul stood. Lectures and Bible studies at each site will help you to read the Bible with new depth and understanding.

✳ **Complete an expression of interest here: www.ridley.edu.au/turkey. No deposit required until 18 October 2018.**

TOUR ITINERARY

June 5 Wed ✈ Departure from Melbourne

Make your own arrangements or join the group on an Emirates flight via Dubai to Athens.

June 6 Thu • Athens

Arrive in Athens mid-afternoon and transfer to a hotel located in the heart of the city. Beat jet-lag with a stroll to Syntagma Square or the Plaka district.

June 7 Fri • Athens

Visit the Acropolis which features the iconic Parthenon before viewing Athens from Mars Hill where Paul engaged the philosophers of the day (Acts 17:19-33). Then, on to the Agora (Acts 17:17) which includes an impressive reconstruction of an ancient stoa. After lunch you can enjoy a free afternoon before dinner together in the evening.

June 8 Sat • Corinth

Leaving Athens drive along the coast towards Corinth. Stop at the Corinth Canal, a wonder of 19th century engineering, before driving to nearby Cenchræa (Rom 16:1) to view the harbour from which Paul set sail for Syria (Acts 18:18). View the diolkos, along which ancient ships were dragged to avoid sailing the long way around the Peloponnese, and then travel to Acrocorinth with its magnificent views towards Delphi. After lunch explore the ancient city of Corinth with its abundance of significant artefacts that shed light on the Epistles. See the Erastas inscription which relates to several of Paul's letters (Rom 16:23, Acts 19:22, and 2 Tim 4:20) and visit the excellent archaeological museum, ancient agora, temples, theatre and the bema where Paul was on trial before Gallio (Acts 18:12-17). Then continue towards central Greece for an overnight stay near Delphi.

June 9 Sun • Delphi & Meteora

Delphi is the second most important site in Greece (after the Acropolis in Athens). It was here that the Oracle of Delphi was situated as this was considered to be the place where heaven and earth met, so the gods were close-by. Continue through the mountains to Meteora and see the world famous Byzantine monasteries that are perched precariously on summits of grey rock pinnacles of varied and beautiful shapes. Accommodation near Meteora.

June 10 Mon • Vergina, Thessalonica, Amphipolis & Kavala

Travelling northward into Macedonia visit the recently discovered tomb of King Phillip (father of Alexander the Great). Passing Mount Olympus head to Thessalonica to view the old city ramparts, newly excavated forum, St. George's Church, and the Galerius Arch which rises over the famous via Egnatia. Time-permitting, visit the impressive remains of Amphipolis where the Spartans and Athenians fought. Overnight in Kavala (ancient Neapolis) for two nights where Paul landed with Timothy and Silas (Acts 16:12).

June 11 Tue • Philippi & Kavala

Drive to nearby Philippi where Paul baptised the first Christians on European soil (Acts 16:13-15) and was subsequently imprisoned. View the baptismal site of Lydia and visit the famous acropolis, agora, basilica and theatre. Take a closer look at beautiful Kavala and enjoy some free time there before dinner.

June 12 Wed • Thrace, Gallipoli

Head across Thrace, a stretch of land that has been contested for centuries and enter Turkey. Visit Gallipoli to recall the experiences of the ANZACs with stops at ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and The Nek. Take a scenic crossing across the Dardanelles to a hotel by the water.

TOUR ITINERARY CONT.

June 13 Thu • Troy, Pergamum & Smyrna

First stop is nearby Ancient Troy, well known from Homer's Iliad, Brad Pitt's Troy and for its extensive excavations. Walk the beach at Troas, where Paul had a vision during his second missionary journey and was called to Macedonia (Acts 16:8-13) and trace his journey to Assos (Acts 20:1-2). Spend a relaxing evening in a resort on the edge of the Aegean Sea.

June 14 Fri • Pergamum & Smyrna

Begin visiting the sites of the Seven Churches of Revelation at the impressive site of Pergamum (Rev 2:12-17). Specialist lectures on each site will be provided by Dr Mark Wilson, recognised as a leading authority on the biblical sites of Turkey. Take the cable car to the acropolis and get a feel for life in the midst of Roman paganism by viewing the many temples and visiting ruins of the library. Continue south to Izmir (ancient Smyrna) (Rev. 2:8-11). Visit the agora with special access to see some very significant graffiti dating from the early second century. Drive on to the resort town of Kusadasi to begin a three night stay.

June 15 Sat • Free Day

A free day to sleep in, relax by the pool, shop, and explore Kusadasi.

June 16 Sat • Ephesus

Drive to nearby Ephesus, once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. See the spectacular excavations of this ancient city including the agora where Paul worked with Priscilla and Aquila, and the theatre where a riot took place (Acts 19:29). Walk the streets that Paul walked and view numerous other ruins, including the recently excavated terrace houses, which give a sense of life in the ancient world. After lunch a wealth of artefacts awaits at the nearby Museum of Ephesus before heading to the ruins of the Church of St John where the Apostle was buried and from where the remains of the Temple of Artemis are visible.

June 17 Mon • Sardis & Laodicea

Leave the coast to visit the impressive ruins of Sardis (Rev 3.1-8). Visit the gymnasium, synagogue and temple. After lunch make a brief stop at another of the Seven Churches, Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13), commended for patient endurance under suffering. Drive through the Lycus Valley to Laodicea and see how, with hot springs of Hierapolis on one side and cold mountain springs on the other, Laodicea was 'luke-warm' (Rev 3:14-22). Laodicea is currently the most actively excavated site in Turkey and it contains many acres of ruins to visit, including temples, an early church and remnants of a sophisticated water system. Accommodation for two nights is at a thermal spa hotel set in a rural village.

June 18 Tue • Hierapolis & Colossae

Begin with a morning stroll through the extensive necropolis (cemetery) of Hierapolis. This huge city was a centre for pagan cults until it was transformed into a major Christian centre in the 4th and 5th centuries. Today it is a popular tourist destination with its stunning white calcified terraces and thermal springs. According to tradition, the Apostle Philip lived and was martyred in Hierapolis. Visit his martyrdom and recently discovered tomb before walking a section of the pilgrim's trail. Visit the newly discovered Plutonium and see the entrance to Hades (the underworld), and the impressive theatre. Plenty of free time will be provided to swim in the Pools of Cleopatra, visit the terraces, or explore the museum. Finish the day at Colossae. This site is yet to be excavated, but walking over the mound provides an opportunity to observe ancient artefacts on the surface.

June 19 Wed • Antalya

Drive over the Taurus mountain range to Antalya (biblical Attalia). A walking tour includes a boat ride from the same harbour from which Paul and Silas set sail for Antioch (Acts 14:25-26). After the tour enjoy some free time exploring the narrow streets, shops and bars of the beautiful old city.

June 20 Thu • Perge & Side

Visit two striking archaeological sites along the coast. Begin with Perge, a wealthy and culturally well-developed city in ancient times (Acts 14:25). After lunch continue to Side, an ancient Turkish harbour that has made a graceful transition into a lovely resort village. Its present popularity is due not only to its resort atmosphere, but also to the many archaeological ruins that permeate this ancient settlement. Return to Antalya for overnight accommodation.

June 21 Fri ✈ Home or Revelation Unit or Extension

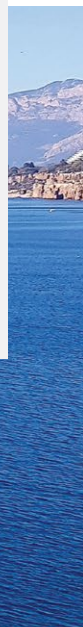
After a free morning transfer to the airport for a 1:25pm flight to Istanbul. Those taking the extension will then fly to Cappadocia. Students staying in Antalya to study the Book of Revelation will start classes.



A wonderful and amazing experience in every way. – Greg and Ann



Turkey is an amazing country. The sites we visited were well-preserved, interesting and relevant to our studies. Our guides and teachers were excellent. The trip was not a holiday – there was a lot of work, but it was a very comfortable trip too. – John





This was one the best trips I have ever had! – Winnie



Extension:
Cappadocia & Istanbul
21 to 26 June, 2019

Extension cost
\$1,500
(plus airfares
and lunches)

Single supplement
\$420



As Ridley supporters, we knew about Ridley tours and were encouraged by our friends to sign up. In fact we understood from them that Ridley tours were almost compulsory! Now we share their view and would encourage anyone to sign up. – Prue

TOUR ITINERARY

June 21 Fri ✈ Flight to Cappadocia

Leaving Antalya fly to Cappadocia (Acts 2:9; 1 Peter 1:1) via Istanbul. Begin exploring the incredible scenery of this ancient land before checking into the Hilton in Avanos for two nights.

June 22 Sat • Cappadocia Wonders

Begin the day with an optional early morning hot air balloon ride over this stunning landscape (extra cost approx. AU\$270). After breakfast explore the local sites including the Goreme Open Air Museum with its 'fairy chimneys', and home to early (4th century) Christian communities which lived and worshipped deep in the rocks and crags, leaving their frescoes and paintings to be marvelled at centuries later. Next visit the Natural Citadel of Uchisar, the villages of Urgup and Cavusin, and drive through the Rose and Dervent Valleys. Optional (extra cost) 'Whirling Dervish' show before dinner.

June 23 Sat • Underground and on the Road

After breakfast visit the underground city of Kaymakli, where local people sought protection from marauding bandits over thousands of years. See 'cities' that reach a depth of up to 7 storeys below the surface. Head to the tranquil Ihlara valley and walk along the river deep in the gorge and enjoy lunch by the river. Drive to the airport for a flight to Istanbul (ancient Byzantium) for a 3 night stay.

June 24 Mon • Flavours of Istanbul

Begin with a visit to the Chora Church with its stunning mosaics from Byzantine times. Start a street-food inspired tour with a visit to the famous Spice Market to enjoy the smells and flavours of the East. Try some 'ekmek balik' before taking a relaxing cruise up the Bosphorous. Eat a special lunch in the trendy Ortakoy district before taking the coach to Taksim Square and the vibrant Istiklal Street where more exotic food awaits. Taste some amazing baklava, walk the Galata Bridge and take the back streets to return to the hotel.

June 25 Tue • Treasures of Istanbul

Visit Hagia Sophia, the largest and most significant church in Christendom for over 1,000 years and then the famous Blue Mosque, Hippodrome and underground cistern. A free afternoon provides an opportunity to explore the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace or the Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

June 26 Wed ✈ Home

A transfer to the airport (10am) will meet most flights back to Australia or on to other destinations.

YOUR TOUR LEADERS

DR TIM FOSTER, Vice-Principal of Ridley College, has been leading tours to the biblical world every year since 2012. He is passionate about experiential learning and building community on the road, and recognises the great value of visiting sites to better understand the world of the Bible. He loves Turkey, its sites, history, food, culture and people and would love to introduce you to this incredible country.

DR MARK WILSON, founder and director of the Asia Minor Research Center in Antalya, Turkey, is one of the foremost authorities on the sites of the seven churches and biblical Turkey. Mark is the author and editor of numerous books, articles and reviews, including *Biblical Turkey: A Guide to the Jewish and Christian Sites of Asia Minor* and *Victory through the Lamb: A Guide to Revelation in Plain Language*. His particular research interests are the ancient Jewish communities, Roman roads, and biblical routes in Turkey.

APPLICATION

Please complete an expression of interest here: ridley.edu.au/turkey
There is no deposit payable until **18 October, 2018**

DATES

Expressions of interest:
Now open

Non-refundable deposit of \$500 due:
18 October, 2018

Balance Due:
1 April, 2019

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact **Tim Foster**:
t.foster@ridley.edu.au

Ridley College
is an affiliated College of the
Australian College of Theology.
Cricos Provider: 02650E

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Included in the Tour Price

15 nights lodging in superior hotels, breakfast, dinners, tour leader and guide, services of air-conditioned deluxe coach, entrances as described in the itinerary except those described as 'optional', touring and transportation as appears on itinerary. Baggage handling at hotels (one piece), and tips to driver, guides and hotel staff are also included.

Not Included in the Tour Price

Anything not explicitly listed in the itinerary. The price does not include airfares, travel insurance, lunches, drinks, visa and personal expenses.

Surcharge

The final price is subject to changes in exchange rates, airport taxes, fuel costs or tariff rates, but a small contingency and exchange rate margin have been built in to the costs. A surcharge of \$60 per person will be levied for every 1 cent the Australian dollar is below US\$0.72 on 1 April, 2019. Ridley College reserves the right to vary itineraries and prices, and to substitute facilities and hotels if necessary.

Passports & Visa Requirement

All international tours require a current passport with at least 7 months validity from the date of entry into Greece and Turkey. Australian passport holders will need to purchase a visa for Turkey at least one month prior to departure.

Single Travellers

Every effort will be made to find room-mates for single travellers wishing to share a room with another same-sex traveller. Participants who are auditing will be required to pay a single supplement if a room-mate cannot be found. No supplement is payable by students taking units for credit in the event that a room-mate cannot be found.

Dietary Requirements

Whilst most special dietary requirements can be met at our hotels and restaurants, certain needs cannot always be met.

Travel Insurance

Participants are required to have travel insurance. It is the responsibility of participants to purchase insurance. Travel insurance should be obtained when flights are booked.

Age & Fitness Limitations

The tour is not particularly strenuous, although it does involve walking, some of which is over uneven ground and on stairs. Participants must be capable of self-care throughout the tour. Children under 15 are not permitted.

Security

In the event of an elevation of the travel warnings by the Australian Government it may be necessary to vary the itinerary. While Ridley College will try and absorb any extra costs associated with any variations, it may be necessary to levy additional charges where variations are significant. Under these circumstances Ridley may, at its discretion, offer full refunds of tour costs as an alternative. Ridley College will not be responsible for international air fares and other costs incurred directly by participants.

Flights

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own international airfares from and to Australia. Details of recommended flights which will be met by the tour operator will be provided. Participants are not required to travel with the group on recommended flights. Where a participant organises flights other than those recommended they are responsible for their own transfers, and in the event of missed connections are responsible for any extra costs associated with meeting the group.



"Your relaxed leadership, extensive knowledge and solid teaching, laced with a great sense of humour, all helped to make this trip the success it was." – Val

