

## PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS AND THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Led by Pastor Chow Leng Wee

### DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart from Vancouver International Airport to Istanbul.

### DAY 2: ISTANBUL

Arrive in Istanbul and thereafter transfer to hotel.

### DAY 3: ISTANBUL

Full day sightseeing in Istanbul in the old quarters of the city; Hagia Sophia, a church built by the Emperor Justinian in the sixth century, now turned into a mosque. Visit the Blue Mosque (there is renovation works, we do not know when the renovation works will be ended) and the Hippodrome where chariot races were held in Roman times. Tour the Topkapi Palace museum with its priceless jewels and the Porcelain Collection. Shopping in the Grand Bazaar and in the afternoon cross the Bosphorus Bridge to Asian Istanbul for a visit to Beylerbeyi Palace.



Istanbul



Hagia Sophia Church

**DAY 4: ISTANBUL - ADANA**

We will begin the morning visit Spice Market and cruise along the shores of the Bosphorus by private boat; In the afternoon, we will depart for flight to Adana for an overnight.

**DAY 5: ADANA - TARSUS - CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast, depart for Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul. Visit St. Paul's well, located in the Camii Cedid quarter. This is believed to be the place where the house of St. Paul once stood. There is a portrait of St. Paul hanging on the wall and some information about his life. The water in the 38 meter deep well is considered holy and curative. The birth date of the Apostle was not exactly known, but it is assumed that he was born between 5 and 15 A.D. As a native of the city, he once said in his speech to the Roman commander in Jerusalem, "I am a Jew, a Tarsian from Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city".

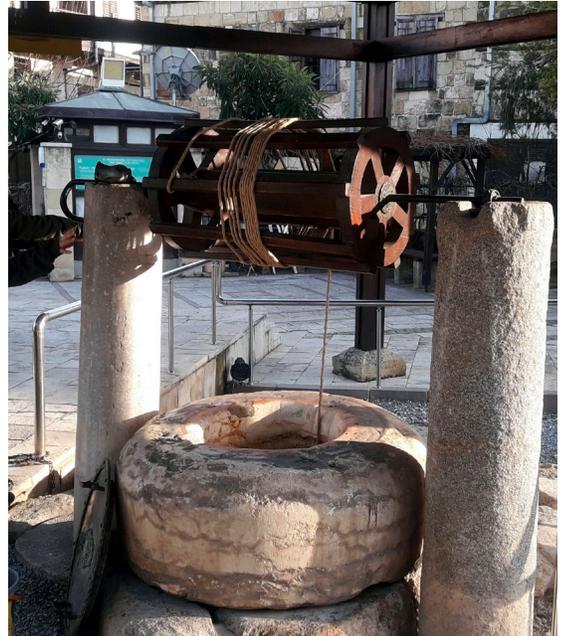
Drive to Cappadocia, an extensive region of odd, conic forms of gray yellow rock, some topped with off-angle hats, and many more than 15 m high. In Turkish these cones have been poetically called peri bacalari- fairy chimneys. Over 3500 rock churches have been identified in the area. A number of symbols appear throughout: pomegranates, birds, lions, snakes, vines and obvious crosses. There are many underground cities that were places of refuge where people had hidden themselves from invaders. Over-night in Cappadocia.

**DAY 6: CAPPADOCIA**

(Optional hot-air balloon ride. After the ride, you will be sent back to the hotel around 8:00 am to continue with the program for the day)  
We will spend all day exploring the history and



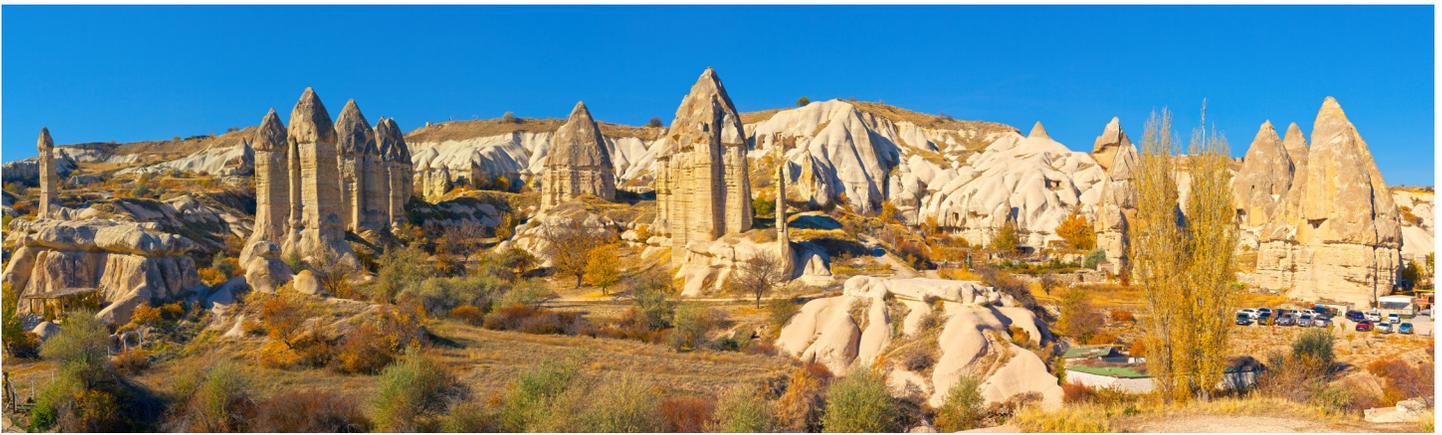
Grand Bazaar, Istanbul



Saint Paul's Well, Camii Cedid quarter



Cappadocia hot-air balloons



Gorkunder in Cappadocia

scenery of Cappadocia. First, we will visit the gently folding volcanic rock formations and “fairy chimneys” of Goreme Open Air Museum. These rock formations are not only beautiful, but functional as well. Many early Christian communities lived and worshipped deep in the rocks and crags, leaving their frescoes and paintings to be marveled at centuries later. Other communities lived underground; and we’ll visit these dwellings too. To protect themselves from Roman persecution and marauding bandits, local people began living in underground caves forming “cities” that reach a depth of up to 7 stories below the surface. Other sites include the Natural Citadel of Uchisar and the small, picturesque village of Avanos - famous for their red clay pottery.

In Avanos we’ll visit “The Potter’s Place: Gift Shoppe and Cultural Center” and have time to visit local potter for a demonstration and maybe try your own hand at the potter’s wheel.



Avanos red clay pottery

## **DAY 7: CAPPADOCIA - ANTALYA**

(This is a long day. Total duration is around 11 – 12 hours)

Proceed to Yalvac (Pisidian Antioch) where Paul decided to turn to the Gentiles. We will



Egridir Lake

drive past Egridir Lake, making a stop in Isparta –a mountain city of lakes filled with lovely wild flowers. Isparta is famous for its attar of roses – rose oil produced for the cosmetic industry; and the sweet scent surrounds the city. We will at Antalya (Attalia), the port in which St. Paul set off on his First Journey to Lystra and Derbe. Paul had sailed from Attalia to Antakya, Antioch. It is now the largest city on the Turkish Mediterranean Coastline.



Isparta

**DAY 8: ANTALYA**

Visit Perge where Saint Paul gave his first Sermon on the Anatolian Soil during his First Missionary trip. Then continue to Aspendos to enjoy the finest Roman theatre of the world.

**DAY 9: ANTALYA - PAMUKKALE**

Drive to Pamukkale, the Cotton Castle to visit the ruins of Hierapolis, celebrated for its warm baths. Philip was buried at Hierapolis. Then drive to Laodicea to see the remains of one of the Seven Churches. Laodicean Church was a branch of Ephesus as were the churches of Hierapolis and Colossae. Overnight will be at Pamukkale.



Perge

## DAY 10: PAMUKKALE – KUSADASI

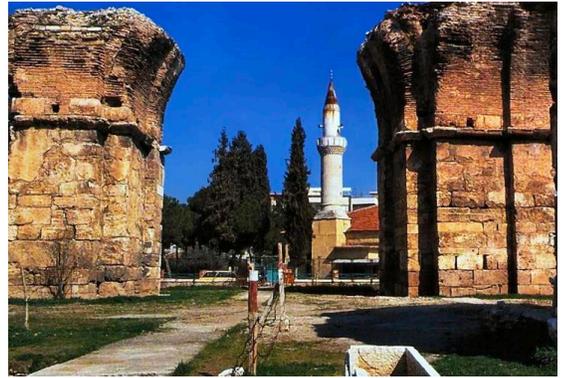
Morning drive to Miletos to see one of the largest Amphitheatres in Asia Minor. It was in Miletos that Paul stopped at the end of his Third Journey and predicted his imprisonment. Afternoon we will visit Ephesus where St. John was buried; and Mary spent her last days. The Church of the Virgin Mary built in the early days of Christianity was the seat for the Council of Ephesus. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.



Ephesus

## DAY 11: KUSADASI-IZMIR

Morning visit Sardis the capital of Lydia where King Croesus ruled. Visit the gymnasium and the Temple of Artemis. Later drive to Alasehir (Philadelphia). In this city of “brotherly love” we will see the ancient city wall. Dinner and overnight will be in Izmir (Smyrna).



Temple of Artemis

## DAY 12: IZMIR – CANAKKALE

Morning drive to Akhisar (Thyatira). The church at Thyatira had tolerated the works of Jezebel. Continue on to Pergamum to visit the Acropolis of Hellenistic Pergamum. Among its buildings are the Altar of Zeus and the temples of Trajan and Dionysus. Thereafter we will visit the Asclepion, the earliest health center of Asia Minor. Continue on to Canakkale. Dinner and over-night at hotel.



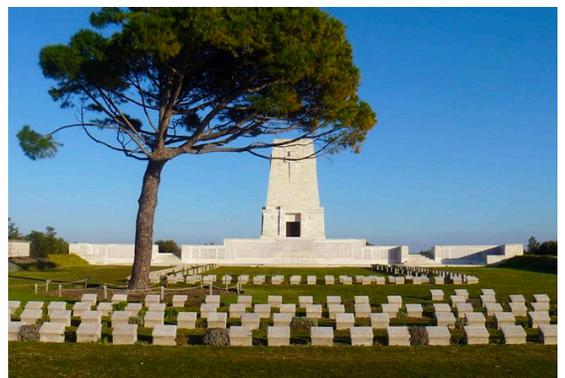
Altar of Zeus

## DAY 13: CANAKKALE

Morning visit the site of Troy, the Homeric city and the local museum. Drive to Alexandra Troas where Paul set sail to Neapolis on his Second Journey. Dinner and over-night at Canakkale.

## DAY 14: CANAKKALE – IPSALA – KAVALA – PHILIPPI – THESSALONIKI

Early morning departure to cross the Dardanelles by ferry. Drive through the First World War battlefields of Gallipoli and reach



World War I battlefields of Gallipoli

the Turkish/Greek border. After the necessary procedures at the checkpoint, we will say good-bye to Turkey and continue to Greece. The group will be met by our Greek guide and driver to continue the journey to Kavala (Neapolis), a picturesque city-port. From there we will visit the city of Philippi and the Baptistery of Lydia near the river where Paul baptized her. Lydia was the first convert of the Apostle Paul on European soil. We will also visit the ruins of the Forum of Philippi, the Christian Basilicas, the "Prison of Paul" and the Theatre. Continue to Thessaloniki. Overnight at hotel.



Forum of Philippi

**DAY 15: THESSALONIKI - METEORA - ATHENS**

After breakfast we will have short panoramic driving tour in Thessaloniki. Continue to Athens. Enroute we visit the breathtaking Monasteries of Meteora. Ageless monasteries stand amid striking scenery perched atop huge rocks, which seem to be suspended in mid-air. We can also see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. Overnight in Athens.



Monasteries of Meteora

**DAY 16: ACROPOLIS - ANCIENT CORINTH**

We begin the day by admiring the architectural miracles of ancient Athens to the world renowned Acropolis. We will see Propylea, the Erechtheum and Parthenon. Thereafter we will visit Mars Hill where Paul delivered his speech on the "Unknown God". We will also see the Agora, the ancient center, economic and public life of the city where Paul preached to the skeptical Athenians. Continue with a bus tour of the Constitution Square, House of Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Temple of Zeus, Old Olympic Stadium and the neoclassical buildings of Athens. We will then proceed to visit Ancient Corinth, the glorious city where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla;



Parthenon

and thereafter spent 1½ years teaching God's Word. We will visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples and the famous Bema where Paul stood before Gallio, accused by the Jews of Corinth. Then we will drive to Cenchrea, the little harbor from which Paul set sail back to Asia, thus ending his Second Missionary Journey. Overnight in Athens.



Cenchrea

**DAY 17: DEPART FOR HOME**

Transfer from hotel to the airport for departure to respective home cities.