

Biblical Tour of Turkey

Footsteps of Paul & Seven Churches of Revelation 19 days
For Ridley College Supporters and MA students



**24 April 2016 to
12 May 2016**

Plus:
Food lovers' extension
12 to 15 May, 2016

Luxury hotels
Expert lectures
Great fellowship
Incredible value

Highlights



Cappadocia



Istanbul



Churches of Revelation

Plus:
Gallipoli
Aphrodisias
Antalya
Pamukkale

Ridley College Tours: Expertise, Fellowship & Value

Ridley
COLLEGE



This unique experience will bring the bible and early church history to life. See some of the most amazing cities and landscapes in the world, visit stunning Cappadocia, enjoy the culture and cuisine of these fascinating cities.

We will walk in the footsteps of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journey and visit the Churches of the Revelation to be enriched as we better understand the world of the bible. Ridley faculty provide lectures and expert commentary amidst the ruins of the ancient world.

Luxury hotels, expert commentary, great travel companions, spectacular sites and incredible value will make this the holiday of a lifetime.

Cost:

Includes luxury accommodation, domestic airfare, breakfast, dinner, coach, boat trips, entrance fees, tips & taxes.

\$5,195 pp (twin share)

International airfare not included.

Subject to conditions over.

Single supplement: \$1,270.





Day 1: Sunday 24 April, 2016

Departure from Melbourne

Today we embark on our journey to the lands of ancient treasures and Christian history with an overnight flight to Turkey.

Day 2: Monday 25 April, 2016

Arrive in Istanbul

We transfer to our luxury hotel which is perfectly located in the heart of the Old City. After checking in we will have an orientation tour which will include a visit to the Blue Mosque and Hippodrome.

Day 3: Tuesday 26 April, 2016

Treasures & Street Food of Istanbul

We begin today with the wonderful mosaics and frescoes of the Chora Church. We then visit the bustling Spice Market before taking a private cruise on the Bosphorous Strait that divides Europe and Asia. After coffee at trendy Ortakoy we take our bus to Taksim Square and the New District where we experience another side of life in Istanbul. Along the way you will experience Istanbul's amazing street food, tasting at least a dozen local delicacies.



Day 4: Wednesday 27 April, 2016

Iconic Istanbul

This is a day of iconic sites full of history including the Hagia Sophia, largest and most significant church in Christendom for over 1,000 years, the Hagia Irene where much of the Nicene Creed was written and then on to the Basilica Cistern. Free afternoon to explore the Archaeological Museum, Grand Bazaar or Topkapi Palace.

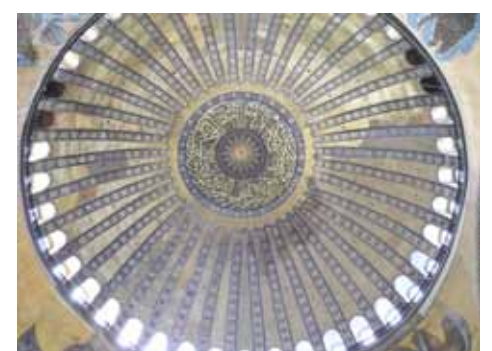
Day 5: Thursday 28 April, 2016

Spectacular Cappadocia

We take a morning flight to Cappadocia (Acts 2:9; 1 Peter 1:1) and begin to explore the incredible scenery of this ancient land. At the Goreme Open Air Museum we'll visit the "fairy chimneys" where many early Christian communities lived and worshipped deep in the rocks and crags, leaving their frescoes and paintings to be marvelled at centuries later. We will enjoy afternoon tea overlooking the Pigeon Valley, before checking into our hotel.



Being able to understand the terrain and the social environment when the letters and John's revelation was written certainly makes a different to understanding those letters. but aside from that, it was such fun being with such a special group of people.
- Pattie





We will cherish the special memories of places like Cappadocia, Istanbul and Ephesus. - Michael and Hilary

Day 6: Friday 29 April, 2016

Cappadocia Wonders

You may begin the day with an optional early morning hot air balloon ride over this stunning landscape (extra cost).

After breakfast we continue to explore the local sites including the Natural Citadel of Uchisar and the picturesque village of Avanos – famous for their red clay pottery. In Avanos we'll visit a local potter for a demonstration before lunch. We continue on to the villages of Urgup and Cavusin, driving through the Rose and Dervent Valleys. This evening you have the option of a 'Whirling Dervish' show.

Tour Leader

Ridley Vice-Principal, Dr Tim Foster, has taken six tours to Turkey and Greece and has come to know and love this part of the world. His experience ensures the best guides, excellent hotels, a well-paced itinerary and group dynamics that make each trip a success. Tim's extensive knowledge of the sites and relevant bible texts ensure engaging onsite lectures that bring the bible to life and deepen the faith and knowledge of participants.



"You are a great leader evidenced in your ability to foster great unity within the group and stimulate us intellectually and grow us spiritually as well." - Conrad

"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

Day 7: Saturday 30 April, 2016

Underground and on the Road

After breakfast we visit the underground city of Kaymakli, where local people sought protection from marauding bandits over thousands of years. They form 'cities' that reach a depth of up to 7 stories below the surface. We drive to Ihlara valley and walk along the river deep in the gorge and enjoy lunch by the river. Our final visit is to the Selime Monastery before we begin tracing a section of Paul's First and Second Missionary Journeys, driving to Konya (Iconium, Acts 13:51-14:6; 16:2). Here we visit the archeological museum and stay overnight.

Day 8: Sunday 1 May, 2016

Ancient Mediterranean Wonders

We cross the Taurus mountains to the coast and visit a series of striking archaeological sites along the coast. We begin with Perge, a wealthy and culturally well-developed city in ancient times. A short drive away is Aspendos, where we see the best preserved Roman Theatre in Turkey dating to AD 161. After lunch we 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. We have two nights in the resort city of Antalya (Acts 14:25-26).

Day 9: Monday 2 May, 2016

Antalya

We take a city tour, which includes Hadrian's Gate, and visit the award winning museum. You have a free afternoon to explore the old quarter, Harbour district, Kaputas beach or just relax by our hotel pool .

Day 10: Tuesday 3 May, 2016

Myra, Andriake, Kekova Bay & Fethiye

Today we drive along the coast with the spectacular mountains to our right and the turquoise Mediterranean waters to our left. We stop at Myra where Paul changed on his way to his trial in Rome, in about 60 AD (Acts 27:5). We visit the amphitheatre with its inscriptions and carvings, and the Lycian rock cut tombs. Myra is also the birthplace of St Nicholas, or Santa Claus, and we will explore the remains of the sixth century Church of St Nicholas with its gorgeous floor and wall paintings. We visit the nearby port of Andriake where we see the two thousand year old granaries built by Hadrian. We then visit Simena, one of the most attractive spots of the Turkish coast. Here we take a boat to see the ancient Lycian sunken city. We then continue to the port town of Fethiye for the evening.

Day 11: Wednesday 4 May, 2016

River Cruise, Kaunos & Hierapolis

We take a trip up the beautiful Calbys River to see the remarkable 5th century BC tombs carved into the rock and visit the Kaunos archeological site. Hierapolis (Col 4:13); an ancient centre for pagan cults. We see the necropolis, colonnaded street, baths and numerous other ruins, The Apostle Philip lived and was martyred here, and his tomb was only recently discovered. Hierapolis is visited by many tourists drawn by the thermal springs and spectacular scenery which you will enjoy. We spend the evening at a spa hotel in Pamukkale.

Day 12: Thursday 5 May, 2016

Laodicea, Colossae & Aphrodisias

We head to nearby Laodicea (Col 2:1; 4:13, 15, 16) where you will see how, with hot springs of Hierapolis on one side and cold mountain streams near Colossae on the other, Laodocia was "luke warm" (Rev 3:14-22). Laodicea contains many acres of ruins to visit. We then visit Colossae. The site has yet to be excavated, but walking over the mound provides an opportunity to observe ancient artefacts on the surface. We then drive up the mountains to the magnificent ruins of Aphrodisias. These are among the most interesting ruins in Turkey you will see the elaborate monumental gate, the foundations of the Temple of Aphrodite, the Christian bishop's palace, a beautiful marble odeon. A highlight is the largest known stadium of the ancient world. We spend the next three nights on the Aegean in Kusadasi.

A wonderful and amazing experience in every way. Hard to think of any negatives, because there were none! - Greg and Ann





Day 13 Friday 6 May, 2016

Free Day

After all the travelling it is time for a day off. Relax by the pool at our magnificent five star Charisma Hotel, or stroll the many shops and cafes in the charming port town.

Day 14: Saturday 7 May, 2016

Ephesus, Museum of Ephesus

This morning we travel to nearby Ephesus, which was once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. Today you can still see the spectacular excavations of the major streets in this ancient city where we view the library, agora, temples, odeon, terraces and numerous other ruins which give you a sense of ancient life. Paul visited the city twice, living here for over two years and may have been imprisoned here (Acts 18:19-21;19.1-20.1). We will celebrate Holy Communion in the remains of a fourth century church. After lunch at a carpet centre a wealth of artefacts awaits us at the excellent museum nearby.

Day 15 : Sunday 8 May, 2016

Sardis & Smyrna

We begin at the reconstructed ruins of Sardis (Rev 3.1-6). Here we'll visit the gymnasium, and the largest known synagogue outside Palestine which provides valuable clues for interpreting the letter to Sardis. We continue to Izmir which was known as Smyrna and was another of the Seven Churches (Rev. 2:8-11) where we visit the ancient agora and see the earliest known Christian graffiti.

Day 16: Monday 9 May, 2016

Pergamum, Assos & Troas

We drive to the impressive ruins of Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17) where we take a cable car to view the Acropolis. Heading north we stop briefly at Assos to see the Temple of Athena, and then drive to Troas, following a similar path to Paul. On the way we will see a short stretch of the Roman road he would have walked (Acts 20:13-14). We stop at Troas where the Apostle had a vision of a man from Macedonia (Acts 16:9) and subsequently departed for Neopolis (Kavala). He also raised Eutychus from the dead here (Acts 20:7f). We overnight in Çanakkale, overlooking the Dardanelles.

Day 17: Tuesday 10 May, 2016

Gallipoli, Istanbul

Our bus boards a ferry for the scenic crossing of the Dardanelles and then on to the Gallipoli Peninsula. We spend time at ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, Johnson's Jolly, Quinn's Post and The Nek where we will recall the experiences of the ANZACS and better understand the dynamics of the campaign. We then travel along the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul where we check into our hotel. You may have some time for shopping before our final dinner together.

Day 18: Wed 11 May, 2016

Istanbul & Home

You have a free morning for some last minute shopping, exploring the city on your own or visiting more of its wonderful sites. Transfer to the airport at 4.00pm.

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





Optional Food Lovers' Tour Extension

Stay on and enjoy this incredible spice journey that begins in Istanbul and takes you to Turkey's foodie capital - Gaziantep - in the south east of the country. Foodie heaven!

Day 18: Wed 11 May, 2016

Istanbul: Cooking Workshop

We begin by experiencing breakfast at a Van breakfast salon. Van is city in the far east of Turkey famous for its breakfasts, which we will try right here in Istanbul. We take a cooking class in which you will learn to cook traditional Black Sea cuisine from professional chefs. In the evening we venture across the Bosphorous by ferry to one of the city's most interesting restaurants.

Day 19: Thu 12 May, 2016

Gaziantep

We fly 90 minutes south east to Gaziantep, the source for many of Turkey's iconic dishes – the city's famous baklava is without compare and its kebabs are truly works of art. We will try dozens of the dishes for which this city is famous. We begin with lunch and then visit the Emine Gogus Culinary Museum. We then enjoy a baklava

crawl, sampling many varieties and meeting those who make it. We visit the copper market where we see coffee pots being handcrafted. Dinner is at an authentic restaurant offering a huge variety of regional dishes, before we go in search of pistachio gelato.

Day 20: Fri 13 May, 2016

The Day of the Three Breakfasts

We need to get up early to try Asef's famous Ciğerci Kebap - standard breakfast fare in Gaziantep. We then have our second breakfast of a spicy soup known as beyran. Third breakfast is katmer, a baked flaky pastry stuffed with clotted cream, sugar, and pistachios. We walk off our breakfasts at the famous mosaic museum that features hundreds of ancient mosaics discovered in this city. We relax in a coffee house near our hotel, enjoy some free time and later, dinner at another premier local restaurant, this one specialising in stewed food.

Day 21: Sat 14 May, 2016

Two breakfasts and home

You won't be hungry, so today we only have two breakfasts. We begin with a village breakfast in the Van style. Then we venture across town to try another breakfast dish known as yuvarlama or 'storyteller soup'. At midday we check out and head for the airport for our flight to Istanbul and then home - laden with treats from Gaziantep.

All food included

Extension limited to 12 people

Extension Cost

\$1,190 pp (twin share)

Includes return air fare to Gaziantep, cooking class hotels, transfers & all food!

Single supplement: \$185.



Bookings, Terms & Conditions

Tour Cost

The cost of the tour is \$5,195 per person, twin share subject to the terms and conditions below.

Airfare from/to Australia NOT included.

Single Supplement

Single Supplement - \$1,270

Food Lovers' Extension

\$1,190 pp (twin share).

Single supplement: \$185.

Included in the Tour Price

Flight from Istanbul to Cappadocia. 14 nights lodging in superior hotels (most 5 star), 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). Tips to driver, guides, cruise and hotel staff are also included.

In addition, the extension includes return air fare Istanbul to Gaziantep, hotels in Istanbul and Gaziantep, food, entrances and transportation by taxi.

Not Included in the Tour Price

Anything not explicitly included. International airfare from Australia, travel insurance, lunches, drinks, Turkey visa, hot air balloon ride (\$200 per person) and personal expenses are not included.

Bookings

Booking form is available on the Ridley website at ridley.edu.au/tour16. These may be posted or emailed and will be processed in the order in which they are received. Places are limited to 30 passengers. Extension limited to 12 passengers. A deposit of \$500 per person is payable upon registration and is NOT refundable.

Final Payment

An invoice will be issued for final payment which is due on February 1, 2016.



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(03) 9207 4800
ABN: 14 004 087 450

Cancellation

The following penalties apply:

Before January 31, 2016	\$500 penalty
After January 31, 2016	No refund

Surcharge

A small contingency and exchange rate margin have been built in to the costs. However, the final price is subject to changes in exchange rates, airport taxes, fuel costs or tariff rates. A surcharge of \$40 per person will be levied for every 1 cent the Australian dollar is below \$0.73 on January 31, 2016. Ridley College reserves the right to vary itineraries and prices, and to substitute facilities and hotels if necessary.

Age & Fitness Limitations

The tour is not particularly strenuous, although it does involve walking, some of which is over uneven ground as well as stairs. It is possible to opt out of those activities. Participants must be capable of self care throughout the tour. Children under 15 are not permitted. The extension involves extensive walking and is only suitable for highly mobile people.

Travel Insurance

Participants are required to have travel insurance. It is the responsibility of the participants to obtain insurance.

Air Transport

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own airfares from and to Australia. Flight details will be provided upon acceptance of booking. Participants are not required to travel with the group. Internal airfare (Istanbul to Cappadocia) is included.

Passports & Visa Requirement

All international tours require a current passport. Names on airline ticket will appear as shown on passport. You will need to purchase a visa for Turkey at least one month prior to departure. Details of how to obtain a visa will be provided.

Dietary Requirements

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

Contact Details

For further information contact: Tim Foster
t.foster@ridley.edu.au or (03) 92074800 (ext. 917)

Bookings:
www.ridley.edu.au/tour16