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Join the Mississippi Methodist Foundation  
exploring the

# *Journeys of Paul* in Türkiye and Nicaea

April 8 - 19, 2027



# Itinerary



## April 8 – Depart Home

Your pilgrimage begins as you board your international flight for Istanbul.

## April 9 – Arrive in Türkiye

Upon arrival, you will be met by our airport representative. Transfer to your hotel in Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

## April 10 – Istanbul

The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents and is home to 450 mosques. You will visit the famous Blue Mosque with its six minarets and sparkling interior. Walk through Hagia Sophia, which was the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years, built by Justinian (532-537 AD). The church has 107 columns, fossil-embedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4,000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. This afternoon you will fly to Cappadocia.

## April 11 – Cappadocia

(Optional Sunrise Balloon Ride)

Explore Cappadocia's amazing cone-shaped rock formations, which create a fairy-tale landscape. Even today, people live in the cliffs and rock cones of Cappadocia. It is estimated that over 3,000 rock churches exist in the region. You will visit the Rock Chapels of Göreme, the Cave Village of Avcılar, and the Monastic Complex of Zelve. Walk through the underground city of Ozkonak.

## April 12 – Antioch in Pisidia

Stop at the Sultanhan Caravansarai, an important stop on the Silk Road from China. Arrive in Pisidian Antioch, the site of Paul's first recorded speech. Paul delivered it in the synagogue among His fellow Jews. He spoke of the wonders God had done throughout Israel's history that led to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 13:14-52). The Jews were outraged at this. Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the city, but not before the Gentiles in Antioch heard the Gospel and were persuaded that it is indeed the truth that leads to Life Eternal. These believers then established the first-ever fully Gentile Christian community.

## April 13 – Colossae, Hierapolis, & Laodicea

Famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the town of Colossae has fallen into obscurity. While you can still see traces of the theatre, the Necropolis, and the Church, the ancient city is mostly indistinguishable from ruins. Hierapolis is blessed with hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4:13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You will see the impressive amphitheater with seats still in perfect condition. You will see the City Gates, column-lined streets, and arches that have stood the test of time and earthquakes. Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle", named for the limestone-laden hot springs which cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3:15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3:20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock . . ." "Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets.

#### April 14 – Philadelphia, Sardis, Thyatira, & Smyrna

Visit the site of Philadelphia also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3:7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them “the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem.” (Rev. 3: 12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Travel to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of 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. Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelation, tolerated the false prophetess Jezebel (Rev. 1:11; 2:18-29). The third-largest city in modern Turkey is Izmir, long a center of Jewish and Christian communities. In Paul’s day, the town was known as Smyrna. It was also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2:8-11). You will see the Agora, the colonnaded commercial center where Roman statues can still be seen.

#### April 15 – Ephesus

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today, you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You will view the Library and the huge Agora. The Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You will visit the Ephesus Experience Museum for an up-close look at the ancient city. You will visit the Basilica of St. John, the traditional site of his grave. You will have time to explore this powerful city on your own and to retrace some of Paul’s footsteps.

#### April 16 – Pergamum & Troas

Pergamum was another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation (Rev. 2:12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which Christ hated (Rev. 2:13-17). The fabled Acropolis towers 1000 feet above the town and commands a spectacular panorama. 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 see the remains of the Temple of Trajan, the Grand Theatre, the Gymnasium, and the Health Center (Aesclepiion). Not far away is Troas. Here, on his second missionary journey, Paul had a vision in which he was called to Macedonia (Acts 16:8-13). Later, during his third journey, Paul spent a week in Troas preaching. On one occasion, he also resurrected Eutychus, who had fallen to his death from a window while sleeping (Acts 20:6-12).

#### April 17 – Troy, Troas & the Dardanelles

In Troy, history is buried in myth and mud. Nine layers of the fabled city have been excavated. Homer’s Iliad relates the legendary story of the Trojan War. Travel to Istanbul via the beautiful Dardanelles.

#### April 18 – Nicaea

Today, you will visit the lakeside town of Iznik, known in Byzantine times as Nicaea and the site of two ecumenical church councils. The ancient name is associated with the Nicene Creed, which many Christians can recite from memory.

You will see the ancient walls and sites associated with the town’s Christian heritage: the ruins of the Basilica of St. Sophia, the Baptistry, and the Christian Tombs on the outskirts of town.

#### April 19 – Return to the USA

Transfer to the airport, and return to the USA.



Starting at

**\$4,298\***  
from New York

**\$4,596\***  
from Atlanta, GA

**\$4,696\***  
from Dallas/Fort Worth

#### 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 Meals as Listed in the Itinerary,

Deluxe Motorcoaches

First-Class Hotels & much more!

\*A 3.5% surcharge is added to all credit card transactions.

**PROGRAM CONDITIONS**

**INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

• Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing • Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in itinerary) • Meals as listed in the itinerary • Hotel gratuities • Program fees • Administrative Fee • Fuel surcharges \$400 • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

**NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

• Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule) • Extensions and optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure • Miscellaneous fees such as individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, beverages at meals & baggage fees • Voluntary "Love Offering" for guide and driver • \$100 Document fee for Non-US/Canadian residents • Visa for non-US citizens • Required Vaccinations • Required medical testing before, during, and/or after travel

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While EOT will try to match roommates, EOT 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 INFORMATION:**

A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

| Payment                         | Amount         | Due Date  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Initial Deposit</b>          | <b>\$300</b>   | Due upon registration. Includes a minimum \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee. See CANCELLATION FEES for details.   |
| <b>Second Deposit</b>           | <b>\$1,500</b> | 12/14/26  |
| <b>Full Deposit</b>             | <b>\$1,800</b> | Payment received between 12/15/27 - 01/22/27 must pay the full deposit amount and may be subject to late registration fees.   |
| <b>Final Payment</b>            |                | 01/23/27. If paid after the due date, a late payment fee of \$100 will be assessed.   |
| <b>Travel Protection Amount</b> |                | The Travel Protection Plan premium will be due no later than 12/14/26 to be in full effect. Travel protection premiums must be paid in addition to our deposits and in advance of the final payment for coverage to be in effect. |

**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED after December 14, 2026:**

We welcome registrations after 12/14/26. Registrations received between 12/15/26 - 01/08/27 will incur a fee starting at \$100 per person. Registrations received between 01/09/27 - 01/23/27 will incur a fee starting at \$200 per person. Registrations received between 01/24/27 - 02/07/27 will incur a fee starting at \$400 per person. Registrations received on 02/08/27 or later will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

**CANCELLATION FEES:**

00% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From the day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline and land fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties, land penalties, and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 104-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to the day of departure = 100% of the total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after the day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

**STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

EOT does not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour. All such losses or expenses will be the responsibility of the passenger. EOT reserves the right to make adjustments to the itinerary as deemed desirable by EOT, and EOT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. If a tour is canceled beyond the control of EOT, EOT will provide a refund or a future travel credit to be used two years from the date of issuance for the value of all funds paid by the passenger less nonrefundable travel supplier prepaid deposits, travel supplier change fees, nonrefundable travel protection premiums, and a \$150 administration fee.

**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 and space limitations on tour buses, wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated. Those needing oxygen or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences. Persons using C-pap machines requiring distilled water will need to inform us ahead of time, so we can work with local operators to prepare as it is not always available. EOT reserves the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in the sole judgment of EOT, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request. If you have questions, please see [eo.travel/fit-to-travel-statement](http://eo.travel/fit-to-travel-statement) or contact Educational Opportunities Tours Inc. for more details.

**PASSPORT INFORMATION:**

Passport information must be submitted to our office no later than 12/14/26. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger.

**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, EOT does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, 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 traveling 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 guest services for further details.

**FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING:**

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. EOT is 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.

**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. For more information, visit [eo.travel/travel-info/airline-fees](http://eo.travel/travel-info/airline-fees).

**ON OWN DEVIATIONS:**

On Own Deviations from the standard tour program must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees, if applicable. Transfers for passengers who deviate are not included.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While EOT will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator. Except as stated herein, no other person is authorized to cancel, modify or vary the tour arrangements or to make any representation of warranty concerning the tour.

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 07/22/26. If validity date has passed, current brochures may be found at [www.eo.travel](http://www.eo.travel). Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

**RELEASE INFORMATION:**

Payment of deposit indicates permission for EOT or its agents 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 EOT or its agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies EOT in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, EOT acts only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall EOT be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that EOT assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service.

EOT does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Without limiting the foregoing, the passenger agrees to release EOT and to hold EOT harmless for any liability, loss or expense arising from any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van, or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, Pandemic, strikes, or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party. Florida law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour. Any and all litigation must be brought only in courts in Polk County, Florida to the exclusion of litigation anywhere else in the world. Educational Opportunities Tours is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. Registration No. ST24130. CST2027682-40.

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

| Trip Cost     | Cost* | Trip Cost     | Cost* | Trip Cost      | Cost* |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| \$0 - \$1000  | \$99  | \$3501-\$4000 | \$399 | \$6501-\$7000  | \$699 |
| \$1001-\$1500 | \$149 | \$4001-\$4500 | \$449 | \$7001-\$8000  | \$799 |
| \$1501-\$2000 | \$199 | \$4501-\$5000 | \$499 | \$8001-\$9000  | \$899 |
| \$2001-\$2500 | \$249 | \$5001-\$5500 | \$549 | \$9001-\$10000 | \$999 |
| \$2501-\$3000 | \$299 | \$5501-\$6000 | \$599 |                |       |
| \$3001-\$3500 | \$349 | \$6001-\$6500 | \$649 |                |       |

| Schedule of Benefits                          | Maximum Benefit                              |
|---|--|
| <b>Part A*</b>                                |  |
| Trip Cancellation                             | 100% of the Trip Cost                        |
| <b>Part B</b>                                 |  |
| Trip Interruption                             | Up to 100% of the non-refundable Trip Cost   |
| Missed Connection                             | \$500  |
| Trip Delay                                    | Up to \$150 Per Day, to a Maximum of \$1,500 |
| <b>Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation</b> |  |
| Accident & Sickness Medical Expense           | \$25,000                                     |
| Medical Evacuation & Repatriation of Remains  | \$50,000                                     |
| 24 Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment      | \$25,000                                     |
| Baggage and Personal Effects                  | \$1,000                                      |
| Baggage Delay                                 | Up to \$200                                  |

**Additional Cancellation Protection**

When You purchase this Travel Protection Plan at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip, you also receive the Educational Opportunities Tours Non-Insurance Cancellation Waiver that allows you to cancel your Educational Opportunities Tours travel arrangements up to the day of departure for any reason (excludes no shows and those not permitted boarding). With this Educational Opportunities Tours Cancellation Waiver, your non-refundable land cancellation penalties will be reimbursed in cash or in travel vouchers (depending on your reason for cancellation). Certain travel programs are not eligible for this benefit, such as cruise and land programs listed and detailed on the Educational Opportunities website ([www.eo.travel](http://www.eo.travel)). Plan costs must be paid in addition to initial or second deposit prior to the final payment for coverage to be in effect. Part A -Non-Insurance Cancellation Waiver is provided by Educational Opportunities Tours. Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Company and serviced by Trip Mate. \*In MN and NY, a different cancellation waiver is available. Available for purchase separately in NY.

**Conditions and Limitations**

The Travel Protection Plan is only available for citizens or residents of the United States of America. This advertisement contains highlights of the plans developed by Trip Mate, a Generali Global Assistance & Insurance Services brand, which include travel insurance coverages underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company, Principal Office located in Morristown, New Jersey, under form series T7000 et al, T210 et al and TP-401 et al, and non-insurance Travel Assistance Services provided by Generali Global Assistance and FootprintID and a non-insurance Cancellation Fee Waiver provided by Educational Opportunities Tours, Inc (F427E Plan Only). The terms of insurance coverages in the plans may vary by jurisdiction and not all insurance coverages are available in all jurisdictions. Insurance coverages in these plans are subject to terms, limitations and exclusions including an exclusion for pre-existing medical conditions. In most states, your travel retailer is not a licensed insurance producer/agent, and is not qualified or authorized to answer technical questions about the terms, benefits, exclusions and conditions of the insurance offered or to evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. Your travel retailer may be compensated for the purchase of a plan and may provide general information about the plans offered, including a description of the coverage and price. The purchase of travel insurance is not required in order to purchase any other product or service from your travel retailer. CA DOI toll free number is 800-927-4357. The cost of your plan is for the entire plan, which consists of both insurance and non-insurance components. Individuals looking to obtain additional information regarding the features and pricing of each travel plan component, please contact Trip Mate, a Generali Global Assistance & Insurance Services brand; P.O. Box 527, Hazelwood, MO 63042; 1-833-297-2255; [assistancefees@tripmate.com](mailto:assistancefees@tripmate.com). We are licensed in all states. While Trip Mate markets the travel insurance in these plans on behalf of USF, non-insurance components of the plans were added to the plans by Trip Mate, and Trip Mate does not receive compensation from USF for providing the non-insurance components of the plans.