

MARK AND JENNIFER WESSNER
NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH TOUR
WITH MB SEMINARY



MB BIBLICAL
SEMINARY

GREECE & TURKEY

MARCH 19-29, 2023

Tour Host: **Mark Wessner**, PhD

ROME EXTENSION MARCH 29-APRIL 1, 2023

TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —



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Mark Wessner, Ph.D.

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Mar 22 Wed **SARDIS** (Rev 1:11; 3:1-6) - **HIERAPOLIS** (Col. 4:13-15; 4:16) - **LAODICEA** (Col. 2:1, 4:13-16; Rev 1:11; 3:14-22) - **KUSADASI**
Depart for **Sardis**, one of the other cities of Revelation. Here, we'll see the remains of the magnificent **temple of Artemis** (later converted into a church), the beautifully reconstructed **gymnasium and public baths**, and the largest known **synagogue** outside Palestine.
In Pamukkale, we'll visit the remains of ancient **Hierapolis** to see the newly found **Tomb and Martyrium of St. Philip** and the city's **theater** with one of most impressive reconstructed **Roman skenes**.
Our last stop is **Laodicea**, a major city in Roman times that is rapidly being uncovered. Laodicea had not one but two **theatres**, a **stadium**, an **aqueduct**, and over **20 churches** dating to Byzantine times that archaeologists have already uncovered. Laodicea is the last of the seven churches to whom John directed the book of Revelation (Rev. 3:14-22). It also had a close relationship with the nearby churches of Colossae and Hierapolis (Col. 4:13-15) and was the recipient of one of Paul's now lost letters (Col. 4:16).
Drive to the holiday town of Kusadasi located on the shores of the Aegean Sea. Dinner and Overnight in Kusadasi. **(B, D)**

Mar 23 Thu **EPHESUS** (Acts 18:19-21, 24-26; 19:1-20:1; 20:16-17; 1 Cor 15:32; 16:8; Eph 1:1; 1 Tim 1:3; 2 Tim 1:18; 4:12; Rev 1:11; 2:1-7)
Drive to Selcuk town to visit the famous **ancient city of Ephesus**. This site had successive Hellenistic and Roman settlements and was an outstanding example of a Roman port city with a sea channel and harbor basin into which the Apostle Paul sailed. He lived and ministered here for 2-3 years after a riot in the **Great Theater**, which we can still visit today. Excavations have revealed other grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period including marble-paved roads, terrace homes of the elite, Roman Baths, the Celsus Library, and more. Today, Ephesus is also one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. With a special permission, we will also visit the "Paul & Thecla Cave Church" including one of the earliest images of Paul.
For lunch, we will visit a local **Anatolian Handmade Carpet and Kilim production center** and learning how our world-famous Turkish rugs are made. We will see unique Christian design carpets at this place.
Afternoon we'll visit the **Tomb and Basilica of St. John**, the last-surviving disciple of Jesus who is said to have lived in Ephesus during his final years along with Jesus' mother Mary. Overnight in Kusadasi. **(B,D)**

Mar 24 Fri **Transfer to Izmir Airport for flight to Istanbul**
Morning flight to Istanbul, the only city on two continents! First, we visit the pinnacle of Byzantine Christian architecture--**Hagia Sophia** (the church of "Holy Wisdom"). Built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Emperor Justinian in the 6th century as the crowning achievement of his sacred building program, this church was the center of the Christian Byzantine Empire. It's one of the world's greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site. We will also visit Hagia Sophia's sister church--**Hagia Irene** (Holy Peace). Also rebuilt by Justinian, Hagia Irene is particularly important in Christian History as the location of the 2nd Ecumenical Council (381 AD). Located nearby is the **Hippodrome** (a.k.a. **Sultanahmet Square**) that once stood in the heart of the Byzantine city of Constantinople and originally held up to 100,000 people. Although little is left of this gigantic horseracing arena, there are a number of impressive columns and other structures situated at the site, such as the **Obelisk of Theodosius**, the **Serpent Column**, and the gazebo-styled **German Fountain**. After lunch, BCE). If it's not under construction and time allowing, we will also visit the **Blue Mosque**, which was built during the years of 1609-1616 and which was intended to compete with the impressive beauty of the Hagia Sophia. Inside, the famous blue-and-white tile work from which the mosque gets its nickname, is bathed in light from 260 windows. Late afternoon we will visit the famous **Grand Bazaar** to finish our day before returning back to our hotel for dinner. **(B,D)**

Mar 25 Sat **Fly Thessaloniki - Philippi - Thessaloniki**
Meet your Greek guide at Thessaloniki Airport. Drive to **Philippi** where Paul preached his first sermon in Europe and "baptized a certain woman named Lydia" Europe's first convert to Christianity. View the **Roman City Forum** and **early basilicas** and see where Paul was flogged, imprisoned and later released. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki. **(B,D)**



Tour Itinerary:

Mar 19 Sun **Depart Vancouver TK76 18:35/*17:05 (or Toronto TK18 22:30/*16:10) to Izmir**
Overnight en route

Mar 20 Mon **Arrive Izmir Airport - IZMIR**
After landing at the Izmir International Airport, our representative will meet you after the baggage claim with a **"MARK WESSNER - TUTKU"** sign. Meet and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and Overnight at your Hotel in Izmir. **(D)**

Mar 21 Tue **SMYRNA - PERGAMUM** (Rev 1:11; 2:12-17) and **THYATIRA** (Rev 1:11; 2:18-29) - **IZMIR**
Morning visit to the **ancient Agora of Smyrna** (Rev 1:11; 2:8-11). Then, we'll travel north to visit the first of the seven cities of Revelation--**Pergamum**. It is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in all of Turkey. Its attractions are hard to surpass: a 10,000-seat **theatre** on the side of the **Acropolis** that is the steepest in the ancient world; the magnificently restored **Temple of Trajan**; the remains of a **library** of 200,000 volumes second in size only to that in Alexandria; the base of the **Altar of Zeus** "Satan's throne" (Rev. 2:12-17). On our way back to Izmir, we'll make a brief stop at the ancient city of **Thyatira**, where, due to the presence of the modern city of Akhisar, few archaeological remains have thus far been uncovered. John warned the church here about its toleration of a woman symbolically called Jezebel who was leading believers astray, causing them "to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols" (Rev. 2:18-29). Return to Izmir. Dinner and Overnight Izmir. **(B,D)**

Colosseum,
Rome



Mar 26 Sun Thessaloniki - Meteora

This morning Discuss Paul's letters to the Thessalonians (Acts 17). Tour the **Ancient Walls**, the **White Tower**, **St. George Church**, the **basilicas of St. Demetrius** and **St. Sophia**. On to the **Meteora**, with its particularly impressive scenery. Visit the **Ageless Monasteries** containing priceless historical and religious treasures, stand suspended between earth and sky, on top of huge granite rocks. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka **(B,D)**

Mar 27 Mon Meteora - Delphi - Athens

After breakfast drive to **Delphi** to visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the **Temple of Apollo** and the **Museum** containing such masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture as the bronze Charioteer and the famous athlete Aghia then afternoon travel to **Athens**. End the day with time to shop at the **Plaka**. Dinner and overnight in Athens **(B,D)**

Mar 28 Tue Athens - Corinth

In the morning travel to the Peloponnesian Peninsula and biblical town of **Corinth**. "After that Paul left Athens and went to Corinth" (Acts 17). The **Corinth Canal** links the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Explore Corinth which was visited by Paul for 18 months, the **Bema Seat** and the **museum**. Enjoy some shopping in Corinth. Return to Athens to tour the **Acropolis** with its **Museum the Parthenon**, **Mar's Hill** (Acts 17), **Hadrian's Arch**. Dinner and overnight in Athens **(B,D)**

Mar 29 Wed Departure

After breakfast transfer to the Athens airport for your flight home (via Istanbul)
TK 75 15:10/17:05 to Vancouver BC - OR, TK 17 15:45/18:40 to Toronto

Rome Extension March 29-April 1 (optional)

Mar 29 Wed Athens - Rome

Arrive to the Fiumicino airport (Rome). Meet your assistant and driver and transfer to your hotel.
In the late afternoon, meet your guide and enjoy a half day (3hrs) walking tour "**Baroque Rome**" admiring the most beautiful examples of baroque art in the heart of the city: the **Triton Fountain** on foot of the Spanish Steps, the Columns of Immaculate Conception, the Colonna Gallery, the world famous **Trevi Fountain**, the **Piazza Navona Square** with its fountains including the **Fountain of Four Rivers**. Dinner and overnight in Rome. **(B,D)**

Mar 30 Thu Rome

Breakfast at your hotel. Meet your English speaking guide and enjoy a half guided (4 hours) tour "Ancient Rome". Visit the **Colosseum** (inside visit), **Roman Forum**, **Palatine Hill** and the **Mamertine Prisons** (called the Tullianum) in which Peter and Paul are believed to have been imprisoned. Free time for lunch and individual exploration. Dinner and overnight Rome. **(B,D)**

Mar 31 Fri Rome

Breakfast at your hotel. Meet your guide at the hotel and move to the **Vatican City**. Visit the **Vatican Museums** and the **Sistine Chapel**, followed by an exploration of the atmospheric **St. Peter's Basilica**, one of the four largest basilicas in Rome.
Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, continue the guided tour, moving to the **Lateran Complex**. Visit the "mother and the head of all the churches in Rome" and the second of the four largest basilicas in Rome - **the Basilica of St. John in Lateran**, admiring its marble sculptures, vaulted ceilings, mosaics and painting. Proceed for the Holy Stairs, the steps that Jesus of Nazareth walked himself before being judged. The last stop of the tour is at the oldest baptistery in the entire city of Rome - **the Lateral Baptistery**.
At the end of the tour, free time for shopping. Dinner and overnight in Rome. **(B,D)**

Apr 1 Sat Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer by private coach to Fiumicino airport. Depart Rome for Canada.

TOUR MAP



LAND & AIR (US\$)

From Vancouver:

\$4,290 Per Person in Double/or Triple Occupancy
\$850 Single Room Supplement

From Toronto:

\$4,190 Per Person in Double/or Triple Occupancy
\$850 Single Room Supplement

ROME EXTENSION: Minimum 10 people

\$990 Per Person in Double/or Triple Occupancy
\$310 Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- Roundtrip international air fare between Vancouver BC and Toronto to Istanbul & Athens to Vancouver and Toronto
- Domestic flight from Istanbul to Izmir
- Domestic flight from Izmir to Istanbul
- Flight from Istanbul to Thessaloniki
- Flight from Athens to Rome (Rome Extension only)
- Flight from Rome to Istanbul (Rome Extension only)
- 2 Nights at **Moevenpick Hotel in Izmir** or similar
- 2 Nights at **Korumar Hotel in Kusadasi** or similar
- 1 Night at **Moevenpick Golden Horn in Istanbul** or similar
- 1 Night at **Grand Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki** or similar
- 1 Night at **Amalia Hotel in Kalambaka** or similar
- 2 Nights at **Herodion Hotel in Athens** or similar
- 3 Nights at **Cicerone Hotel in Rome** or similar (Rome Extension only)
- Daily open buffet breakfasts
- 9 dinners (B: breakfast, D: dinner)
- All Airport-Hotel-Airport transfers in private basis
- All land transportation by private fully A/C bus with driver throughout the tour
- Tolls, parking fees, fuel, driver's expenses
- Local professional licensed English speaking tour guides in Turkey, Greece, and Rome
- All Entry fees to the mentioned sites & museums
- Service charges & local taxes
- Tips to tour guides and to the drivers (except in Rome)

EXCLUDING

- Lunches and drinks
- All personal expenses and any other service which are not mentioned above
- Travel and Health insurance, any kind of insurance (insurance may be given at an extra cost, please ask)



Agora, Smyrna



Sardis



Delphi



Trevi Fountain, Rome

PAYMENT PROCEDURE:

DEPOSIT : \$200 per person on or before June 1, 2022
(refundable until December 1)

FULL PAYMENT: You can make a bank wire to our below bank account on or before December 1, 2022.

TUTKU will collect all payments: For payment, you can click and fill-in the secure form at our website (Visa or Mastercard only)
<https://tutku.travel/payment>

Cancellation Penalty:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| - 89-60 days prior to departure: | No Penalty |
| - 59-45 days prior to departure: | 10% |
| - 44-30 days prior to departure: | 50% |
| - 29-15 days prior to departure: | 75% |
| - 14 days & After | No refund |

For more information, please contact

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