



Biblical and Early Christian Sites in Türkiye

January 25- February 6, 2027

Join the Virginia Theological Seminary as we walk in the footsteps of apostles, where ancient prophets once journeyed, and witness the rise of early Christianity.

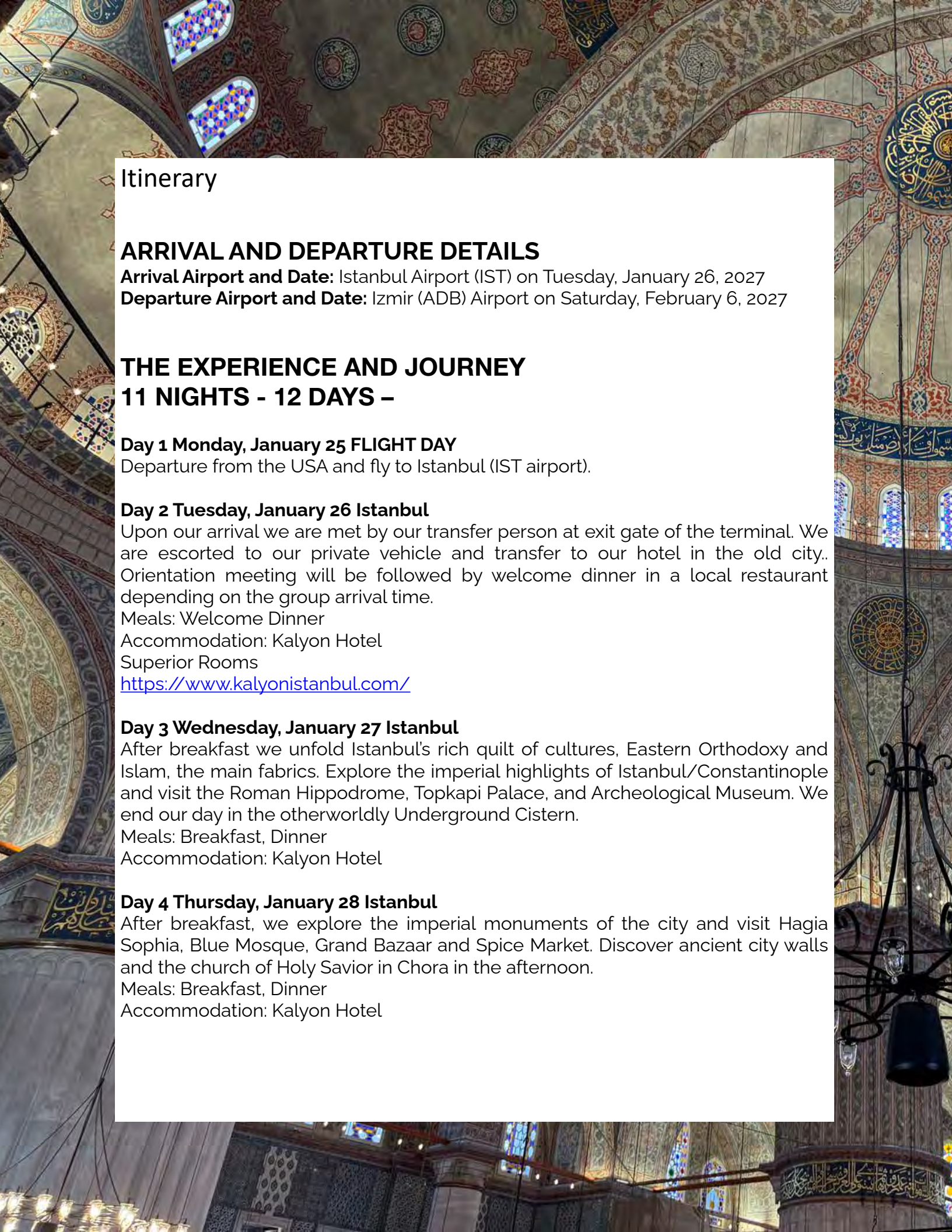
What We Offer:

- VIP treatment in comfort of luxury travel itinerary
- Renowned Turkish hospitality
- Spiritual leadership from The Rev. Russ Levenson, The Rev. Huey Gardner, The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, PhD, and The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, PhD.

For more information:

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Itinerary

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS

Arrival Airport and Date: Istanbul Airport (IST) on Tuesday, January 26, 2027

Departure Airport and Date: Izmir (ADB) Airport on Saturday, February 6, 2027

THE EXPERIENCE AND JOURNEY 11 NIGHTS - 12 DAYS –

Day 1 Monday, January 25 FLIGHT DAY

Departure from the USA and fly to Istanbul (IST airport).

Day 2 Tuesday, January 26 Istanbul

Upon our arrival we are met by our transfer person at exit gate of the terminal. We are escorted to our private vehicle and transfer to our hotel in the old city.. Orientation meeting will be followed by welcome dinner in a local restaurant depending on the group arrival time.

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Accommodation: Kalyon Hotel

Superior Rooms

<https://www.kalyonistanbul.com/>

Day 3 Wednesday, January 27 Istanbul

After breakfast we unfold Istanbul's rich quilt of cultures, Eastern Orthodoxy and Islam, the main fabrics. Explore the imperial highlights of Istanbul/Constantinople and visit the Roman Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace, and Archeological Museum. We end our day in the otherworldly Underground Cistern.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Kalyon Hotel

Day 4 Thursday, January 28 Istanbul

After breakfast, we explore the imperial monuments of the city and visit Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar and Spice Market. Discover ancient city walls and the church of Holy Savior in Chora in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Kalyon Hotel

Day 5 Friday, January 29 Antalya

After breakfast, check out the hotel and transfer to the airport. Fly to Antalya at 10:55am onboard TK2512 and arrive in Antalya at 12:20. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit Perge, a reconstructed Hellenistic city, with a marvelous city plan, including baths, temples, an agora and a theater; a site of Paul's preaching (Acts 13:13-14, 14:25). Drive and check-in to the hotel in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Akra Hotel, Sea View Rooms

<https://www.akrahotels.com/tr/oteller/akra-antalya/>

Day 6 Saturday, January 30 Antalya

After leisurely morning, walk through the old harbor of Antalya, ancient Attalia in the morning. Enjoy your free afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Akra Hotel

**Day 7 Sunday, January 31 Pamukkale**

After breakfast, check out the hotel and drive to Denizli over Taurus Mountains. We explore the Biblical sites of Lycus valley (Letter to the Colossians and Letter to Philemon). We start from Colossae and then continue to Laodicea, one of the seven churches in the Revelation of John (Rev. 3:14-22; Col. 2:1, 4:13-16). Check into the thermal hotel in Pamukkale in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Colossae Thermal Hotel,

www.colossaeht.com

Day 8 Monday, February 01 Kusadasi

After breakfast and check out, explore Hierapolis (Col. 4:13) and Pamukkale, famous for its wonderful white travertine cliffs and mineral baths. Drive to Aphrodisias with a lunch break on the way. Walk through the impressive monuments of the city dedicated to Aphrodite, goddess love and beauty. Drive to Kusadasi in the late afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Charisma Hotel, Superior Sea View Rooms

<https://charismahotel.com/>



Day 9 Tuesday, February 02 Kusadasi

After a leisurely breakfast, we drive to the town of Selcuk. Our focus today is Ephesus (Letter to the Ephesians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Revelation 1:11, 2:1-7; Acts 18:19-28, 19:1-41) the most impressive archeological site in Turkey. Paul spent almost three years in Ephesus between ca 52 and 55. Our excursion visits the great theater, the site of the scene of the riot (Acts 19). We explore the Temple of Artemis (Roman Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Selcuk Museum and the Basilica of John. We visit the house of Virgin Mary and return to the hotel in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Charisma Hotel

**Day 10 Wednesday, February 03 Kusadasi**

After breakfast, drive to Miletus. Explore the impressive temple of Apollo in Didyma and theater of Miletus and comprehend Paul's farewell address to the Ephesians, where he summarizes his three years in Ephesus (Acts 20:17-38). Return to the hotel in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Charisma Hotel

Day 11 Thursday, February 04 Izmir

After breakfast and check out, we drive to Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6) with a lunch in a local tavern on the way. Sardis is a UNESCO site for the biggest and best-preserved diaspora synagogue and Roman Gymnasium. Our final destination is Izmir, ancient Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-12). Founded by Alexander the Great, the ancient Smyrna and its agora is another UNESCO site with its distinctive and impressive features.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Marriott Hotel Izmir, Sea View Rooms

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/adbm-izmir-marriott-hotel/overview/>

Day 12 Friday, February 05 Pergamum - Izmir

After breakfast and check-out, we drive to Bergama. We explore the acropolis of Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17) and the altar of Zeus described as "the throne of Satan" in the Book of Revelation. We tour the Asclepion, the ancient healing sanctuary of Asclepius and Apollo. Enjoy your farewell dinner in local fish restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: Marriott Hotel Izmir

**Day 13 Saturday, February 06 Return**

After breakfast and check-out, the hotel and transfer to Izmir (ADB) Airport. Fly back to home via Istanbul.

Meals: Breakfast

What is included?

- ✓ Hotel accommodations as indicated in the itinerary or similar
- ✓ Meals with bottled water as indicated in the itinerary: Breakfast (all breakfasts), Lunch and Dinner as indicated in itinerary
- ✓ Professional, English-speaking local guide
- ✓ Climate controlled vehicle with professional tour bus driver
- ✓ Unlimited bottle water on board coach during the entire program
- ✓ Hotel tips and restaurant tips in the included meals
- ✓ Arrival and departure flight transfers
- ✓ Domestic airfare from Istanbul to Antalya in economy class, including 50lbs check-in and 17lbs carry-on luggage and taxes
- ✓ Complete program of the tours as described in the itinerary. All entrance fees, admissions and parking fees
- ✓ Baggage handling
- ✓ Detailed map of Turkey
- ✓ VAT and Accommodation Taxes

What is excluded?

- International airfares, airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages during the meals
- Gratuity for the guides and drivers
- Visa (if required)
- Personal expenses such as minibar, telephone, laundry, etc.
- Travel and health insurance

