

Enjoy the Bible where it happened.



OCTOBER 2026

Tour in the Apostles' Footsteps with David Nelson

Come alongside an expert guide to explore the history, culture, and natural beauty of the biblical context. Encounter life as it was known to ancient believers of Asia Minor, and view the ruins and landscapes that played a role in their day-to-day lives.

Walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul with both an expert guide and David Nelson, a trusted church leader, as you explore the depths of Scripture in the places where it happened.



<https://enjoyevents.regfox.com/davidnelsonstour>



Enjoy the Bible where it happened.

The Apostles' Footsteps Tour

Dr. David Nelson ▪ September 26 – October 6, 2026



Dear Traveler,

This invitation has been extended to you to consider attending a trip to explore the beauty and significance of Asia Minor, located in present-day Turkey, alongside Dr. David Nelson, a trusted Bible teacher and Christian leader.

As you are aware, Turkey is a land rich in biblical history and is the birthplace of some of the earliest Christian communities. You would have the unique opportunity to walk in the places where Paul, John, and Timothy experienced the trials and joys of planting and strengthening churches. By listening to expositions from Dr. Nelson on the biblical passages as you sit in the corresponding biblical sites, you will be able to **enjoy the Bible where it happened**. We believe that joining this trip would be a rewarding, encouraging, and eye-opening experience. It could also help foster a stronger faith and a deeper love for God and His Word.

At *Enjoy Tours*, our aim is to support you in experiencing this ancient land. We are dedicated to handling all logistical details to allow you to spend time together focusing your mind and heart on what God accomplished in this region. Our desire is for everyone to depart from this experience built up and encouraged.

By seeing and remembering what God accomplished in this ancient land, we believe this experience will meaningfully impact the believers who take part in this trip.

Thank you for considering attending this trip!

Kieler Henry

Founder, Enjoy Tours

Travel Itinerary

Day 1 | 9.26-27 Travel to Istanbul, Turkey

Depart the US on September 26th and Fly to Istanbul Airport (IST), where you will be greeted by your guide and transferred to your hotel on September 27th.

*Please note: At the end of the tour, guests will depart from a different city and airport. **Return flights should be booked from Izmir Airport (ADB), not Istanbul Airport (IST).***

Days 2-9 The Apostles' Footsteps Tour with Dr. David Nelson

Encounter life as it was for the early believers of Asia Minor as you explore the ruins and landscapes that shaped their daily lives.

Walk in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul in Turkey alongside both an expert guide and Dr. Nelson as you dive deeper into Scripture at the very sites where these stories unfolded.

Day 10 | 10.6 Depart from İzmir, Turkey

Depart from İzmir, Turkey (ADB) on your return flight home. Enjoy Tours will arrange your transportation to the airport for your morning departure.





The Apostles' Footsteps Tour Itinerary

Day One | Istanbul | September 28th

Begin your historic tour of Istanbul with a stroll through some of the key sites of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. Start by visiting the Hippodrome of Constantinople. Consider the changes of the past millennia as you experience the majestic Blue Mosque, built to rival the Hagia Sophia, still a place of worship whose six minarets shine silver in the sun. Continue your tour by visiting the famous Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace. Finish your day by exploring the labyrinth of the Grand Bazaar before departing on an evening flight to Antalya (AYT).

Overnight in Antalya

Day Two | Attalia, Perga, and Aspendos | September 29th

Visit Perga, where Paul landed after sailing from Cyprus. This wealthy city is famous both for its historic ruins and for the separation of Paul and Mark. A little further east is Aspendos, notable for its magnificent aqueduct and its remarkably preserved 20,000-seat theatre—one of the best-preserved in all of Turkey. Afterwards, enjoy time to walk and shop in the restored harbor area of old Attalia (modern Antalya), boasting beautiful views over the port from which Paul once sailed.

Overnight in Antalya

Day Three | Myra and Patara | September 30th

Venture west to Demre to visit the ancient site of Myra, the city of Saint Nicholas, known for his defense of Christian faith during the Great Persecution under Diocletian. Explore its impressive Roman theater, Lycian tombs, and the harbor where Paul changed ships on his way to Rome. Nearby, visit the ancient site of Patara, nestled near the longest beach in modern-day Turkey. Patara was a bustling trade center and home to important religious sites.

Overnight in Fethiye

Day Four | Laodicea and Hierapolis | October 1st

Cross the Taurus Mountains to the tri-city area of Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis. Cold mountain springs flowed through Colossae on one side, while hot springs from Hierapolis formed stunning calcium travertine terraces on the other. This landscape offers a striking visual of the “lukewarm” imagery Christ used in His critique of the Laodicean church (Revelation 3).

Overnight in Pamukkale

Day Five | Colossae, Philadelphia, and Sardis | October 2nd

Start your day visiting the unexcavated site of Colossae, where Paul addressed his letter to the Colossians. Enjoy the scenic beauty of the Hermes Valley as you drive to Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7–13), known as the “City of Martyrs.” Conclude the day at Sardis (Revelation 3:1–6), a diverse city where faiths and cultures collided. Witness the fascinating blend of the Temple of Artemis and a Byzantine Church building.

Overnight in Kuşadası

Day Six | Pergamum, Thyatira, and Smyrna | October 3rd

Begin by exploring Smyrna (Revelation 2:8–11), a major city of the Roman Empire and a contender for the title “First City of Asia.” Then, visit the Acropolis of Pergamum (Revelation 2:12–17) for panoramic views of the region. After lunch, continue to Thyatira (Revelation 2:18–29), the hometown of Lydia (Acts 16:14), where Paul’s ministry led to a strong Christian community.

Overnight in Kuşadası

Day Seven | Miletus, Didyma, and Priene | October 4th

Explore the excavations at Miletus, where Paul gave his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders at the end of his third journey (Acts 20). See the impressive theater and a significant inscription referencing the Jewish community and “God-fearers.” Then visit Didyma’s Temple of Apollo, famed for its oracles and sacred status in antiquity.

Overnight in Kuşadası

Day Eight | Ephesus & St. John’s Basilica | October 5th

Begin the day exploring the ancient city of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1–7), where Paul’s ministry at the School of Tyrannus unleashed the gospel throughout Asia. After Ephesus, explore the history of Ottoman and modern Turkey by witnessing how their famous carpets are made. Conclude your day with a visit to St. John’s Basilica, where you can see one of the world’s oldest baptisms.

Overnight in Kuşadası



Pricing and Details for Participants



September 26th - October 6th, 2026

\$3,650 USD Per Person | Double Occupancy Room

\$825 | Single Room Supplement

Package Includes:

- Eight-day tour of the *The Apostles' Footsteps*
- Nine-night stay at four-star accommodations
- Group transportation by charter bus during all tour days
- English-speaking guide providing historical, archaeological, and cultural background
- Devotional expositions by *Dr. David Nelson*
- Entrance fees for all sites mentioned in the tour itinerary
- Cultural excursions as outlined in the itinerary
- Breakfast provided on all tour days
- Required *Association of Turkish Travel Agencies* foreign visitors' insurance (Please note: This is a basic mandatory policy and does not replace personal travel insurance.)
- All local taxes and fees
- Tips for guide and driver

Price of the Package Excludes:

- Travel Insurance
- All international and domestic flights
- Visa fees
- In-country transportation outside of tour dates
- Lunches, dinners, and alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses and extra services
- Services not specifically mentioned in the itinerary

*Unless otherwise defined during the reservation process, final payment is due prior to departure or use according to each supplier's (airline, hotel, cruise line, transfer company, sightseeing operators, and other travel service vendors) terms and conditions involved in your travel booking. If final and full payment is not received by the applicable due date, reservations are subject to cancellation and deposits shall be forfeited.

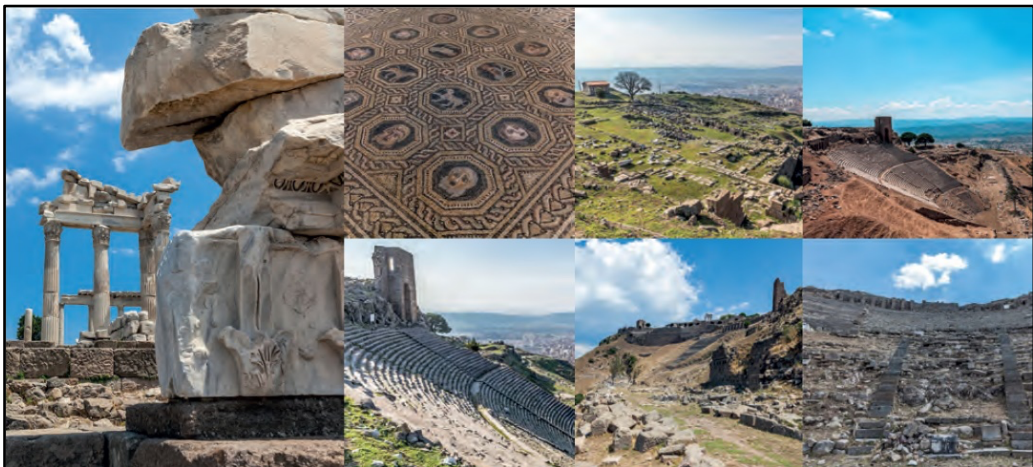
Enjoy Ephesus

The city of Ephesus played a crucial role in the growth of the early Christian church. The Apostle Paul planted the first church there, Timothy was its pastor for a time, and the Apostle John spent his final years in and around the city. Though Paul visited other regions of Turkey, he spent more time in Ephesus than in any other city on his three missionary journeys. He went to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila on his second journey (Acts 18:18–20). As was his custom, he engaged in a discussion in the synagogue before leaving the city abruptly. After Paul left, Apollos of Alexandria came to Ephesus to preach the Christian gospel, during which time Priscilla and Aquila took him aside to correct deficiencies in his theology (Acts 18:24–28).



Enjoy Pergamum

Tradition states that John ordained Antipas as bishop of the city, but in 92 A.D., Antipas was martyred. Supposedly, he was burned in a brazen, bull-shaped altar that locals used for casting out demons. John refers to Antipas as “my faithful witness” or “martyr.” He commends the church’s faithfulness in the face of suffering, and heavy persecution persisted there. Christian tradition maintains that at least three prominent Christians were martyred for their faith: Carpus, Paylus, and Agathonice, all of them likely killed during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161–180 A.D.). Even though they endured persecution, John still rebukes the Christians in Pergamum for two things. First, they followed the teachings of Balaam, which meant they ate meat sacrificed to idols and committed sexual sins. Second, some held to the teachings of the Nicolaitans, which was probably some form of Gnosticism.



Enjoy Smyrna

The Apostle Paul leveraged the significant Jewish population to lay the cultural and religious groundwork for spreading the Christian gospel, particularly in cities like Ephesus and Smyrna. While it can be assumed that Paul's ministry in Ephesus also influenced Smyrna, the city's importance rose notably after the apostolic era, as it is only mentioned in John's Revelation. In this apocalyptic letter to the persecuted Christians of Smyrna, John reassures them of the promise of resurrection and deliverance from the second death, indicating that believers in Smyrna likely endured persecution for decades. Polycarp, who served as the Bishop of Smyrna until his martyrdom, was said to be a disciple ordained by John, as referenced by multiple church fathers such as Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Jerome. Ignatius, summoning church leaders from across Asia Minor to visit him in Smyrna before his journey to Rome for execution, penned many of his letters to the churches of Asia Minor from Smyrna, including addresses to Polycarp and the city's Christian community.



Enjoy Thyatira

The Apostle Paul likely made multiple visits to Thyatira, establishing a vibrant Christian community through his ministry. During his time in Philippi, Paul encountered Lydia of Thyatira, a wealthy businesswoman known for selling purple goods, whom God “opened her heart” to believe (Acts 16:13–15). Even before encountering Paul, Lydia, a Gentile attracted to Judaism in Thyatira, worshiped God. The letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira, referencing “the Son of God, whose eyes flame like fire and whose feet gleam like burnished brass” (Rev. 2:18), appears to purposefully contrast with Apollo, the sun god, especially as the Greek term for “burnished brass” is unique in the New Testament and likely familiar to Thyatira's guild of bronze workers. This deliberate contrast challenges the city's religious establishment, given Apollo's revered status.



Enjoy Attalia, Perga, and Aspendos

The Via Sebaste, linking the coast to the interior over the mountains of Pisidia, was completed in 6 A.D., only one year after the traditional date for the birth of Paul the Apostle. Sailing from Paphos on Cyprus to the port of Attaleia, Paul and Barnabas would have found Perga a wealthy and influential city at the head of this important road. It was likely due to this position at the access point to the interior of Asia Minor that brought Paul and Barnabas here. Acts 13 tells us nothing other than the fact that Paul and Barnabas journeyed through Perga on their way to Antioch in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. However, at the end of the next chapter (Acts 14:25), Perga comes up again as Paul and Barnabas make it their last stop on their journey: “and when they had spoken the word in Perga,” they sailed from Attaleia back to Antioch on the Orontes.



Enjoy Miletus, Didyma, and Priene

Miletus sits at the mouth of the Menderes River. Once known as an economic behemoth on the Aegean coast, the city produced philosophers, city planners, architects, and rebels. It hosted emperors, conquerors, ancient founders of cities, and apostles. The Sacred Way, from Miletus to Didyma, dates back as early as the seventh century B.C.E., and Emperor Trajan repaved it in the second century A.D. Throughout Hellenistic and Roman times, the people of Miletus made an annual pilgrimage along the Sacred Way, beginning at the Processional Way in the city's center and ending at the Temple of Apollo at Didyma. Didyma contained one of the most important oracles in the ancient world. Diocletian consulted the oracle as he contemplated continuing the empire's persecution of Christians in 303 A.D. The oracle responded in the affirmative, and persecution persisted.



Enjoy Hierapolis and Colossae

In Revelation, Hierapolis is not directly referenced. But John rebukes Laodicea's "lukewarm" spiritual state, even as the city stood between hot and cold, geographically, at the center of Hierapolis' hot springs and the cold mountain springs behind Colossae. As in Colossae and Laodicea, Epaphras probably planted the church in Hierapolis. Before the year A.D. 70, either Philip the Apostle or Philip the Evangelist moved to Hierapolis, where he was eventually martyred. The church historian Eusebius wrote that Philip the Evangelist and his four daughters were buried in Hierapolis. A different inscription claims Philip the Apostle is buried there. While we do not know which Philip is in fact buried there, a Martyrium built in the fifth century stands as a tribute even today.



Enjoy Laodicea

Laodicea, situated between the ancient cities of Colossae and Hierapolis, was characterized by cold mountain springs from Colossae and the hot springs of Hierapolis, creating picturesque calcium travertine-capped hills. This natural landscape served as a poignant backdrop to Christ's "lukewarm" critique of the Laodicean church in Revelation 3. Epaphras, trained by Paul in Ephesus, likely spread the gospel in Laodicea, as he was sent out as a church planter to the Lycus River Valley. The church likely initially gathered in the home of Nympha, whom Paul greeted in a lost letter from his first Roman imprisonment, referenced in Colossians 4:16 but not mentioned in the writings of the church fathers.



Enjoy Philadelphia

Since the Apostle Paul does not mention the church at Philadelphia in any of his letters, we can assume the Christian community was established there later than the cluster of churches in Hierapolis, Colossae, and Laodicea. However, the Philadelphia church probably grew quickly in prominence, since the Apostle John makes reference to it in Revelation, as does Ignatius, bishop of Syrian Antioch, in his letters written right before he was martyred. This church is one of three addressed by both ancient leaders. As in Smyrna, “the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews and are not,” seems to have been harassing Christians in Philadelphia. John insists these adversaries will be reprimanded and forced to “come and bow down” at the Philadelphians’ feet. John also tells these believers that they have “the key of David,” and an “open door” has been placed before them that cannot be closed. These encouragements surely helped them press on in persecution and hardship.



Enjoy Sardis

The sizable and prosperous Jewish community in Sardis built the largest ancient synagogue outside of Palestine. Christianity arrived in the first century A.D., and Sardis was one of the churches addressed in the book of Revelation. Jews from the Babylonian exile probably settled in the city, as Obadiah 20 in the Bible mentions the exiles of Jerusalem in “Sepharad,” another name for Sardis. The historian Josephus claimed that the Seleucid King Antiochus III relocated 2,000 Jewish families from Mesopotamia to Lydia at the end of the third century B.C., and he also referred to two decrees during the time of Julius Caesar and Augustus that granted Jews in Sardis the right to congregate and send temple taxes to Jerusalem. Since the Christian mission often began in local synagogues, it is likely that the church grew from this ancient Jewish community. Melito, the bishop of Sardis in the second century A.D., presented an Apology for Christianity to Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 169–170, according to Eusebius. In this work, he declared that Christ is both God and a perfect man, beautifully defending the unity of Jesus Christ and God the Father. Melito also wrote extensively about the Passover Controversy in Laodicea, and John’s rebuke seems to have awakened the church in Sardis to produce a theologian and writer like Melito.

