

## **IMAGINE PILGRIMAGE – TURKEY (Tentative Itinerary)**

*Footsteps of the Apostles - BCM, International – September 9-19, 2024*

### DAY 1 – Monday, September 9

- ❖ Departure from the Dulles Airport on Turkish Air for a direct flight to Istanbul

### DAY 2 – Tuesday, September 10

- ❖ Arrival in Istanbul
- ❖ Overnight in Istanbul – Nippon Hotel

### DAY 3 – Wednesday, September 10: Istanbul

- ❖ Blue Mosque – a world famous mosque with 6 minarets, stained glass windows and blue tilework
- ❖ Hagia Sophia (Church History) – through the ages it was a church, mosque, and a museum
- ❖ Roman Hippodrome Square – home to landmark obelisks
- ❖ Spice Market – spices, nuts, seeds, incense and plenty more
- ❖ Grand Bazaar – one of the world’s oldest (575+ years) and largest malls (3,000+) shops
- ❖ Overnight in Istanbul – Nippon Hotel

### DAY 4 – Thursday, September 11: Istanbul

- ❖ Byzantine Basilica Cistern – the city’s most unusual attraction
- ❖ Half Day (2-3 hours) Bosphorus Cruise (History of Constantinople/Istanbul)
- ❖ Archaeological Museum – world class museum of Ottoman history
- ❖ Dinner at a Restaurant in Istanbul
- ❖ Evening flight to Kayseri
- ❖ Overnight in Cappadocia – Dilek Kaya Hotel

### DAY 5 – Friday, September 12: Cappadocia

- ❖ OPTIONAL: Hot Air Balloon Ride Over Cappadocia Landscape [Very early morning; approximately \$300 per person]
- ❖ Goreme Open-Air Museum (underground cities & churches, i.e. The Nunnery, AKA, The Dark Church)

- ❖ Fairy Chimneys – one of a kind natural rock formations
- ❖ Avanos – The Pottery Place (Demonstration)
- ❖ Overnight in Cappadocia – Dilek Kaya Hotel

DAY 6 – Saturday, September 13: Cappadocia

- ❖ Guzelyurt – A quaint town known for its beautiful surroundings
- ❖ Iconium – Acts 14 – Paul and Barnabas planted a church here during their 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey
- ❖ Overnight in Konya – Bera Konya Hotel

DAY 7 – Sunday, September 15: Pamukkale

- ❖ Hierapolis – Colossians 4:13 (Martyrium of St. Philip & his tomb; the Necropolis)
- ❖ Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-22 [the 7<sup>th</sup> church in Revelation]
- ❖ Free time to enjoy hotel spa
- ❖ Overnight in Pamukkale – Richmond Thermal Hotel

DAY 8 – Monday, September 16: Aegean Region

- ❖ Aphrodisias – Greco-Roman city with full hippodrome
- ❖ Sardis – Revelation 3:1-6 [the 5<sup>th</sup> Church in Revelation]
- ❖ Smyrna – Revelation 2:8-11 [the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church in Revelation]
- ❖ Polycarp's Church (Church History)
- ❖ Overnight in Izmir – Greymark Hotel

DAY 9 – Tuesday, September 17: Aegean Region

- ❖ Pergamum – Revelation 2:12-17 [the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church in Revelation] (the Red Basilica; the Roman Bridge)
- ❖ The Asclepion – the birthplace of modern medicine
- ❖ Thyatira – Revelation 3:18-29 [the 4<sup>th</sup> Church in Revelation]
- ❖ Overnight in Kusadasi – Ilayda Avantgarde Hotel

DAY 10 – Wednesday, September 18: Ephesus

- ❖ Ephesus – Revelation 2:1-7 [the 1<sup>st</sup> Church in Revelation] (Terrace Houses; ruins of the Church; Temple of Artemis)

- ❖ Basilica of St. John
- ❖ Evening flight to Istanbul
- ❖ Overnight in Istanbul – Nippon Hotel

DAY 11 – Thursday, September 19

- ❖ Return flight to the U.S. with a heart full on memories