

# THE RHEMA FOUNDATION CANADA



## Tour to Turkey the other Holyland

**Oct.30 - Nov.10/2023**

Flight information via Turkish Airlines:

Oct.30/2023 - Toronto - Istanbul -- TK 18 YYZIST 2320 1600 +1

Oct.31/2023 - Istanbul - Kayseri -- TK2020 ISTASR 1850 2015

Nov.03/2023 - Nevsehir **or** Kayseri to Izmir -- T.B.A ( flight is not confirm yet)

Nov.07/2023 - Izmir - Istanbul -- TK2313 ADBIST 1040 1155

Nov.10/2023 - Istanbul - Toronto - TK 17 ISTYYZ 1530 1835



### Day 01 , Oct.30/2023 - Toronto - Istanbul

Departure from Toronto's Pearson International Airport on our overnight flight to Istanbul..

Oct.30/2023 - Toronto - Istanbul -- TK 18 YYZIST 2320 1600 + 1

Oct.31/2023 - Istanbul - Kayseri -- TK2020 ISTASR 1850 2015

**Day 02, Oct.31/2023** - Arrival to Istanbul. Connecting flight to Kayseri

**Day 02 , 03 and 04 , Oct.31-Nov. Nov.02/2023 – Istanbul - Kayseri - Cappadocia**



**Cappadocia**



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Given the vastness of Turkey, and with no other way to get from here to there in reasonable time The Cappadocian landscape, with its eerie formations of caves and towers of volcanic tufa covering an area of some 20,000 kms, was created by the eruption Mt. Aergaeus and subsequent wind and water erosion. Some 400 churches and countless cave dwellings, as well as underground cities have been carved into these volcanic protrusions, hence the Goreme Valley, which means "you cannot see here." In one of these cave-chapels, hallowed with the memory of "the three lights of Cappadocia" theologians Basil the Great of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa and Gregory Nazianzen-we will celebrate the Eucharist. Sites to be visited include Urgup, noted for historical monuments such as a caravanserai and Turkish bath. It is home to an annual, international wine festival in October. More win some still, it is the home of Mustafa Guzelgoz, named Librarian of the Year in 1969 for establishing the first travelling library service by onkey. Ortakisar is a town with a citadel carved out of the area's volcanic protrusions, where Christians took shelter, as well as several churches and hundreds of citrus cave store houses. Zelve, a former village turned into a museum, is noted for its 50 to 60ft fairy, toadstool-like chimney formations. Uchisar is dominated by a citadel which one can climb and from which the entire Goreme Valley can be viewed. Sinasos, a Greek name changed to Mustafa pasha after the Greek-Turkish population exchanges of 1923 under the Treaty of Lausanne, is noted for its two-storey Greek Orthodox monastery now converted into a hotel but with its frescoes intact, the Church of St. Basil hollowed out of rock and its differently decorated village houses. We will stroll through the charming, riverside town of Avanos, noted for its ceramics. Those whose body-agility permits, will make their way through the tunnels of the many-storied, underground city of Derinkuyu, (one of more than two dozen such cities in Cappadocia), where thousands lived and took refuges from marauding armies from the 7th to the 15th centuries. Overnight Cappadocia.

**Day 05 , Nov.03/2023 – Nevsehir or Kayseri to Izmir. ( Flight is not confirm yet)**

We board our flight for Izmir.



**Izmir**

Izmir, a Mediterranean port city and important NATO base, Izmir has a population of some 2 million people, making it Turkey's third largest. Known as "beautiful Smyrna", it was the site of one of the 7 churches of the Book of Revelation (2:8-11). Its church is praised for its faithfulness, in a city which professed early its loyalty to Rome and emperor worship, refusal of which led to the martyrdom of Bishop Polycarp in 156CE by burning at the stake. We will visit the Church of St. Polycarp, the ancient agora, rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd cent., the Archaeology Museum, and get a panoramic view of Izmir from Kadifekale Hill's citadel. Overnight Izmir.

**Day 06, Nov.04/2023 - Pergamum.**

Today's day trip out of Izmir takes us to Bergama, biblical Pergamum, another of the 7 churches of the book of Revelation (2:12-17). We will visit the Asclepion, the earliest healing centre of Asia Minor; the Red Basilica; the acropolis, with its incredibly steep theatre; and the remains of the altar of Zeus (Rev. 2:13) Return to Izmir for overnight.



**Pergamum**



### **Day 07, Nov.05/2023 - Sardis, Philadelphia and Hierapolis/Pamukkale**

We travel, first, to the magnificent site of Sart or Sardis (Rev.3:1-6), ancient capital of Lydia, where King Croesus, famed for his wealth, ruled. Among its several monuments, we will see the Temple of Artemis, the ancient synagogue, a small Byzantine church, some shops and a gymnasium (vide the cover article in "Biblical Archaeological Review", vol. 22, #5, Sept-Oct 1996). Our next stop will be Alasehir, site of biblical Philadelphia, one of the 7 churches of Revelation, and outpost of the kingdom of Pergamum. We should drive through a quaint village in which towns people place coke bottles on the roof to advertise the presence of daughters within eligible for marriage. The end of this day's journeying brings us to Pamukkale-ancient Hierapolis-a famous spa from Roman times. It was the centre of Epaphras' work (Col 4:12) and Bishop Papias, whose accounts of the evangelists is critical for biblical study. Dubbed "the Niagara-in-stone", Pamukkale is the site of an enormous white cliff rising some 330' from the plain to a plateau from which calcareous water cascades. . . , crystallizing into dazzlingly white stalactites like some giant organ pipes."Overnight Pamukkale.



**Pamukkale**



### **Day 08, Nov.06/2023 - Pamukkale to Ephesus/Kusadasi**

Laodicea, close by Pamukkale, is a vast archaeological tell on lypartially excavated, and another church of the Book of Revelation (3:14ff). After a brief visit to its sites, we drive onto Ephesus, a marvelous archaeological site and base for much of St. Paul's missionary work (Acts 19, the letter to the Ephesians). Ancient Ephesus was once a city of a quarter million. As we enter the main city through the Magnesian Gate, history will unfold as we walk the Marble Way past sites such as the commercial agora, Roman baths, fountains, brothels, Hadrian's Temple, the magnificent Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre, where Paul's preaching resulted in a riot. We will visit the Basilica of St. John, from which we will see the few remaining remnants of the Temple of Artemis. At the end of the day we will visit a rug factory which functions also as an apprenticeship school for young people, Overnight Kusadasi.





**Kusadasi**



**Ephesus**

**Day 09 plus day 10 and 11, Nov.07 - 09/2023 -- Kusadasi - Izmir - Istanbul**

After breakfast making our way to the Izmir airport for our flight to Istanbul.

Nov.07/2023 - Izmir - Istanbul -- TK2313 ADBIST 1040 1155



**Istanbul**



Our two and a half days in Istanbul include a boat cruise on the Bosphorus, with palaces villas and residences on both the European and Asian shores passing before our eyes. We will visit Dolmabahce Palace, the beautiful Versailles-like Sultan's palace which replaced the Topkapi in the 1800's. Coffee during a visit to the Pera Palace, the hotel-jaded but elegant-where Agatha Christie wrote her "Oriental Express". During the rest of our time, our focus will be on old Constantinople and its sites: its 4th century walls; the remarkable cistern of Yerebatan Saray, with its 336 columns, most pirated from ancient sites; the Byzantine Chora Church, with its beautiful mosaics and frescoes; St.Sophia, built in 532 by Emperor Justinian, site of historic ecumenical councils and the east-west split in the church in 1054, and still regarded as one of the great buildings of all time; the striking Blue Mosque, so-called because of its interior blue tiles, with its six minarets; Topkapi Palace, former residence of the Ottoman Sultans, with its splendid treasures, the Archaeological Museum's Palestinian section to see its unique biblical artifacts- the Gezer Calendar (a 10thcent BCE, earliest-known Hebrew inscription), its Greek language stone from the Jerusalem Temple indicating the boundary line for Gentiles, and its Siloam inscription from Hezekiah's Jerusalem underground water tunnel (2 Chr 32);the Hippodrome; the dazzling Egyptian spice market, where hundreds of different spices are sold; the Covered Bazaar with its more than 4,000 shops, enough to drive any committed shopper to distraction; and the Rustem Pasha Mosque, designed by the great architect Sinan, whose walls are covered with panels of stunning Iznik (town of the Council of Nicea, 325 AD) tiles. We will see the whirling dervish dance of the Moslem mystics, the Sufis.

**Day 12, Nov.10/2023 - Istanbul to Toronto.**

We depart this morning via Istanbul to arrive in Toronto the same day.

Nov.10/2023 - Istanbul - Toronto - TK 17 ISTYYZ 1530 1835

## **TOUR COST PER PERSON: CAD\$4,962 (Double Occupancy) : CAD\$6,457 (Single Occupancy)**

### **TOUR PRICES:**

based on a **minimum 40 paying participants** traveling together and on tariffs and exchange rates at time of printing. In the event of marked fluctuation, the tour cost will be adjusted accordingly.

### **DEPOSIT:**

A deposit of CAD \$ 500.00 per person must be submitted with your Registration Form to secure your space on the tour, after which an invoice will be mailed to you from YYZ TRAVEL.

**FINAL PAYMENT: Due Jul.24/2023**

### **COST INCLUDES:**

Return air transportation Toronto – Turkey (Istanbul - Kavseri // Nevsehir - Izmir -Istanbul) - Toronto via Turkish Airlines

- Escorted by an expert Government licensed guide
- Airport/hotel return transfers
- 10 nights' Accommodation at 4\* hotels:
- Oct.31- Nov.03/23 -- **Cappadocia** -- Perissia Hotel or similar in standard room -- 3 nights
- Nov.03 - 05/23 -- **Izmir** -- Movempick Hotel or similar in standard room -- 2 nights
- Nov. 05 - 06/23 -- **Pamukkale** -- Colossea Hotel or similar in standard room -- 1 night
- Nov. 06 - 07/23 -- **Kusadasi** -- Korumar Hotel or similar in standard room -- 1 nights
- Nov.07- 10 -- **Istanbul** -- Windsor Hotel or similar in standard room -- 3 nights
- departure taxes, fuel surcharge, security fees (approx. CAD \$ 650.00 per person not guaranteed)
- Porterage at the hotels
- Meals: Buffet breakfast and dinner daily at hotels
- Sightseeing by private air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Tips to driver, guide and hotel staff
- \* Passports; Lunches; any beverages; Personal expenses; Insurance.

**Touring sequence may be changed to comply with domestic requirements or per Guide or Tour Leader discretion.**

### **CANCELLATION:**

**July 15/23** -- 100 to 65 days prior to departure - loss of deposit. – **Aug.25/23** -- 65 - 45 days prior to departure - loss of 50% of tour price. – **Sep.15/23** -- 45 days to departure - loss of 100% tour price

### **INSURANCE:**

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED A special group insurance package, which includes trip cancellation, medical coverage, accident and luggage is available.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

The Tour Operator, YYZ **Travel** acts only as an agent for the various Companies, Owners or Contractors providing the means of transportation, accommodation and other services pertaining to the tour.

**YYZ Travel**, and **The Rhema Foundation Canada** shall not be in anyway liable for any injury, damage or loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by defect or irregularity on any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company, or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or of any hotel proprietor, personnel or servant or of any person otherwise in connection therewith. Delivery of baggage to the Airline, Railway or Motorcoach shall be deemed an irrevocable release of the tour operator from any and all liability. Whatsoever resulting from loss, damage or delay in transit to any baggage of the tour participant during any portion of tour including sightseeing. All rates published in this brochure are based on tariffs and exchange rates in force at the time of printing. In the event of marked fluctuation and increased of taxes and fuel surcharge the tour cost will be adjusted accordingly.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**Passport:** In order to travel each tour participant must be in possession of a Passport valid for at least six months after day of return back to Canada. If not, you must apply for a new Passport.

**Visa:** Is not required for passengers travelling with Canadian/USA/EU Passports.  
For all other passport holders please contact YYZ Travel.

#### **Please note:**

The government of Canada requires that you be advised of the following:  
Entry to another country may be refused even if the required travel documents are in order. Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to utilities & services, may differ from those found in Canada.

#### **Tour Documents:**

15 days prior to departure, each tour member will receive documents consisting of final itinerary, flight and hotel schedules, and other important informative material regarding the tour.

#### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- CHEQUE
- E-TRANSFER
- CREDIT CARD

#### **CONTACT AND PAYMENT**

**Tour Operator:** YYZ Travel

**Agent**

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