

BIBLICAL TURKEY

THOMAS INSTITUTE

Dates: April 14-24, 2022

Tour Host: Dr. Derek Cooper





Tour Itinerary

Tour Host: Derek Cooper, MBA, PhD



Dr. Derek Cooper has written 12 books and traveled to more than 70 countries. He has led dozens of tours to all lands of the Bible and is also an ordained minister. He is the founder and director of both Thomas Institute and Dodekagram.

Day 1, Thurs, April 14: Departure – Your Voyage Awaits.

Depart from your home airport.

Day 2, Fri, April 15: Istanbul – Welcome to Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul and check into hotel. Time permitting, enjoy a walking tour of the neighborhood. In the evening, relax to dinner and get an orientation of your trip. Overnight: Istanbul. (D)

Day 3, Sat, April 16: Istanbul – Discover the Ottomans

Visit the Blue Mosque and learn about Islam. Walk through Topkapi Palace, home to the sultan. After lunch, wander through the intricate maze at the Grand Bazaar and Spice Market. Enjoy free time as you sample Turkish delight and have a cup of mint tea. After dinner, enjoy the rhythmic dancing of the whirling dervishes for a performance. Overnight: Istanbul. (B, D)



Day 4, Easter Sun, April 17: Constantinople – Explore the Byzantine Empire

Visit Hagia Sophia, the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years. At times an Orthodox church, Catholic church, mosque, and museum, this building is unrivaled in beauty. Then, explore Byzantine Constantinople with stops at Hagia Eirene, Chora Church, and Basilica Cistern. Overnight: Istanbul. (B, D)

Day 5, Mon, April 18: Cappadocia – Travel to a Magical Landscape

Take an early morning flight to the land of cave churches, fairy chimneys, and magical landscapes. Arrive at Kayseri Airport. In the afternoon, visit the Goreme Open Air Museum to explore where medieval Christians built countless churches. Overnight: Uchisar. (B, D)



Day 6, Tues, April 19: Cappadocia – Trek through an Underground City

For those who want, you can begin your day bright and early with an unforgettable hot air balloon ride in perhaps the best place in the world to have one. After breakfast, go to the Underground City, where whole cities lived underground going all the way back to the Hittites in the Old Testament. Afterward, walk through the Zelve Valley to explore more cave churches. In the afternoon, visit an authentic Turkish carpet factory and haggle over your carpet of choice. Overnight: Uchisar. (B, D)



Day 7, Wed, April 20: Smyrna and Ephesus – Walk through Biblical History

Fly to coastal Izmir. After visiting Smyrna agora, enjoy lunch in Izmir before spending the afternoon in the most famous biblical site in Turkey: Ephesus. Overnight: Kuşadası. (B, D)



Continued

Day 8, Thurs, April 21: Kuşadası – Enjoy a Free Day and Downtime

After so many busy yet rewarding days, enjoy some down time. It's your day to do as you like: Find a place to process, journal, read, and reflect along the beach. Purchase souvenirs in the many local shops. Take a private tour to nearby Miletus or Priene. Or take a half-day Turkish Bath and massage. Overnight: Kuşadası. (B, D)



Day 9, Fri, April 22: Patmos, Greece – Sail to Greece for the Day and Hang out with an Apostle

Take a boat to Patmos, a tiny island in Greece. Visit the Monastery of St. John, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Drive to the picturesque village of Chora, with its white-washed homes overlooking the sapphire sea. Enjoy a delicious Greek lunch and nap the way back to Turkey. Overnight: Kuşadası. (B, L, D)



Day 10, Sat, April 23: Laodicea, Hierapolis, Pamukkale – Visit Early Christian Towns and Hot Springs

Start at Laodicea, one of the seven churches of Revelation. Take a ride to the ancient Greco-Roman spa town of Hierapolis and see where early Christians lived. Wade through the white travertine terraces in Pamukkale. Overnight: Kuşadası. (B, D)

Day 11, Sun, April 24: Departure to US – Return Home

Bid adieu to your wonderful excursion and begin the journey back home with an early departure from Izmir Airport. (B)

Cost

- **Per person in double occupancy: \$1,960**
- Addition for single occupancy: \$450
- *Price increased if less than 15 travelers

Inclusions

- 3 nights in 4-star hotel in Istanbul
- 2 nights in 4-star hotel in Uchisar
- 4 night in 4-star hotel in Kuşadası
- Domestic flight: Istanbul to Kayseri (Apr 18)
- Domestic flight: Kayseri to Izmir (Apr 20)
- Daily breakfasts and daily dinners at hotels
- One lunch in Patmos
- Sightseeing as listed in itinerary
- One group transfer to and from each airport
- Transportation in private coach
- All entrance fees to sites and museums
- Licensed tour guides, taxes, and headsets

Exclusions

- International flights
- All lunches but in Patmos as well as special drinks (soda, alcohol, cappuccino, etc.)
- Tips to guides (\$5 per person per day) and drivers (\$2 per person per day)
- Travel visa, insurance, and other documents
- Hot air balloon ride

Payment Schedule

- Refundable \$200 deposit by Oct 31, 2021
- Full payment by March 1, 2022
- **Please register by clicking here:**
<https://secure.tutkutours.com/securepaymentform.aspx?TourID=220415DC>