

BYZANTINE EMPIRE & CHRISTIANITY TOUR

September 5-17, 2012 (13 days)

“It’s All About Relationships!” *That’s our theme for this tour. Our relationship with one another begins & ends with our relationship to the Triune God. We’ll explore what this means in our day-to-day lives.*

DAY 1 Istanbul, Turkey: We’ll meet at our hotel at 5 PM for a “Welcome to Turkey” get-together. Afterwards, we’ll enjoy our first Turkish meal together on the famous Istiklal Caddesi pedestrian way in the Beyoglu district.

DAY 2 An Introduction: Each day we’ll begin with a devotion, prayer and song. Our tour will start-out with an introduction to Byzantine Christianity and Constantinople (*Istanbul* today). We’ll tour the **Mosaics Museum, Hagia Sophia**, the monuments of the **Hippodrome**, the **Basilica Cistern** and the **Archaeological Museum**.

DAY 3 A Glimpse Into the Heart of Byzantine Christianity: We’ll visit several culturally important churches today, beginning with **Chora Church**. We’ll also see **Pammakaristos Church** and **St. Mary of Mongols Church** and, lastly, the **Church of St. George**.

DAY 4 Nicaea: Today, we’ll begin our retreat in ancient Nicaea (*Iznik* today). Our time here will be a mixture of study, reflection and prayer, walks along **Iznik lake**, touring and great food! We’ll consider God’s relationship to us by first studying the Nicene Creed, its Biblical foundation and the work of the **early church fathers**.

Faith walks hand-in-hand with history as God’s people immerse themselves in the places of His revelation.

DAY 5 Sunday in Nicaea: Joining together in worship, we’ll celebrate the grace God’s given us through His Son Jesus. After breakfast we’ll continue our study and reflection, focusing on the joy and confidence the Lord has given us for our day-to-day walk with Him. In the afternoon we’ll explore the **Iznik Museum** and **Basilica**.

DAY 6 Fairyland! We’ll fly to **Cappadocia**, that magical land of fairy chimneys, underground cities, and cave dwellings. We’ll be in the little town of **Goreme** (gore-e-may) for 3-nights.

DAY 7 Open Air Museums: Our day will begin with an exploration of the Byzantine, rock-cut churches found in the **Goreme Open Air Museum**. We’ll also tour the **Zelve Open Air Museum**. It hosts cave dwellings which were the center of Christian monastic life in the 9th-13th centuries.

DAY 8 In the Belly of the Earth: We’ll descend into **Kaymakli Underground City**, one of the underground cities Christians dwelt in during times of persecution. Afterwards, we’ll hike through the **Ihlara Valley**, where we’ll explore the fresco-decorated Byzantine churches cut into the cliffs by monks a 1,000 years ago.

DAY 9 Ephesus: After a short flight to Izmir in southwestern Turkey, we’ll begin our 3-day journey back to Constantinople/Istanbul. First stop, **Ephesus**, one of the world’s most important and best preserved cities of antiquity. We’ll spend one night in Seljuk, the sister city of Ephesus.

DAY 10 Pergamum: Continuing our journey we’ll spend time in **Pergamum**, visiting its **Acropolis** with its breathtaking view some 1,300 feet above the city below, and the ruins of the **Asclepion**. This was the hub of leadership in the field of medicine for over 1,000 years.

DAY 11 Alexandria Troas & Troy: On our way to Istanbul we’ll stop in **Alexandria Troas**, built by Alexander the Great; visited by St. Paul during his missionary journeys; and a capital of the Byzantine Empire. We’ll also tour **Troy**, viewing the 9-layers of civilization which have been unearthed, dating back 5,000 years. We’ll complete our journey with our arrival in Istanbul.

DAY 12 Exploration: Using public transit everyone will be able to pick-up whatever sites and experiences they still want explore. We’ll close our tour with a **dinner cruise** on the **Bosphorus Straits**. This is always a very festive experience.

DAY 13 Blessed Travels! A transfer to the **Ataturk International Airport** in Istanbul is easy. We’ll make sure everyone finds their way stress-free! Additional days in Istanbul may be arranged upon request.

TOUR SUMMARY

13 days * Wednesday, September 5
– Monday, September 17, 2012

\$2625 + air

Single Supplement \$330

Begin & end in Istanbul

WHAT YOU’RE GETTING! We want to give you a unique opportunity for a Bible-based journey with a whole bunch of great features:

- Focused, theme-based itinerary
- Great fellowship
- First-rate teaching by a professional instructor
- Small, flexible tour group
- Daily devotions and Bible studies
- Excellent hospitality at family-run establishments
- Great guides who care about you
- Delicious, authentic local meals
- Upfront pricing—No surprises!

The price for this tour INCLUDES travel guides; accommodations for every night on the tour; all group transportation & excursions in the itinerary; all breakfasts & half of your dinners; & tips for guides, drivers & hotel staff.

The price for this tour does NOT include airfare to & from our meeting location; passport & visas; half your dinners; drinks; free-time sightseeing; travel insurance; personal expenses.

FOR COMPLETE TERMS & CONDITIONS & A COMPREHENSIVE ITINERARY PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.educontravel.com

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CONTACT US

TELE 714-334-1252 or 866-277-2383 toll-free

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WEB www.educontravel.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION, PAYMENT & AIRFARE

Forms: The first form to complete and send to us is the Tour Application with your deposit. After we've received your deposit we'll mail/email you the Waiver Agreement and a Traveler Information Form. These forms need to be completed and returned to us before the tour begins.

Deposits & Payments: To reserve a seat on one of our tours, please make a deposit of \$400 per person. You may pay by personal check or money order, or you may pay using a credit/debit card or with PayPal. A PayPal account is not required for the use of this service. If you pay by check or money order you will save approximately 3% on your tour price.

The balance due for a tour is required at least 90 days before departure. More information about payments is available on the [Tour Application](#) and on the tour purchase page on this website.

Please note, if a payment is returned unpaid for any reason, such as an overdrawn bank account, we will assess a \$35 fee per item, per occurrence.

Single Room Supplement: If you're traveling alone, you will NOT be required to pay the usual "single supplement" if you're willing to have a roommate. However, if you prefer to have a private room, we do offer that opportunity for an additional fee, as noted in the pricing for each tour, subject to availability.

International Airfare: There are two options for arranging a flight to a tour starting point:

(1) You may book an [individual fare](#) with Educon Travel for a service fee of \$25. However, you may take care of this yourself very easily using one of the many airfare search engines available online. Please see our [International Airfare](#) page for more information and links to these sites.

PLEASE NOTE: Before purchasing a fare, please confirm with us the tour's itinerary and your intended arrival time. In addition, you need to plan to leave at least one day before the tour begins (i.e., if you're departing from the USA).

(2) You may book a [group fare](#) with us if you have a group of 10 or more persons from your church, school, etc. We will book group fares for our tours for no extra charge.

Travel Insurance: We encourage travelers to consider insurance. For more information, please see our [Travel Insurance](#) page.

Packing: Pack light! We recommend that you bring just one carry-on-bag (approx. 21"x 14"x 9") plus a small shoulder bag. Checked luggage will probably cost you extra, and it's something you'll spend a lot of time and energy worrying about. You will always carry your own bags from the bus to your room, which may include carrying them up flights of stairs. Please see the [Travel Tips](#) page for more info about how to travel light creatively and effectively.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & VACCINATIONS

Passports: A passport is required with a minimum of 6-months validity from the day of departure. If you do not have a passport or if you need to renew your existing passport, you may inquire at a post office or go online to the Department of State at http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html

Visas: Educon Travel will work with you to acquire the necessary visa(s) for the country or countries we'll visit either before or during the tour.

Vaccinations: Vaccinations are NOT required for any of our tours. However, for RECOMMENDED vaccinations and general healthcare, please speak to your family doctor or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel>

CANCELLATIONS, CLAIMS, ETC.

Cancellations: A full refund will be made to you upon written request up to 90-days prior to departure. A refund less the \$400 deposit and any non-recoverable amounts from independent providers of land services and internal air and water travel may be requested up to 30-days prior to departure. Per group air travel, a request for a full refund of any payments made must be received at least 97-days before the day of departure. After 97-days refunds and/or additional charges for cancellations, the number of seats booked and names changes will be handled according to the terms and conditions of the airline under contract.

Pricing: The prices quoted for this tour are based on exchange rates in effect with the initial offering. If there is a dramatic fluctuation in such rates before the tour date, price adjustments may be made. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as a natural disaster, political turmoil, or other conditions outside of our control, parts of the tour may be modified accordingly.

Children: Children under 18-years of age must room with and be accompanied on the tour by a parent/guardian in all of their tour activities.

Participation: From time-to-time a client will do something that is inappropriate concerning the safety and/or comfort of other members of the tour. We retain the right to remove such a person from a tour at his own expense without any claims against us.

Claims: Transactions between Educon Travel and its clients are covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) if said clients are located in California at the time of sale. Eligible clients may file a claim with the TCRF if they are owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which the seller of travel has failed to forward to a proper provider or such money was not refunded when required. The maximum amount which may be paid by the TCRF to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to the seller of travel, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRF within 12-months after the scheduled completion date of travel. A claim must include sufficient documentation to prove a client's claim and a \$35 processing fee. Claimants must agree to waive their right to other civil remedies against a registered participating seller of travel for matters arising out of a sale for which he filed a TCRF claim. A person may request a claim form by writing to, TCRF, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001. Educon Travel's registration number is 2097400-40. Educon Travel has a trust account in accordance with state law.

Yes, I want to tour with Educon Travel!

Please complete this application and mail it with your deposit of \$400 to Educon Travel, 2417 N. Park Blvd., Santa Ana CA 92706. (Note other payment options below.) Please attach additional copies of this form if more than two persons are signing up for a tour. Upon receiving your registration we will send you more information about how to prepare for the tour! Can't wait to see you!

Please reserve a spot for me on the following TOUR: _____

First Traveler

Second Traveler

Please note relationship for room assignments: couple roommates

Name _____ male female

Name _____ male female

Birth date _____

Birth date _____

Street Address _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Email _____

I have read & I agree to the Terms & Conditions of tours with Educon Travel.

Signature Traveler #1 _____ Date _____

Signature Traveler #2 _____ Date _____

Optional Single Supplement: If you choose a single supplement, you'll be billed accordingly. Please see the website tour pages for prices.

Check here to reserve a single room. (We will inform you of availability upon receiving this registration form.)

Payments: *There are three ways to pay:*

1. **Use a credit card, debit card, or PayPal at our Shopping Cart Page.** Don't forget to mail-in this registration form!
2. **Mail your credit card information** to us with this registration form to the address below. Please note that we cannot receive credit card information by email.
3. **Mail your check or money order.** You'll save about 3% on your tour if you pay in this way. Please check the website tour pages for price differences.

Payment Type: Check/Money Order Credit Card PayPal (On PayPal you may use a credit or debit card or a PayPal payment)

Deposit \$ 400 per person

Number of people x

Total payment \$ _____

Credit Card Information & Authorization: By completing the information below & signing, I am authorizing Educon Travel to charge my credit card for the total payment noted above.

You may use VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Credit card # _____ Expiration date _____ Security code: _____

Name on card _____ Daytime telephone _____

Billing address (must match) _____

City/State/Zip _____ Signature (required) _____

Educon Travel • 2417 N Park Blvd • Santa Ana, CA 92706

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