

For further information please contact

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Make checks payable to "Maranatha Tours, Inc."

### REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed is my/our \$\_\_\_\_\_ deposit (\$300 per person).  
Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats on this trip.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve domestic air from \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I do request a single room @ \$45 per night.  
☐ I opt out of the insurance of \$152 per person (Turkey)

Mike and Sandy Willis

October 30, 2009



Mike & Sandy Willis

### Join Mike and Sandy Willis for a Tour of Biblical Sites in Turkey

This 12-day tour of Turkey is an excellent way to see the cities related to Paul's first missionary journey, and the seven churches of Asia. It is relatively inexpensive and allows the participant to see the most important sites in that region. The Christian who has studied and read his New Testament will find that seeing the places where the events occurred makes his Bible study more vivid in his mind. Some of the locations will stir one's deepest spiritual emotions as he contemplates what significant events transpired there.

I can hardly wait to see these important cities related to Paul: Antioch of Syria, Tarsus, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Perga. Then we move on to Colossae and the seven churches of Asia, with the highlight being an all day visit to Ephesus.

Maranatha Tours, Inc. provides an excellent Bible land tour. They are a reputable company used by many other tour hosts and which has been in business for over thirty years. They provide excellent accommodations, give attention to the safety of those traveling, and otherwise work to make one's trip enjoyable.

Your deposit of \$300, made out to Maranatha Tours, Inc., should be mailed to Mike Willis, 6567 Kings Ct., Avon, IN 46123. This deposit will hold your space for this tour. For more information contact **Mike Willis**: Phone: 1-317-272-6520 (office), 1-317-370-1940 (cell), or 1-317-272-0506 (home); e-mail: [mikewillis@indy.rr.com](mailto:mikewillis@indy.rr.com).

**Mike Willis** has preached in churches of Christ for 42 years. He holds a B.A. degree in religion from Butler University, a M.A. degree from Christian Theological Seminary, and a second M.A. from Indiana University in Religious Studies. He has been leading tours for over ten years.

Maranatha  
Tours  
Inc.

TURKISH AIRLINES



JOIN US AS WE VISIT

## THE CITIES OF PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

# TURKEY

## \$2,998 from CHICAGO

### OCTOBER 30 – November 11, 2009

TOUR HOSTS:

**Mike and Sandy Willis**





**DAY ONE, Friday Oct 30 -- CHICAGO/ ISTANBUL**

Today we meet at O’ Hare International Airport in Chicago to board our wide body jet. Dinner and breakfast are served on board as we wing our way to Istanbul and a journey into the biblical past.

**DAY TWO, Saturday Oct 31 -- ISTANBUL / ADANA / ANTAKYA**

This morning we arrive in Istanbul and then fly diagonally across Turkey to Adana, known as the “biggest village in Turkey” due to its rural atmosphere. We proceed by bus to Antakya, ancient Syrian Antioch on the Orontes River.

Christian roots go deep into Antioch’s history. It was to Antioch that many Jerusalem Christians fled after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 11:19-27). Paul and Barnabas taught in Antioch for a year and built a strong church there. Later, the city became the center to which Paul returned from his missionary journeys (Acts 13:1-2; 14:26; 15:22-41; 18:22-23). Here Jesus’ followers were first labeled “Christians.” We visit the Senpiyer Kilisesi, the grotto Church of St. Peter. Tradition says this cave belonged to St. Luke, who was from Antioch, and that he donated it to the burgeoning Christian congregation as a place of worship. Before we return to Adana for dinner and overnight, we’ll make a stop at the beach where Paul so often sailed from on his labors for the Lord.

**DAY THREE, Sunday Nov 1 -- ADANA / TARSUS / CAPPADOCIA**

We visit Tarsus, birthplace of Saul of Tarsus who became the Apostle Paul (Acts 21:39-22:3). We’ll see St. Paul’s Wheel and the foundations stones of what is believed to be Paul’s family home in Tarsus. Then we head north over the Taurus Mountains to Cappadocia. Already we can see the terrain changing from the lowlands of the coast to the highlands of central Turkey. Cappadocia is like no other place on earth. You’ll never forget the days you spend in this part of Turkey. We arrive at our fabulous hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY FOUR, Monday Nov 2 -- CAPPADOCIA / GOREME VALLEY**

Successive eruptions of now extinct volcanoes have left Cappadocia covered in multi-colored layers of volcanic rock. This soft rock has been transformed by the winds of erosion into a haunting, surrealistic landscape of caves, columns and canyons. For a thousand years Christians cut chapels and houses in the rock. Frescoes depicting Biblical scenes remain.

In New Testament times Cappadocia was known as Galatia; Paul wrote one of his epistles to the Christians in this area. Three of the most important theologians of the Eastern Orthodox Church lived in the fourth century and hailed from this region. Basil the Great, bishop of Caesarea; his brother Gregory, bishop of Nysa; and another Gregory, bishop of Sasina are known as “the Cappadocian Fathers.”

We begin our exploration in the Goreme Valley which contained a monastic community and several rock-hewn churches dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century. Our full day of sightseeing also includes visits to the villages of Ortahisar and Uchisar with their curious rock formations and rock-cut houses. We’ll walk through the underground city of Kaymakli, where an entire village of Christians lived in a system of subterranean caves and tunnels. Finally, we’ll visit Turkey’s Red River Valley and the village of Avanos, famous for its

pottery workshops and carpet weaving traditions, before we return to our hotel for dinner.

**DAY FIVE, Tuesday, Nov 3 -- KONYA / LYSTRA / ANTALYA**

We depart today for Konya. This was Iconium in Paul’s day, where he spent one entire winter (Acts 14:1-7,21). On the way we visit Sultan Hani to see a caravanserai (ancient caravan motel). Remains of Iconium are buried beneath the medieval buildings of the Selcuk Turks. While in Konya we may also see the famous Whirling Dervishes.

We continue to Antalya on the “Turquoise Coast,” so called because of the exquisite blue color of the sea. On the way we stop at ancient Lystra which Paul visited on several occasions (Acts 14:6-12; 16:1), healed a lame man and ordained elders of the church (Acts 14:21,23) We continue over the Taurus Mountains arriving at our hotel in Antalya on the Mediterranean.

**DAY SIX, Wednesday Nov 4 -- PERGE / ASPENDOS / ANTALYA**

Today we enjoy a full day excursion to the archaeological sites in Perge where St. Paul landed on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:13; 14:25). Perge was founded by the legendary heroes of the Trojan War. In 333 B.C. Alexander the Great visited the city and it prospered under Roman rule until the fourth century A.D. Today the site is one of the most impressive in Turkey with a fine Greco-Roman theater whose stage is richly decorated with reliefs of mythological scenes. Nearby Aspendos boasts probably the best preserved Roman Theater anywhere in the world.

**DAY SEVEN, Thursday Nov 5 -- ANTALYA / PAMUKKALE**

We travel today to Pamukkale, world famous for its volcanic spring water that cascades over steep, natural terraces to form pools. These are magnificent natural phenomena created over the millennia as hot mineral-saturated water bursts from the underground to create a fairy-tale-like scene.

Before we enjoy a relaxing swim in the thermal waters, we’ll visit Hierapolis, which is adjacent to Pamukkale. The ruins of the ancient city cover more than a mile. We see the impressive amphitheater with seats still in perfect condition, the city gates, and column-lined streets and arches which have stood through time and earthquakes. Christianity came to Hierapolis when the Apostle Paul arrived here (Colossians 4:13).

The rest of the day is to relax. We’re just over the half-way point in our adventure in Turkey and I know you’ll appreciate the rest. Imagine soaking in the same waters as did Mark Anthony and Cleopatra.

**“THE SEVEN CHURCHES”**

**DAY EIGHT, Friday Nov 6 -- COLOSSE / LAODICEA / KUSADASI**

Over the next few days the Bible becomes more alive as we visit the remains of the “seven Church of the Revelation.” While famous in the first century, today the town of Colosse has fallen into obscurity. Yet, we see traces of the theater, the necropolis, and the church.

The Church at Laodicea was chastened in Revelation as being “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:16). You’ll understand the meaning of these Scriptures much better when you see that ancient Laodicea was situated at the foot of the

mountain from which the thermal waters of Hierapolis descended almost five miles via an aqueduct. By the time the water reached Laodicea it was “lukewarm.”

On the way to Kusadasi we stop at the impressive Roman archaeological site of Aphrodisias, location of one of the greatest schools of sculpture in antiquity. We’ll see a stadium which seated 30,000, the Temple of Aphrodite, and the theater and baths of Hadrian. We arrive in Kusadasi in late afternoon for shopping and overnight.

**DAY NINE, Saturday Nov 7 -- FABULOUS EPHEBUS**

Ephesus was one of the five major cities of the ancient world. The Apostle Paul ministered here for two years, the Apostle John stayed here for an extended period as did, according to tradition, the Virgin Mary. Ephesus is incredible. We see among the numerous ruins the Library, the Agora, the Theater where 28,000 angry citizens railed against Paul (Acts 19). Then we’ll see one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Diana or Artemis and stop by the Basilica of St. John and the House of the Virgin Mary. This is a full day, but one you will never forget. Ephesus is perhaps the most impressive ruins of the ancient world.

**DAY TEN, Sunday Nov 8 -- PHILADELPHIA / SARDIS / SMYRNA**

We visit two more of the seven churches today. To the church at Philadelphia the Spirit wrote, “Because you have kept the word of my perseverance, I will keep you from the hour of testing” (Rev. 3:10). Only ruins of an ancient wall and a Byzantine basilica mark the site of this church, located in modern Alasehir. Sardis, now known as Sart, was berated by the Spirit for its façade of strength when it really was weak (Rev. 3:1-6). The massive scale of the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, the while marble of the Royal Road, the gymnasium and synagogue are impressive. We overnight in Izmir, another of the seven churches (Smyrna) to which the Spirit said, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

**DAY ELEVEN, Monday Nov 9 -- PERGAMUM / THYATIRA / IZMIR**

The most favored of the seven churches was Pergamos, located in modern Bergama. Towering a thousand feet above the town is the fabled Acropolis. The Grand Theater, on the slopes of the Acropolis, is one of the steepest grandstands in the world. As we pass through the Royal Gates we see the foundations of the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena and the ruins of the Library which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. We see also the remains of the Temple of Trajan, the Gymnasium, and the Asclepiad.

Later this afternoon we drive south to Thyatira, located near modern Akhisar. Once known as a “seller of purple,” it is now famous for its Persian rugs. As one of the seven churches (Rev. 1:11; 2:18-29), it was censured for its tolerance of immorality and false doctrine. Then it’s back to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

**DAY TWELVE, Tuesday Nov 10 -- IZMIR / ISTANBUL**

This morning we fly from Izmir to Istanbul to see the highlights of this beautiful city. Is it in Europe or in Asia? It’s in both, actually. We’ll visit the Rustem Pasha Mosque, the Topkapi Palace, and the Hagia Sophia. Then we go to the Blue Mosque, and the Hippodrome. We’ll end our day with a visit to the Spice Market where you can buy all those exotic Turkish delights. Then it’s dinner and overnight in mysterious Istanbul.

**DAY THIRTEEN, Wednesday Nov 11-- ISTANBUL / CHICAGO**

Wow. What a journey we’ve had. But as they say, “All good things must come to an end.” This morning we fly from Istanbul to Chicago. These two weeks will open your eyes to the Scriptures like nothing else will. Whether you’ve been to the Holy Land or not, now that you’ve visited “The Other Holy Land” you have the rest of the story.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** First class hotels based on twin occupancy with bath. Hotel category determined through documentation published by O.H.R.G. Single-room supplement \$35 per night.

**MEALS:** Continental breakfast (in Israel the famous Israeli buffet), and dinner daily throughout the tour. Extra charge for coffee, tea or other beverage not included in the menu of the day.

**TIPS AND TAXES:** Those normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as “service” are included, as are all governmental and local taxes on hotels and meals.

**SIGHTSEEING:** By modern motor coach including services of English-speaking guides and entrance fees to places included in the itinerary.

**NOT INCLUDED:** US and foreign departure taxes (\$426 for basic tour plus \$20 Turkey visa; passport and visa fees, laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters and after-dinner coffee or tea, meals not included in the itinerary, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned. Tips to guides, drivers and portage are not included (approximately \$9 per day).

**TOUR PRICE:** Based on tariffs and rates in effect on August 6, 2008, and subject to change with-out notice should there be a revision in rates prior to departure of tour.

**DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION:** A deposit of \$300 per person is required to secure reservations, which sum will be applied to the price of the tour, balance to be paid in full not later than 6 weeks prior to departure of the tour. Reservations made within 30 days of departure are subject to \$25 late reservation charge. In event of cancellation, refund in full will be made up to 90 days prior to departure, excluding a \$100 administrative fee. For cancellations received 89 to 35 days prior to departure, refund in full will be made excluding a \$100 airline cancellation fee plus a \$100 administrative fee. If cancellation is not received at this time, refund will be subject to a minimum 25 percent cancellation fee or an amount equal to expenses to the tour operator, whichever is greater. All cancellations must be in writing to Maranatha Tours and will be in effect on the date of receipt by Maranatha Tours. Any exceptions must be in writing from Maranatha Tours, Inc.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** A round-trip economy class jet via Turkish Airlines; or any other IATA member. Full payment is due 45 days prior to commencement of the day of travel. If any passenger(s) effects the cancellation within 35 days of departure, or after air tickets are written; (whichever comes sooner), 100 percent of airfare will be forfeited by passenger. In the event 15 passengers do not book the tour within 90 days of departure, the agent reserves the right to cancel the tour. All airfares are subject to government approval and change without notice.

**RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:** Land arrangements including surface transportation: Maranatha Tours, Inc., and the participating Tour Operators operate the land tours offered under this program only as agents of the railroads, car rental contractors, steamship lines, hotels, bus operators, sightseeing contractors and others which provide the actual land arrangements and are not liable for any act, omission, delay, injury, loss or damage or non-performance occurring in connection with these land arrangements. El Al Israeli Airlines and other IATA carriers, steamship lines and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by these companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage.

**CHANGE FEE:** All changes not received in writing by Maranatha Tours at least 45 days prior to departure will incur a \$50 change fee per person for each revision.

**LAND ARRANGEMENTS:** The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to emergencies.