Join WFU School of Divinity Students, Faculty, and Friends in Turkey!
9-22 August 2016

Come explore the historical, social, and political context of the world out of which the New Testament and early Christianity emerged in Asia Minor. Katherine Shaner, Assistant Professor of New Testament will lead students, alumni/ae, and friends of WFU School of Divinity on a tour of archaeological excavations and museums in western Turkey and Istanbul, including Ephesos, Sardis, Pergamon, Laodicea, and more. Along our travels we will experience local culture, sample home-cooked cuisine, and explore modern life among ancient ruins.

Dr. Shaner has led multiple trips to this region and her research on Pauline letters and Revelation incorporates the cities and materials we will explore. For one summer, she worked with the Austrian Archaeological team in ancient Ephesos.

Please email Dr. Shaner (shanerka@wfu.edu) to confirm your spot today. She is also available if you have any questions about the trip.
Estimated Costs

Tour Package: $2205.00 (Paid to WFU)
Airfare: 1200.00 (Individual responsibility, may vary)
Auditing Fee: 200.00 (Paid to WFU)
Visa: 20.00 (Individual responsibility)
Fees: 90.00 (Individual responsibility)
Spending Money: Participants’ Discretion

Total: $3715.00 + Spending Money

Please email Katherine Shaner (shanerka@wfu.edu) if you have any questions. In order to secure your place on the tour a $500 deposit is due to WFU School of Divinity by 22.March.2016.

Payment Schedule
Deposit: $500.00 Due 22.March.2016
Balance of Tour Package: 1705.00 Due 15.May.2016

Airport transfers to and from hotels, transportation within Turkey, entrance to all museums and archaeological sites, guide fees, and most meals are included in the tour package. Accommodations are three star hotels: all are clean, inviting, and very friendly with comfortable beds and private baths. Some have spa amenities, hot springs pools, or swimming pools. Breakfast and dinner are included at the hotel. Lunches will be near archaeological excavations; our guide knows the best home-cooking places along our route! We will travel on our own (air conditioned) charter bus. Gülin Pazaroğlu will accompany us on our entire journey. She is an award-winning, and highly sought-after professional guide.

Participants are responsible for their own airfare from the USA to Izmir, Turkey, with return from Istanbul to the USA. The auditing fee for the course covers liability and limited insurance through WFU. Participants are responsible for securing a tourist visa before leaving the USA. This is a very quick and easy online process. Fees include tips for our guide and bus driver as well as for others we encounter along the way.

Some opportunities for shopping will be available. We will visit a sustainable, cooperatively owned Turkish rug workshop, a pottery studio, and the spice market and Grand Bazaar in Istanbul.
Itinerary

Tour Agency: Thalia Cocconi
Educational Tours & Cruises LLC
E-mail: edtours@ed-tours.com

Guide: Gülin Pazaroğlu

9 Aug Tuesday: Meet the group in Izmir airport and transfer to Bergama. Visit of Bergama Acropolis & Asclepion (if time permits- if not-visit the following day). Dinner at hotel. Overnight at Berksoy Bergama Hotel (D)

10 Aug Wednesday: Pergamon visit and stay in Bergama.

11 Aug Thursday: PERGAMO - SARDIS - SELCUK: Overnight with breakfast in the hotel Kalehan in Selcuk. Dinner at hotel included. (B,D)

12 Aug Friday: SELCUK: EPHESUS - KLAROS: Extensive visit of the ancient site, theatre, shopping, etc. Dinner included at hotel. Overnight in Selcuk. (B,D)

13 Aug Saturday: SELCUK - MILETUS - PRIENE - DIDYMA: Dinner at hotel. Overnight at Selcuk. (B,D)

14 Aug Sunday: APHRODISIAS - HIERAPOLIS: Overnight in Pamukkale, hotel Richmond or similar, including dinner. (B,D)

15 Aug Monday: LAODIKIA-HIERAPOLIS: Visit the site. Overnight in Pamukkale at hotel Richmond or similar, including dinner. (B,D)

16 Aug Tuesday: PAMUKKALE-ASSOS: Drive to Assos (approx. 5-6 hours) dinner at hotel Keravan Sarai.

17 Aug Wednesday: ASSOS-TROY Cannakkale: Dinner overnight in Cannakkale.

18 Aug Thursday: CANAKKALE-BURSA: Dinner and overnight.

19 Aug Friday: BURSA-ISTANBUL: Overnight in Istanbul at hotel Amiral.

20 Aug Saturday: Full day city tour of Istanbul including St Sophia, Topkapi, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar. Overnight in Istanbul at hotel Amiral Palace or similar (B)

21 Aug Sunday: ISTANBUL: Full day tour of Patriarchate, Chora Church and Bosphorus Cruise (B)

22 Aug Monday: ISTANBUL-USA Transfer after breakfast to the airport for return flights to USA or Europe