

# Helpful Hints for Travelers

Steps of Paul and John

Directed by Ferrell Jenkins

May 5 – 19, 2008

This publication contains the information you need to know in order to get ready for the tour. In order for it to be as pleasurable as you wish, it will be necessary for you to make adequate preparation. Read the material carefully. It should answer most of your questions and give you several helpful hints.

**1. Passport.** Secure your passport as early as possible. It is the most important item in getting ready to make the tour. The application must be obtained and submitted in person at your nearest Passport Office. You must have a birth certificate with a seal in it. You will need two photos as specified in the application. It is usually not difficult to find a photographer who knows how to prepare passport photos. Some places do them in a matter of minutes. The total cost of the passport is \$97 for a new passport which is valid for 10 years. To those who already have passports: Be sure the validity date of your passport is valid for six months beyond our return date (Nov. 19, 2008). The cost of passport renewal has risen to \$67. Take extra passport photos with you (in a separate place from your passport) in case your passport is lost or stolen during the tour. Another good idea is to carry, in a separate place, a photocopy of the page in your passport which shows your photo and identification information.

**2. Visas.** A visa is required for Turkey. Upon arrival in Istanbul pay US\$20 (current amount) in cash and your passport will be stamped with a visa.

**3. Airport and Port Taxes.** Airports charge a tax prior to departure. For this tour we have a U.S. departure tax and a tax in Athens. In connection with the cruise portion of the tour we must pay an embarkation fee at Kusadasi and port taxes. The total of all taxes is \$470 for each person. This has been added to your invoice to be paid with your final payment.

**4. Tips.** Throughout the years I have learned that it is necessary to tip guides, drivers, and waiters in order to have a good tour. My procedure is to collect this in advance. For this tour we are collecting \$120

from each traveler for this purpose. This does not include personal gratuities which you may want to give for some special favor shown you.

**5. Meeting in New York.** You should plan to be at the Lufthansa counter at Kennedy International airport at least **two to three hours prior to departure** on May 5. Lufthansa is a frequent-flyer partner with United Airlines at the present time. I urge you to call United and join their program. Here is the flight schedule as it now stands:

Departure from New York:

May 05 – LH 411 – 7:59 pm – Ar. Munich – 10:15 am

May 06 – LH 3352 – 11:20 am – Ar. Istanbul – 2:50 pm

Departure from Athens:

May 19 – LH 3385 – 6:15 am – Ar. Frankfurt – 8:15 am

May 19 – LH 400 – 10:05 pm – Ar. JFK - NY – 12:20 pm

*Flight schedule is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes.* Don't take a chance on a close connection with your domestic flight!

**6. Domestic Air Travel.** The arrangements for this tour have been made through Nawas International Travel, a company we have used for many tours. They are a tour wholesaler and do not make domestic arrangements. You should make your arrangements with your local travel agent or directly with an airline. Please remember that our flights are subject to change. We advise that you not book your domestic flights too early. **You will not have your**

## Books

See the section on Reading Suggestions (#23) and the arrangement we have for you to buy these books at a discount.

Our Website  
[tours.biblicalstudies.info](http://tours.biblicalstudies.info)

Check the website regularly for updates, and new helpful travel links.

**international ticket until about two weeks prior to the tour.**

**7. Health Regulations.** No shots or vaccinations are required for this tour. A Tetanus booster is suggested every 10 years.

**8. Photographic Matters.** Be sure you have used your camera and know how it operates. If you have a fairly *new, expensive*, camera you should carry your receipt to avoid paying duty when you return. (I am not aware of anyone having a problem with this, but it is better to be safe.)

**Film.** Most travelers now use digital cameras, but there may be a few who carry a film camera. Name brand film is available almost everywhere we go, but you will find the price to be higher than in the U.S.A. It is best to buy your supply before you leave home. I suggest a film speed of 200 for May in Turkey and Greece. Take a small notebook in which to record the pictures you take. Number the rolls of film and the notebook accordingly. Remember that this is the trip of a lifetime. Plan to take 36 or more photos per day. A Film Shield bag is helpful if you plan to carry the film in your camera bag. The Super Film Shield bag is best for the new high speed films. Some foreign airports refuse a hand search of carry-on items, and it is often a hassle in the USA. Even though the X-Ray machines usually carry a notice that film will be unharmed, not every photographer agrees with this.

**Digital photography.** Many travelers are now using digital cameras. Be sure to *carry enough memory cards*. Most of the major retailers (CompUSA, BestBuy, Circuit City, etc.) run sales almost weekly. These cards will be much more costly overseas. Using slide film I used to take between 300 and 400 pictures each trip. Now, with digital photography I take between 3000 and 4000.

**9. Baggage.** Each airline has a different program for baggage. It appears that a bag not exceeding 50 pounds will be acceptable for this tour. Airlines usually allow a personal item such as a camera or computer bag. Be sure to pack light.

**10. Money.** I no longer suggest Traveler Checks. The commission rate for exchange is high. Most of your travel arrangements are prepaid so there is no reason for you to carry large amounts of currency.

You will need money for lunch and whatever shopping you wish to do. Take at least 25 or more \$1 bills for tips and small purchases. Major credit cards (Visa, Master Card) are widely accepted. American Express is not as popular with many merchants. Many shops we visit will take your personal check. Take along a few personal checks just in case you decide on an unexpected purchase. Local currency may be taken from an ATM machine, but you must have your pin number. Be **sure** that you contact your financial institution prior to departure to tell them where you will travel.

**11. Mail.** Forget it, except for cards you might like to send to a friend. It usually takes at least 7 to 10 days for air mail service between the U. S. and most European and Middle Eastern cities. This makes it impractical to expect mail on a short tour. About a week or two before departure we will send you a list of mailing contacts, fax and telephone numbers. You can leave the list with family or friends in case they wish to contact you. **Hidden Hint:** Before you leave home, secure some small address labels. Address labels for everyone to whom you plan to send a card. This way you won't overlook anyone. No need to take U. S. stamps! (Some have.) Postage for each card you mail will usually cost about 50 cents.

**Email.** You may have opportunity to access the Internet several times during the tour. If your Internet provider does not have web-based Email I suggest you set up an account with Gmail or Yahoo. Many hotels in Turkey have free wireless Internet services. Some make a charge. I understand that the cruise ship now has Internet service, but I suspect the price will be extremely high. You might do better to use an Internet café in port.

**12. Insurance.** Luggage insurance is highly recommended. You can buy it and/or accident insurance for the number of days of the tour. Nawas International has a policy available for this tour. **Trip cancellation/interruption** insurance is included in their policy and is a good idea in the event of a sickness or emergency in the family. A copy of the application form will be sent to you. Be sure to read the information and then make your decision. Your luggage *may* be covered by your homeowner's policy. Check with your agent. Nawas International provides flight insurance in the amount of \$100,000 for each passenger on the international portion of the tour.

**13. Duty Free Purchases.** Purchases up to \$800 per person (with some exceptions) are now allowed back in the U.S. duty free. Additional purchases up to \$1000 are charged a flat 10% duty. You may have certain gifts mailed from a foreign country to the U. S. duty free. We suggest you get the booklet *Know Before You Go* from U. S. Customs, P. O. Box 7407, Washington, D.C. 20044. It is free. You may read it or download a copy in PDF at this URL:

<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/>

**14. Pack Light.** One of the most typical mistakes for unseasoned travelers is to take too many clothes. If your suitcase is loaded with clothes when you leave, where will the souvenirs go?

**15. Washing.** If you plan to rinse out some clothes you should take an elastic clothes line that requires no pins. Take Woolite or packets of powdered soap. Pack liquids in plastic bags. Many of the new fabrics dry quickly. Take a washcloth (few hotels provide them). A few plastic bags may come in handy in the rare event that some clothes don't get dry in time for hotel departure.

**Laundry.** When we are in a hotel for two days or more you can send clothes out with one-day service.

**Throw Away Clothes.** Some travelers take older clothes, wear them, and then leave them in the hotel room. You can be sure that they will be put to good use by the people who clean the rooms.

**16. Personal Items.** Take normal sizes of toilet preparations and cosmetics. Some American brands of shaving cream, toothpaste, etc. can usually be bought in most of the cities we visit. Take a few home remedies. It is a good idea to take along some strong antibiotic capsules for colds, etc. Take along a remedy for dysentery — just in case. Some good prescription remedies include Imodium and Lomotil. Imodium AD seems to be a good preparation for the Middle East. Carry medicines you need with you rather than in your suitcase. A suitcase can get separated from you.

It is best to keep your prescriptions in the original containers showing the name of the drug, the name of your physician, and the name of your pharmacy. My plan is this: I carry only the amount of medication I might need in a small case I secured at

a luggage store with everything labeled. Carry your medications with you on the plane.

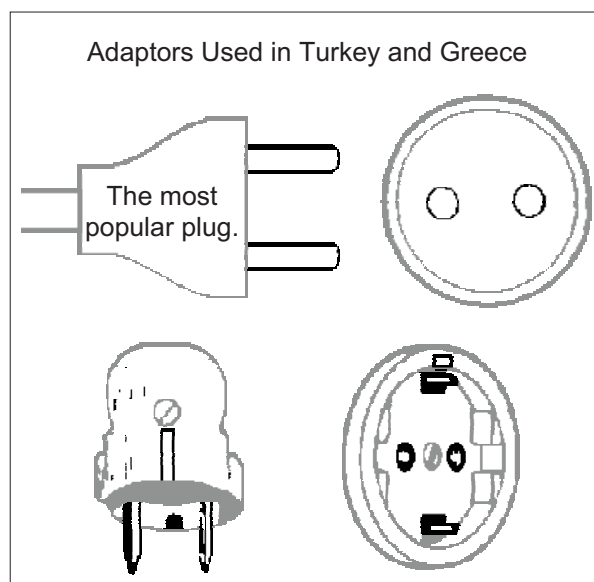
**17. Beauty Shops.** In the major cities and in many of the hotels.

**18. Weather – Climate.** May is normally an excellent time to travel. The average May temperature for Istanbul is 60°. In Izmir it is 68°. At mid-day it can be in the 80s. The same is true for Athens. Evenings can be cool. Rainfall should be minimal. On our web site we have included links under *Helpful Travel Links* that allow you to check the climate in the countries we visit.

**19. Food.** The food should be excellent throughout the tour. I always take a few of my favorite snacks. They are especially nice for the coach tours. As you use these, the space will be available for souvenirs, etc.

**20. Souvenir Bags.** Carry some small self-closing plastic bags with a 3" x 5" card inside each. As you collect seashells, stones, etc. you can keep them separate with details of place of origin, etc.

**21. Electrical Appliances.** Current varies in different countries. The voltage in Turkey and Greece is 220. The round-pronged, 2-pin plug is used in both countries. Secure a transformer and a set of adaptor plugs if you plan to carry any electrical appliances. Many electrical appliances (hair dryers, razors, etc.) can be run on 110 or 220. In this case a transformer is not necessary. Most new electronic equipment (battery rechargers, lap top computers,



and video cameras) will run on either current. **Hidden Hint.** I like to carry a short extension cord. The plugs never seem to be in the right position.

Transformers and adaptors are usually available at Wal-Mart, luggage stores, electric razor shops, Radio Shack, etc. **Hidden Hint:** I have found the two-prong plug to be the most useful. On the website we have listed some sites with good info on this. Start with *www.kropla.com*. The diagram above is from the *kropla* web site. The two plugs below work in both Turkey and Greece. The adaptor allows you to plug in your regular 2-flat blade plug.

If you can not find what you need locally we suggest you contact **Magellan's** and ask for a catalog. Their number is 1 800 962-4943. On our tour web page you will find a link to their web site along with several other companies. Look under Helpful Travel Links at <http://tours.biblicalstudies.info>. When you get to the Magellan's web page look near the top, to the right, and you will see "Travel Advice Country Guides." Click on the pull-down menu and select Turkey, then Greece, for much helpful info.

**22. Clothing Suggestions.** The most important factor in a travel wardrobe is a basic color scheme. Shoes and other accessories should be chosen in a color that blends with the entire wardrobe rather than different color sets that add weight. Clothing should be chosen for comfort, style and easy packing.

**For Women:** Select garments that serve various purposes. A well-cut sheath with matching jacket is good for wear any time of the day and appropriate for evening wear too. Separates provide for greater flexibility. Skirts and blouses or shells should be selected to mix and match with scarves, pins, beads, or belts for variation. Wash and wear skirts, blouses, and under garments are best. Jersey dresses take less space than bulky knits. The lighter weight knits are very good. A good, comfortable pair of broken-in walking shoes for sightseeing is a must. A pair of folding slippers in your tote bag will add to your comfort on the flights and motorcoaches. A sweater is important for cool evenings and for travel comfort. Just remember that it might be hot in a city by day, but cool at night.

The suggestions below are based on the experience of other travelers. You must give careful

thought to your travel wardrobe and make your own decisions. These lists include items you will be wearing when you leave the United States. But remember to pack light.

**For the Ladies:** Hose; 3 sets of under garments; 1 sweater; 1 pair of dress shoes; 1 pair of sturdy, comfortable walking shoes; 1 pair folding slippers; 1 pajamas/robe; 4 to 6 daytime outfits (pant outfits or skirts, blouses and shells. Mix and Match is best); 2 outfits for evening wear (not formal), preferably with jacket or sweater. A crushable hat, like a Tilley hat, to protect from the mid-day sun might be nice. Some religious buildings we enter require women to have their shoulders covered.

**For the Men:** One sweater or London Fog-type jacket; one sport coat, one pair trousers (or similar mix and match combination). It will likely be cool enough for a jacket in the evening. Jeans, or pants you feel comfortable in for daily wear. Four shirts; four pair of socks; four sets of underwear; Four hankies (disposable mansize Kleenex hankies might be better); one pajamas; one pair of comfortable walking shoes. I like to have a second pair to wear on the flights and in the hotels. A good hat, like a Tilley, is a great idea. (See the web page for the link to Tilley.) There is usually one dress-up night on the **cruise** when a sport jacket is appropriate.

**23. Reading Suggestions.** On our previous tours to this area we prepared a notebook with information about all of the places to be visited. We will revise this material and send it to you with your tickets. Below is a list of books which we recommend for your use. Go to our **Travel Book Store** Internet page at

<http://tours.biblicalstudies.info>

and search for these books at Amazon. Some of the books are out of print but are useful if you have access to them.

The following books may be more difficult to secure but are among the best I have seen on Turkey. Check your public library.

Akurgal, Ekrem. *Ancient Civilizations and Ruins of Turkey* (Haset Kitabevi, Istanbul). [on Amazon]  
 Blake, Everett and Anna Edmonds. *Biblical Sites in Turkey* (Redhouse Press, Istanbul). [on Amazon]  
 Bean, George E. *Aegean Turkey* (Norton, New York).



Fant, Clyde E. and Mitchell G. Reddish. *A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey*. **Excellent.**

Freely, John. *Classical Turkey* (Chronicle Books, San Francisco). [on Amazon]

Freely, John. *The Companion Guide to Turkey* (Prentice-Hall; Collins).

Lloyd, Seton. *Ancient Turkey: A Traveller's History* (British Museum Press), 1999.

Frank, Harry Thomas (ed.). *Atlas of the Bible Lands* (Broadman). Concise atlas; excellent maps.

Pfeiffer, Charles F. *Baker's Bible Atlas* (Baker).

Vos, Howard F. *The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands* (Hendrickson). This is the completely revised 2003 edition. The book was originally published in 1967, edited by Pfeiffer and Vos. This book covers the entire Bible world. **Excellent.**

The books we have listed above are not typical travel books, but accurate, scholarly books. Travel books can be helpful, however. Many sites we will visit will offer small booklets about those places. The May, 1994, issue of *National Geographic* has an interesting article on Turkey.

Some of the best travel guides are written for the individual traveler, but contain helpful information for anyone. Here are some I have found helpful:

*Turkey* (Eyewitness Travel Guides)  
*Greece: Athens and the Mainland* (Eyewitness Travel Guides).  
*Greek Islands* (Eyewitness Travel Guides). **Excellent.**  
*The Rough Guide to Greece* 11  
*The Rough Guide to Turkey* 6  
*Turkey* (Blue Guides). The Blue Guides are considered authoritative.

When you click through to Amazon from our Travel Book Store we get credit for anything you buy (even if it is not on the Travel Book Store page), but the cost is the same to you. Thanks for your use of the page.

An outlined commentary on the letters to the seven churches of Revelation, with information on the ancient cities, can be found in *Studies in the Book of Revelation* by F. Jenkins. This book is available from Florida College Bookstore (\$5.95). The toll free number is 1-800-423-1648.

**24. Jet Lag.** Those who have traveled across several time zones by plane know what “jet lag” is. The human body works on a pattern of rhythms which govern such activities as sleeping, heartbeat, digestion, etc. When these patterns are interrupted the result can be fatigue and mental disorientation, commonly called *jet lag*. If you can gradually go to bed earlier and rise earlier you will be in good shape

for a trip. (Not very practical, I find.) After a good night of rest in Istanbul we probably won't have much trouble.



Please be mindful that these *HELPFUL HINTS* are based on our best information at the time of preparation. All items regarding airline schedules, fares, government regulations, taxes, health requirements, currency exchange rates, etc. are subject to change. The weather is subject to change too! We will try to keep you informed of changes through our informational bulletins.



## Ferrell Jenkins

### Distinctive World Tours Since 1967

9211 Hollyridge Place  
 Tampa, FL 33637

Phone: 813 988-8485; Fax: 813 899-1549  
 Email: ferrell.jenkins@gmail.com

Visit our tour web site:  
[tours.biblicalstudies.info](http://tours.biblicalstudies.info)

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### Good Travel Information

You can get some good travel brochures on Turkey from the following address. Be sure to ask for a map.

Ministry of Culture & Tourism  
 821 U. N. Plaza, 4th Fl.  
 New York, NY 10017  
 877 367-8875 or 212 949-0160

(for West Coast tour members)  
 Ministry of Culture & Tourism  
 6300 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 2010  
 Los Angeles, CA 90048  
 323 655-8832

Website: [www.tourismturkey.org](http://www.tourismturkey.org).

Click on **Brochures**. You need *Istanbul & the Marmara* and *Izmir & the Aegean*. These may be read online and downloaded.