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**JERUSALEM WAY**



# JERUSALEM WAY

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**Stage TÜRKIYE**

**15-DAY JOURNEY | 25.09.2026 - 09.10.2026**

**JERUSALEM WAY – The longest pilgrimage and peace trail in the world and an international cultural route!**





# JERUSALEM WAY Türkiye 2026

## Together through Asia Minor

The fifth of seven stages of the Jerusalem Way takes you through Türkiye and Asia Minor. You'll traverse the Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean, and Central Anatolian regions. Turkey thus forms the fifth stage of the entire pilgrimage on the Jerusalem Way – from Spain to Jerusalem. On this unique pilgrimage, you can discover the cultural highlights of Asia Minor: the places where the apostles Paul and Barnabas shaped early Christianity, as well as the route of the Third Crusade under the Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick I "Barbarossa." You'll experience a landscape of unparalleled fascination. Among the highlights are the Dardanelles, Troy, the Troad Peninsula, Assos, Pergamon, Izmir, Ephesus, Pamukkale, the Taurus Mountains, Sille, Konya, Kilistra, the Göksu Canyon, Tarsus, and Adana.

The JERUSALEM WAY connects 15 countries across the continents of Europe and Asia with the Holy Land. At approximately 8,500 kilometers in length, it is the longest pilgrimage and peace route in the world – “from the edge of the ancient world in Finisterre, through the heart of Europe, to the beginning in Jerusalem.”

### ITINERARY:

#### Day 1 – Arrival: Flight to Istanbul – Transfer to the hotel – Old City – Hagia Sophia – Blue Mosque – Bosphorus – Dinner

Flight with Turkish Airlines from Vienna to Istanbul. Estimated arrival at 2:00 PM and transfer to our hotel. During a walk through the old city, we will see the Roman Hippodrome, the Hagia Sophia Mosque – once the main church of the Byzantine Empire – and the Ottoman-era Blue Mosque. With views of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus, we will enjoy the beauty of Istanbul during our group dinner.

#### Day 2 – Drive to the Dardanelles – Gelibolu (border of Europe/Asia) – Introductory hike

Departure from Istanbul to the European part of Turkey and the Dardanelles, the strait between Europe and Asia. Here we embark on our first introductory hike: The route follows historically significant ground along the edge of Europe, offering views towards Asia. Dinner and overnight stay at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel in Gelibolu.

#### Day 3 – Gelibolu – Çanakkale – Troy – Overnight stay on the Troad Peninsula

After breakfast, we'll visit one of the World War I memorials near the Dardanelles. Then, we'll take the ferry to Çanakkale – crossing into Asia! Afterwards, we'll leave the Dardanelles and enjoy a beautiful hike along the coast towards Troy, with stunning views of the Aegean Sea. Soon we'll reach the legendary setting of Homer's epics about Helen, Agamemnon, and Odysseus. We'll explore Troy National Park and see the last remaining stone ruins of the ancient city on the hilltop. We'll conclude this memorable day on the Troad Peninsula with a cultural and culinary experience. Dinner and overnight stay at the Hotel Helen Troya.

#### Day 4 – Troad Peninsula – Alexandria Troas – Assos – Behramkale

Continue to Dalyan and the nearby ancient city of Alexandria Troas. This former metropolis was even considered as a possible capital of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine the Great! The Apostle Paul visited Alexandria Troas three times during his missionary journeys. We hike along the Jerusalem Trail, following the Troy Cultural Route and retracing Paul's steps towards Assos. Check-in at the Assos Troy Port Hotel in Behramkale.

#### Day 5 – Behramkale – Pergamon – Bergama – Obasya caravanserai

In the morning, we continue our journey along the coast; the Jerusalem Way leads us over rolling hills and through fragrant pine forests – a magnificent landscape on the way to Pergamon! Even from afar, we catch sight of ancient Pergamon with the steepest theater in Asia Minor. We take the cable car up to the Acropolis and visit the remains of the royal palaces, the foundations of the Altar of Zeus (the original is in Berlin), the temples of Athena, Trajan, Dionysus, and Demeter, the theater, the agora, and what was once the second-largest library of antiquity.

Afterwards, we continue to Obasya, where we will spend the night in a newly built caravanserai, a unique cultural experience. This "tent hotel" in the middle of nowhere is truly unforgettable. In addition to the impressive sightseeing, two hikes are planned for the day. Dinner and overnight stay at the Obasya Caravanserai.

### **Day 6 & 7 – Bergama – Izmir – Kuşadası – Ephesus – Selçuk – Kuşadası**

Drive through Izmir, the ancient Smyrna. The city is home to numerous Christian churches and, with around four million inhabitants, is the largest metropolis on the entire Jerusalem Way.

Continue to Ephesus – one of the most magnificent archaeological sites in the Orient and one of the world's most important open-air museums. The reconstructions of many buildings are particularly impressive, such as Hadrian's Temple, the magnificent Library of Celsus, and the terraced houses, whose excavation was made possible in large part by Austrian archaeologists.

We will visit the Agora, the public buildings, Curetes Street, and the large theater. After a lunch break in one of the family-run restaurants around the Grotto of the Seven Sleepers – idyllically situated among fruit trees – we will continue our walk to the House of the Virgin Mary. The supposed tomb of Mary is a holy site for Christians and Muslims alike.

Continued from Day 7

Afterwards, we will visit the Basilica of St. John. Here is the tomb of the Apostle John. On the way back to the hotel, we will also see the Isabey (Jesus) Basilica.

Mosque and the remains of the Temple of Artemis – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Dinner and check-in for two nights at the Akay Hotel in Selçuk.

### **Day 8 – Kuşadası – Ephesus – Meander Valley – Pamukkale – Hierapolis**

Drive through the wide, meandering valley towards Pamukkale. We hike through small villages along a charming landscape and reach Pamukkale on foot, followed by Hierapolis.

Dinner and overnight stay at the Pam Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale.

### **Day 9 – Pamukkale – Laodicea – Kolossai – Taurus Mountains – Isparta – Lake Eğirdir**

In the morning, we hike to the extensive ruins of Laodicea (ancient Laodicea on the Lycus River). The seventh and final letter of the Book of Revelation was addressed to this community. Afterwards, we continue our journey towards Lake Eğirdir, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Turkey. In the afternoon, we embark on a hike in the mountainous hinterland – along quiet trails, far removed from any tourism.

Dinner and overnight stay at the Choo Choo Pension pilgrim accommodation in Eğirdir.

### **Day 10 – Lake Eğirdir – St. Paul's Way – Antioch in Pisidia – Yalvaç – Konya**

In the morning, we travel towards Antioch, crossing the so-called "Apple Country" along the way. We hike the final leg of the Turkish St. Paul's Way (also part of the Jerusalem Way) through the vast steppe landscape of Pisidia to ancient Antioch in Pisidia. Here, we explore the ruins of the city that Paul visited with Barnabas and Mark on his first missionary journey.

Continue to Konya, the ancient Iconium – geographically roughly the center of Asia Minor.

Dinner and overnight stay at the Bera Hotel in Konya.

### **Day 11 – Konya – Sufi Trail – Sille – Mevlana Rumi – Paul's Church – Bazaar**

Today we hike a section of the so-called Sufi Trail, which is also part of the Jerusalem Way. Crossing the "Devil's Bridge," we reach Sille on foot – a place where Paul once stayed. After a well-deserved break at a café, we visit the newly restored Church of St. Helena, founded in 327 by Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, on her way to Jerusalem. This church is one of the oldest in the world! In Konya, we then visit the Mevlana Museum, the mausoleum of the Sufi mystic Rumi – famous for the "Whirling Dervishes" – and the still-used Church of St. Paul, where we even receive a Jerusalem Way stamp in our pilgrim passports. We end the day in the bazaar, immersing ourselves in the oriental world of spices and fragrances. Dinner and overnight stay again at the Bera Hotel in Konya.

### **Day 12 – Konya – Kilistra – Lystra – Çatalhöyük – Binbirkilise – Karaman**

After breakfast, we drive along the ancient King's Road to Kilistra with its bizarre cave dwellings of the early Christians. We hike and explore the rock-cut houses and see the valley of the ancient city of Lystra – the site of Paul's stoning.

Crossing the Konya Plain, we then reach another cultural highlight: the Neolithic archaeological site of Çatalhöyük, one of the oldest known settlements in the world. Afterwards, we continue to Binbirkilise ("1001 Churches"), where we embark on a meditative hike through the seemingly endless "lunar landscape" up a mountain massif of the extinct volcano Karadağ, experiencing the ruins of numerous churches with breathtaking views.

Dinner and overnight stay at the Kent Hotel in Karaman.

### **Day 13 – Karaman – Taurus Mountains – Sertavul Pass – Göksu Canyon – Barbarossa Memorial Stone – Kızkalesi**

On our drive through the Taurus Mountains, we visit the imposing ruins of the remote Byzantine Alahan Monastery high above the Göksu River. We continue through the impressive Göksu Canyon to the memorial stone commemorating the death of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa – he had set out from Regensburg, and here the Third and greatest Crusade in church history came to an end.

Our hike today takes us through the colorful, impressive Göksu Canyon towards Silifke.

Overnight stay at the Kilikya Hotel in Kızkalesi on the Mediterranean coast.

### **Day 14 – Kızkalesi – Mediterranean coast – Tarsus – Adana**

In the morning, we'll enjoy a leisurely hike along the Mediterranean coast to round off the day – with an opportunity to swim in the sea. Afterwards, we'll continue our journey to Tarsus, the birthplace of the Apostle Paul and one of the oldest cities in the world.

We go through the Cleopatra Gate, see the old Roman road, visit the Paulus Fountain and the Paulus Church.

Continue to Adana, where two special sights await us on the Jerusalem Way to conclude our trip: the second largest mosque in Turkey and the oldest still-usable stone arch bridge in the world! Dinner and overnight stay at the Senbayrak City Hotel in Adana.

### **Day 15 – Return flight to Vienna / Munich via Istanbul**

In the morning, we will visit the Great Mosque and the historic stone arch bridge again. This stage of the Jerusalem Way journey ends right on this old Roman bridge – and at the same time, the next, sixth leg of the journey to Jerusalem begins here.

A short transfer takes us to Çukurova Airport. Return flight with Turkish Airlines at approximately 12:40 pm via Istanbul to Vienna.

*Subject to changes in the travel program, flight times and printing errors.*



#### About the Jerusalem pilgrim Johannes Aschauer (initiator of the Jerusalem Way):

In 2010, Johannes set off on foot towards Jerusalem together with two other pilgrims. On this spectacular and extraordinary pilgrimage, they followed in the footsteps of the Crusades, hiked on the paths of the Apostle Paul, and on historical routes. Pilgrims followed paths and finally arrived in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve after half a year, and then in Jerusalem. Subsequently, they initiated... The pilgrims in Finisterre on December 21, 2012, marked the beginning of this journey to Jerusalem with the message "From the end, through the heart of Europe". To the beginning" and thus founded the world's longest peace and cultural trail: The Jerusalem Way!

More information: [www.jerusalemway.org](http://www.jerusalemway.org)



Horse of Troy in  
Canakkale



Kilistra cave settlement



Pergamon Theatre

#### Included services:

- Outbound flight from Vienna to Istanbul
- Return flight to Vienna from Çukurova International Airport
- 14 nights with breakfast in the respective Accommodations
- 13 dinners
- All journeys are made with modern, air-conditioned buses
- Excursions & hikes as per program
- Local German-speaking tour guide
- Information package JERUSALEM WAY including pilgrim's passport etc.
- Tour Leader: Johannes Aschauer

Tips, local taxes and visa fees are not included.

**Early bird price: €2,699**

(for bookings made by March 31, 2026)

**Price per person: € 2,759**

**Single room supplement: € 559**

Minimum number of participants: 15 people

**Tour Leader: Johannes Aschauer**



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**Entry requirements:** The passport must be valid for at least 6 months upon entry.

Please also note the respective current regulations. Please also note the current information provided by your Foreign Office.

#### Fitness & Equipment

Easy hikes for sure-footed hikers. Hikers with average fitness. The hikes last 4 to 6 hours. The daily distances of 10 to 20 km lead through easy to moderate terrain, and sufficient breaks are planned. We hike with light daypacks (please bring a flashlight or headlamp) on forest paths, tracks, and some paved sections. The bus transports our main luggage. **Please note that all participants must be in reasonable physical and mental condition.**

JERUSALEM WAY  
International Peace Team eV

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