

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS – 10 NIGHTS EASTERN TURKEY

**TARSUS** the birth place of the apostle Paul. The romantic meeting between Cleopatra and Mark Anthony also took place here. City highlights include St Paul's well and Cleopatra's Gate.

**ANTIOCH-ON-THE-ORONTES** This city borrows its name from the Hellenistic city of Antiochia and the nearby Orontes river. The apostles Peter and Paul are believed to have preached here. Visit Peter's Grotto, the tunnel of the Roman emperor Titus and rock tombs from the Hellenistic period.

**GAZIANTEP** This city dates back as far as the Hittites (Josh 1:4). The Archaeology Museum here showcases artifacts from Hittite Persian, Byzantium and Roman periods and the ancient site of Zeugma (Belkis) by the Euphrates river which historically, has been a strategic military crossing. It may once again be such, in the future (Rev 16:12).

**EUPHRATES river boat trip** Euphrates is the name of one of Eden's four river heads (Gen 2:14).

**URFA** According to Islamic belief, Job lived and died here. In 460 AD, a bishop found the waters of a spring to have curative properties and built a hospital nearby.

**HARAN** Also known as Padan Aram (Gen 25:20, 27:43), Abraham came to live in this town after departing from Ur of the Chaldees (Gen 11:31)

**ADIYAMAN.** See a 169-metre high rock-filled dam at the source of the Euphrates river.

**NEMRUD** Known as Nimrod (Gen 10:8), this 2,134-metre peak in the Antitaurus mountain range has a massive grave mound and monumental statues dating back to 1 BC on its summit and used to be part of Assyria (Mic 5).

**Lake VAN boat ride** Visit the monastery at the Church of Holy Cross, a 10<sup>th</sup> century Armenian cathedral restored in 2005 on Akdamar island in Lake Van, Turkey's largest lake and "salt sea".

**Mount ARARAT** Ascend to the area widely believed to be where Noah's Ark rests (Gen 8:4), stopping by the refreshing Muradiye waterfall along the way

**TRABZON - Sumela Monastery** The church is lined with colourful frescos inside and out that are believed to have been painted by Luke, the author of one of the 4 gospel accounts and the book of Acts.

**ISTANBUL 'Old City'** – Experience the majesty of former Constantinople, the imperial seat of several powerful empires, most notably, the Roman and Byzantine.

**Underground Cistern/Hippodrome** The centre of Byzantine civic life

**Haggia Sophia** Now a museum, view its famous eastern Christian mosaics.

**Topkapi Palace** Home of the ruling sultans from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is now a museum showcasing collections of crystal, silver, Chinese porcelain and imperial costumes.