

Andrews University

Department of Religion and Biblical Languages

Life Origins & Processes, Civilizations & Faith Study Tour

Turkey, Mt Ararat – Georgia – Armenia – Egypt

Marlene Murray, PhD; Marcella Myers, PhD; Glenn Russell, DMin

Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo, PhD - Tour Director

May 6 – June 4, 2020

ITINERARY

May 6 Wed Andrews University

Leave AU–ORD. Departure from PMC Parking Lot at 17:00. Arrive to Chicago at 19:30. Depart from Chicago by Turkish Airlines TK 6, departure at 21:50.

TURKEY

May 7 Thu Arrive Istanbul

Arrive Istanbul at 16:25 – Your tour guide will meet you after customs and baggage claim with a “ANDREWS UNIVERSITY – TUTKU” sign. Meet and transfer to the hotel in city center . Dinner and overnight (D).

May 8 Fri Istanbul

Full day Istanbul tour; visit the **Roman Hippodrome**, the **Blue Mosque** with its beautiful blue tiles, the **Hagia Sophia**, the great basilica built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the world’s greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site. Then visit the **Istanbul Archaeological Museum, Grand Bazaar** and transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B,D).

May 9 Sat Kodikoy SDA Church - Bosphorus Boat - Galata Tower Evening

Attend Kodikoy SDA Church, Lunch Boxes, Bosphorus Boat - Vesper meeting with AFM rep at the hotel. (B,L,D).

May 10 Sun Istanbul – Troy - Assos

Morning visit to **Topkapi Palace** including the **Harem**. Lunch Boxes in bus to save time to drive to Çanakkale. Cross the Dardanelles Strait by car ferry. Proceed to **Troy** to see the legendary city of Homer’s Iliad. Continue to Alexandrian Troas, the important port founded by Alexander the Great. Paul visited here at least twice (Acts 16:8-11, 20:5-13). Dinner and overnight in Dove Hotel in Assos. (B,D).

May 11 Mon Brief visit Assos - Pergamum - Acropolis – Asclepion - Izmir

We will enjoy a morning tour of **Assos** and then leave for Pergamon. Lunch in Bergama. Afternoon visit to the Acropolis with the steepest theater of the ancient world and the Temple of Trajan. Then, visit **Asklepion**. Continue to Izmir for dinner and overnight. (B,D).

May 12 Tue Izmir - Sardis - Evening Classes - Stroll by the Bay Kusadasi

Morning visit to Smyrna Agora and the mountain ruins. Drive to Sardis. Lunch. Visit Sardis Ruins, Gymnasium, Artemis Temple - Travel to Kusadasi for some time at the beach before dinner. (B,D).

May 13 Wed Full day Ephesus - Evening Classes - Kusadasi

Ephesus, Terraces Houses, Lunch & shopping opportunity. Afternoon visit to the Archeological Museum, Basilica St John, Artemis Temple. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi. (B,D).

May 14 Thu Aphrodisias-Hierapolis - Colossae - Pamukkale

Morning visit Aphrodisias & museum, lunch, Visit Hierapolis ruins (Philip's Tomb, Theater, Necropolis). Drive to Colossae for a short visit. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Pamukkale. Swimming is available at the hot spring pool of your hotel. (B,D).

May 15 Fri Rest Day - Classes - Thermal Waters - Pamukkale

No excursions this day, rest in hotel and classes in conference room. (B,D).

May 16 Sat Laodicea - Sabbath Worship Hipodrome – Afternoon Hierapolis Walk (Optional)

Visit Laodicea ruins and ancient churches . Sabbath Worship – Hypodrom. Lunch Boxes – Afternoon- Rest at the hotel. Optional walk to the Ruins. (B,L,D).

May 17 Sun Denizli Airport – Fly Kars – Dogubeyazit

Transfer to Denizli Airport for flight to Kars via Istanbul. TK 2577 08:20/09:35 + TK 2714 12:20/14:35. Meet our bus and transfer to the hotel in Dogubayazit. (B,D)

May 18 Mon Noah's Ark Museum-Natural Rock formation-Durupinar Site - Arzap Stones – Ani - Evening Classes - Kars

Visit the natural rock formation and Noah's Ark National Park in Durupinar site and Arzap Droque Stones. No climbing only in the valley. Travel to Kars via Ani. A ruined and uninhabited medieval city-site situated in the Turkish province of Kars, beside the border with Armenia Visit some churches ruins. It was once the capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom. Discover the great Armenian architecture. Continue to Kars. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

GEORGIA

May 19 Tue Kars - Sarpi – Gonio – Batumi

Drive to Turkey-Georgia border. Cross to Georgia Met and assisted at the border, continue into Georgia. Transfer to Batumi. En route visit **Gonio-Apsaros Fortress**, located 12 km south to Batumi, on the left bank of River Chorokhi, on the place where Colchian Bronze culture and first Georgian statehood found its birthplace. The history of Gonio Fortress is closely connected to the Myth of the Argonauts. According to the legend, this is a site where king Ayet buried his son Apsaros, who was killed by escaped Jason. Oldest archeological layer excavated here belongs to 17-18cc. We will arrive in Batumi. Visit seaside park and old-city district with lots of cafes, shops and churches, streets of **Old Batumi**, decorated with ornaments of nameless mythical creatures, Batumi Sea Port, Piazza Square, statue of Medea and Governmental buildings. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Batumi. (B,D).

May 20 Wed Batumi

After breakfast explore **Batumi**, one of the oldest cities in Georgia and inhabited from as early as the third century BC. **Batumi** is mentioned by Greek and Roman sources as one of the Black Sea's principal ports. Visit Batumi Botanical Garden, located 9 km from Batumi. The garden occupies 111 hectares of hilly land, composed partially of red soils. Garden consists of the following floristic sections: Transcaucasian humid subtopic, New Zealand, Australian, Himalayan, East Asian, North American, South American, Mexican, and Mediterranean. With this excursion, you will get a chance

to see beauty of flora from all over the world and enjoy an amazing view of the Black Sea. Lunch independent. Free time for shopping. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Batumi. (B,D)

May 21 Thu Batumi, Prometheus Cave, Kutaisi, Bagrati Cathedral, Motsameta, Gelati Monastery, Stroll City Markets.

In the morning, today we will drive to Kutaisi, drive to Prometheus cave where you will walk in 1.5 km long tunnel to enjoy breath-taking views of stalactites, stalagmites, petrified waterfalls, underground rivers and lakes along the cave. Underground light system filled with LED lights of all rainbow colors marvelously highlights natural beauty of Prometheus. Visit Bagrati Cathedral, the 11th century cathedral, built during the reign of King Bagrat III and known as “the symbol of united Georgia”. The Cathedral was officially rebuilt on September 16, 2012. Drive to Gelati Monastery. On the way to Gelati, visit Motsameta. According to the legend, the monastery was constructed on the place where Muslim aggressors executed David and Konstantin Mkheidze, Georgian princes, who refused to accept Islam. Visit Gelati Monastery, founded in 1106, by the famous king of Georgia, Davit the Builder. Gelati Complex includes an academy and remain for a long time one of the main cultural and enlightening centers in Georgia. The Gelati Monastery has preserved a great number of manuscripts dating back to the 12th c. and listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Lunch independent. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Kutaisi. (B,D).

May 22 Fri Kutaisi – Gori – Uplistsikhe – Mtskheta – Tbilisi

Today we drive to the center of Shida Kartli region - Gori, known as the birthplace of the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Visit Stalin’s Museum in Gori where you can see the house, where Stalin was born and his personal railway carriage. Visit Uplistsikhe (“Fortress of God”) rock-hewn town (1st Millennium BC). Uplistsikhe is located on the left bank of Mtkvari River and is notable for unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient wine presses carved in stone. Explore Mtskheta, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious centre of Georgia. It was the capital of the Eastern Georgian Kingdom of Iberia from the third century BC. Located at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers Mtskheta was a crossroad of many trade routes. Today it is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a living museum, with many architectural and historical monuments. Jvari Church (6th-7th cc) - a masterpiece of the early Medieval Period. This example of classic tetra conch design with all its miniature size, strikes the viewers with its grandeur and integrity.

Before independent lunch enjoy walking tour along the recently renovated Agmashenebeli avenue, the historic Old Town street. A 500m section of the road is now pedestrian-only. Either dozens of houses on the popular road have been completely rebuilt or had their facades renovated to give the buildings a fresh look. Most of the homes were cultural heritage monuments and were restored back to their former glory. Dinner at a local restaurant or hotel. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B,D)

May 23 Sat Tbilisi Adventist Church & Sightseeing Tour

Attend the Adventist Church in the morning. Lunch boxes. Afternoon we will do the sightseeing tour. We may visit old city and souvenir shops at night. Today we can take cable car/ropeway to Narikala Fortress to enjoy breathtaking panoramic view of the city. Walk down to the district of Sulphur bath houses passing by the only mosque in Tbilisi. Visit Sioni Cathedral, Anchiskhati Basilica and the clock tower of famous Rezo Gabriadze Theatre. Return to hotel for rest. After sunset, we will stroll through the Sharden area - full of narrow streets with cozy cafés, souvenir shops, and breathe in the living past. Dinner at a local restaurant with folk show. (B,L,D)

ARMENIA

May 24 Sun Tbilisi – Sadakhlo – Haghpat – Sevan – Yerevan

Transfer to Sadakhlo border. En route visit Haghpat Monastery. The monument is preserved by UNESCO and included in the World Heritage List. Drive to Lake Sevan, one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world, The Pearl, The Emerald of Armenia. Lake Sevan is situated in the central part of the Republic of Armenia, inside the Gegharkunik Province, at the altitude of 1,900m above sea level. Explore romantic Sevanavank Monastery. Continue to Yerevan. Lunch independent. Dinner at the local restaurant. Overnight in Yerevan. (B,D).

May 25 Mon Yerevan City tour - Khor Virap – Noravank -Yerevan

The day starts with a walking tour of Yerevan exploring various layers of its history – medieval shrines hidden behind imposing Soviet-style façades, narrow streets of the old center with sunlight playing on its pink walls, Republic Square, Cascade and Mother Armenia, Opera House and ambitious project of independent Armenia – North Avenue.

Drive to Khor Virap, the site of royal prison where St. Gregory the Illuminator was held for thirteen years before converting Armenia into the first Christian nation in 301. Guided by the remote majesty of biblical Mount Ararat, we explore the site, its underground chambers, elegant chapels and are captivated by the ascetic atmosphere of the site. The next stop of our trip is Areni Cave 1, located near the Areni village in southern Armenia along the Arpa River.

In 2010, it was announced that the earliest known shoe was found at the site. In January 2011, the earliest known winery in the world was announced to have been found. Also in 2011, the discovery of a straw skirt dating to 3900 BC was reported. In 2009, the oldest brain was discovered. Continue to Noravank, 12th century monastery complex set in a canyon rich with rare flora. It is located in a narrow gorge made by the Amaghu River. The gorge is known for its tall, sheer, brick-red cliffs, directly across from the monastery. Lunch independent. Dinner at the local restaurant. Overnight in Yerevan. (B,D)

May 26 Tue Yerevan – Garni - Geghard - Sadakhlo border – Tbilisi

Drive to Garni & Geghard via sightseeing of the picturesque Avan Canyon, skirting formidable cliffs and passing exotic-looking gorges until a green plateau by the Azat River comes into view. Here, in the harmony of the relief and the virgin nature you will see the Roman Garni architectural complex of the 1st century and feel the spirit of ancient ages. Another ten minutes ride through the gorge will take you to the cave monastery of Geghard (12th –13th centuries). Continue to Sadakhlo border. Lunch independent. In the evening arrive to Tbilisi. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Tbilisi. (B,D)

May 27 Wed Travel day - Tbilisi Airport – Fly Istanbul – Fly Cairo – Drive Alexandria

Transfer to the Tbilisi airport for TBS – IST flight TK379 depart at 10:40. Take connection flight to Cairo TK 4628 14:00/15:15. Meet with local Egyptian guide and assist through customs and formalities. Drive Alexandria for overnight. (B,D)

EGYPT

MAY 28 Thu Alexandria – Cairo

After breakfast, check-out and visit the **Citadel** and **St. Mark Cathedral** and the **Bibliotheca of Alexandria** - the New Library of Alexandria. The New Bibliotheca Alexandrina is dedicated to recapture the spirit of openness and scholarship of the original **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**. Visit the **Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa**. These tombs were tunneled into the bedrock in the age of the

Antoine emperors (2nd century A.D.) for a single wealthy family still practicing the ancient religion. These tombs represent the last existing major construction for the sake of the old Egyptian religion. Then visit the **Pompey's Pillar**, approximately 25 meters red Aswan granite column with a circumference of 9 meters was constructed in honor of the Emperor Diocletian; it was once a magnificent structure rivaling the Soma and the Caesareum. After lunch, drive back to Cairo to join the meeting at **Nile Union Academy** at 7:30 pm. Transfer to a hotel. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B,D)

May 29 Fri Cairo

Day tour to visit Pyramids of Cheops, Chefren, Mikarinus, and Sphinx. After lunch, visit the Egyptian Museum including Mummy's chamber. (new museum if it is open). Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B,D)

May 30 Sat Cairo – Heliapolis Adventist Church – Sakkara, Memphis.

09:30-12:30 Heliopolis Adventist Church. Lunch Boxes. Visit Memphis, Sakkara, Optional Khan el Khalil Bazaar after sunset. Dinner and overnight in Cairo. (B,L,D)

May 31 Sun Cairo – Fly Luxor

Transfer to Cairo Airport for flight to Luxor – MS 361 7:30 am CAI to LXR 8:40 am. Arrive Luxor airport. Visits at west bank of Luxor: visit the Valley of the Kings, the two statues Colossi of Memnon and the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Visit an alabaster or perfume factory and the Ramaseum. Dinner overnight in Luxor. (B,D).

June 1 Mon East Bank – Luxor-Karnack - Fly Luxor to Sharm El Sheikh

Breakfast, and check-out. Enjoy the east bank of Luxor: walk among the pillars of the temple dedicated to the god Amun Ra and along the avenue of the Sphinxes at Karnak and Luxor temples. After late lunch visit Luxor Museum with Mummy's room (lunch included today because no dinner). Transfer to Luxor airport, for flight to Sharm El-Sheikh via Cairo: MS 163 7:40pm – LXR to CAI Arriving 20:50 + 1 h 40 min – layover + MS 20 10:30 pm – CAI to SSH – 11:30 pm. Transfer to hotel in Sharm El Sheikh. (B,L)

June 2 Tue Sharm El Shaikh –

Rest day – Classes days – Enjoy the resort until Dinner. After Dinner at the hotel, drive to St Catherine in preparation to climb Mount Sinai

June 3 Wed Climb Mount Sinai return to St Catherine, Drive to Cairo Airport

Climb Mount Sinai at 2-6 am, Return for a possible brief morning visit to St Catherine Monastery (if time allowed), then have a quick breakfast in a hotel. Drive back to Cairo Airport, Luncheon the way. Take flight to Istanbul TK 695 CAI-IST 20:50 – 00:15 am – Overnight Hotel at the Airport in IST. (B,L)

June 4 Thu Fly back to Chicago

Walk to the Turkish Airlines counter for TK 5 14:10 flight to Chicago. Arrive Chicago at 17:35 same day. Return Bus to Andrews University.

STUDY TOUR COST:

Six or seven undergraduate Religion, Biology and History credits plus a travel fee of \$1,490 (6 credits) or \$1,190 (7 credits) paid in three installments.

Critical deadlines are as follows:

- **September 30, 2019** - Interview and Registration: \$400. Please schedule an interview with any professor. This fee is refundable until Nov 1, 2019.
- **December 1, 2019** - Airline ticket reservation: \$600 (Non-refundable).
- **February 28, 2020** - Final payment: \$490/\$190 and financial clearance signed by the Finance Office.

Costs above include tickets, hotels, insurance (Adventist Risk Management), museum entrance fees, guided tours and more, and per person double occupancy. Additional fee of \$1,490 for a Single Room Supplement.

**If there is an odd number of male or female student, we will place three students in one room with three separate beds.*

Classes to be registered for summer 2020

- BIOL 100 Human Biology (4), Dr. Marlene Murray
 - HIST 110 Worldviews, Cultures and Gods, (3), Dr. Marcella Myers.
 - HIST 437 Topics, Dr. Marcella Myer for *History Majors*
 - RELT 250 Personal Spirituality and Faith (3), Dr. Glenn Russell.
 - RELG 350 World Religions (3). Dr. Glenn Russell.
 - RELB210 Jesus in His Time and Ours (3), Dr. Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo.
- Theology/Religion Students may take RELG360-040 Biblical Backgrounds (3), Dr. Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo. This course may apply to RELB111 or RELB112 Introduction to the OT and NT.

The cost includes the following itemization per country:

Including:

- Roundtrip international flights from Chicago as mentioned above (Turkish Airlines)
- All domestic flights as mentioned above (Egyptian Airlines)
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- 3 Nights at [AC Marriott Macka Istanbul](#) or similar
- 1 Night at [Dove Hotel in Assos](#) or similar
- 1 Night at [Kordon Cankaya Hotel in Izmir](#) or similar
- 2 Nights at [Korumar Hotel in Kusadasi](#) or similar
- 3 Nights at [Doga Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale](#) or similar
- 1 Night at [Simer Hotel in Dogubeyazit](#) or similar
- 1 Night at [Simer Hotel in Kars](#) or similar
- 2 Nights at 4 star [World Palace hotel in Batumi](#) or similar
- 1 Night at 4 star [Best Western hotel in Kutaisi](#) or similar
- 2 Nights at 4 star [Mercure hotel in Tbilisi](#) or similar
- 2 Nights at the [Ani Plaza Hotel in Yerevan](#) or similar
- 1 Nights at 4 star [Mercure hotel in Tbilisi](#) or similar
- 1 night in Alexandria at [Romance Hotel](#) or similar
- 3 nights in Cairo at [Barceló Hotel](#) or similar
- 1 night in Luxor at [Iberotel Luxor](#) or similar
- 2 nights in Sharm at 4 star hotel all-inclusive basis [Jaz Fanara Resort](#) (breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and snacks)

- 1 Night at [Yotel Hotel located in Istanbul Airport](#)
- **Daily breakfasts** at the hotels (B=Breakfast)
- **4 Lunches** as mentioned in the itinerary (L=Lunch)
- **26 Dinners** as mentioned in the itinerary (D=Dinner)
- All Entrance fees in Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Egypt as per above itinerary
- English speaking private guides for all the sightseeing tours
- Meet and assist at all airport upon arrival and departure.
- All transportation by private AC Buses in Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Egypt
- Service charges and local taxes
- Tips to tour guides and drivers in Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Egypt

Excluding:

- Entry Visa to Turkey, Armenia, Egypt (All participants are responsible to get their visas for travel)
- Meals which are not included above
- All drinks
- Entrance fees for the royal Mummy rooms in the Egyptian Museum and Luxor.
- Entrance fees for Cheops tomb at the Pyramids.

Flight plan (may be changed)

Air schedules can be changed by the Airlines beyond our control

Turkish Airlines

May 06 Sun ORD-IST TK 6 21:30/*16:25
 May 17 Sun DZN-IST TK 2577 08:20/09:35 + IST-KSY TK 2714 12:20/14:35
 May 27 Wed TBS – IST TK 379 10:40/12:05 + IST-CAI TK 4628 14:00/15:15
 Jun 3 Wed CAI-IST TK 695 21:00/*00:10
 Jun 4 Thu IST-ORD TK 5 14:10/17:35

Egyptian Airlines

May 31 Sun MS 361 7:30 am CAI to LXR 8:40 am
 Jun 1 Mon MS 163 7:40pm – LXR to CAI Arriving 20:50 +
 1 h 40 min – layover +
MS 20 10:30 pm – CAI to SSH – 11:30 pm

Contact Information: Department of Religion and Biblical Languages

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