

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a Passport or Other ID?

Yes, you will need a passport. If you don't have a passport, please order it immediately. You won't be able to travel without it. You can apply for a passport online, and at some government agencies including the US Post Office. To find out more passport information or apply online at: U.S. Department of State passport webpage. New airline regulations state that you must have your passport before you can reserve an overseas airline ticket. Turkey and Greece requires that your passport be valid at least six (6) months beyond the dates of your trip. Some airlines will not allow you to board if this requirement is not met.

Please make a photocopy of your passport to bring with you and place somewhere else in your luggage in the event that your passport is lost.

It is also recommended that you bring your driver's license or other legal form of identification other than your passport.

Do I need a Visa?

A Visa is not necessary to enter Turkey or Greece for a visit under 90 days if you are a U.S. Citizen.

Do I need health and travel insurance?

Yes. You are responsible for securing full overseas medical emergency coverage through your medical insurance provider for the duration of this trip. You should carry a copy of your insurance card when traveling abroad. Your coverage needs to begin no later than the date of your initial departure to Turkey and Greece and should remain in effect for the duration of the trip.

One place to purchase health and travel insurance is at: www.travelinsurance.com This website lists a variety of options from multiple providers.

Will I need to have any vaccinations?

At the moment, Turkey and Greece do not require U.S. Citizens to get any vaccinations. However, travelers should check with their physicians to determine if additional vaccinations are recommended for travel to Turkey and Greece. Vaccinations depend on a travelers' vaccination history. Also, travelers should check the Center for Disease Control Traveler's Health Webpage for updates on Turkey and Greece.

Is it safe to travel in Turkey and Greece?

The U.S. Department of State posts travel alerts and warnings for specific countries on their Travel Abroad Webpage. This website also includes tips on traveling abroad that are country specific. Thus, we encourage you to consult the Travel Advisory Levels updates of the U.S. Department of State as it pertains to travel safety.

They also offer free service called STEP. You can register your trip which enables your personal information and your trip information to be sent to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest to your destination. Per the State Department, this information is vital to help them contact you if there is an emergency in the area while you are traveling overseas. In addition, you get the benefit of receiving alerts that may impact your trip to ensure you make informed decisions on your travel plans.

How physically demanding is the program?

There will be a good deal of walking and standing each day as we explore biblical landscapes and sites. The trails are not always paved and can be uneven at times. The temperatures can also vary from hot to cold. You will need to stay well hydrated on the tour.

You should be able to walk for a sustained period of at least an hour, walk several miles during a day, stand for at least an hour and climb a few flights of stairs in order to participate in these activities. It is recommended that you begin a daily walking regimen of 30 minutes a day to prepare for the tour.

CSLI may be unable to provide special accommodation for people with disabilities. Also, those who have a health or mental condition that may interfere with participation in program activities, need to consult with their physician to determine if they are able to participate in a physically demanding study abroad program. If a potential participant has any questions, they should email us at staff@cslewisinstitute.org.

Will I have internet access?

The hotels we are staying in will provide wireless internet service, as will many cafés in country. Check with your cellular phone provider to see about coverage in Turkey and Greece on your cell phone.

How should I pack for the tour?

Please pack light and bring clothes you can wash in the sink and dry overnight. It can be cold, warm or hot during the day with a chance of rain. Everyone is responsible for carrying their own luggage. Please no fancy clothes; old outdoor clothes that you can leave behind are just fine for our daily field trips. Casual dress is adequate for dinner. Also, please do not bring expensive jewelry.

No shorts, low-cut or tight shirts, or short-sleeve shirts above the biceps are allowed in churches, synagogues, mosques, or countryside in certain cultural areas. Bring a cushion to sit on (as rocks get hard).

Washcloths are often not provided by hotels in Greece and Turkey so bring your own if you want. Also bring a swimsuit if you plan to swim in the hotel pool and/or a pair of shoes you can get muddy and wet. We hike most days so good lightweight, non-slippery shoes are best. Collapsible walking stick also comes in handy.

Please remember your passport, driver's license, credit / debit cards, Bible, flashlight, camera, batteries, medication, prescriptions, personal items, earplugs and backpack, (optional color markers for marking maps). Also, hat with full round brim, sunglasses, sunscreen, antibacterial wet wipes (or Purell) and tissues are essential.

Make a photocopy of your passport signature and picture page and keep it in a different location than you passport.

What kind of money can I use in Turkey and Greece?

ATM's are available in Turkey and Greece if you have Visa or Master Card to withdraw local currency. Most establishments will accept your credit card and that may be easier than using cash. Travelers Checks are difficult to cash so they are not useful.

Just check with your bank and/or credit card company as regards their fees and exchange rates.

You can check out this website, www.xe.com/ucc/, for the current exchange rate.

Should I call my credit card company to let them know that I'll be traveling overseas?

Yes, some banks and/or credit card companies will put a hold on your account when they see unusual activity on your credit card if they do not know of your travel plans.

What kind of electrical plugs are used in Turkey and Greece?

Turkey and Greece like most of Europe (i.e. Germany) uses 230 volts, 50 Hz (USA uses 110 volts). Therefore, Type F adaptor plugs are necessary for any of your electrical cords such as cell phone chargers, blow dryers etc.

What are the hotels like in Turkey and Greece?

Unlike U.S. hotels, twin beds are used in most hotel rooms.

Will we get restroom breaks while traveling?

The tour leader will try to plan for restroom stops every 1 ½ - 2 hours.

How can my friends and family reach me in Turkey and Greece if necessary?

As we get closer to the departure date, we will provide you with telephone numbers to reach trip leaders.