



## PRESS RELEASE

# TRACING THE ROOTS OF EASTER IN TÜRKİYE THIS SPRING



Antalya Myra Ancient City © GoTürkiye

**New York - March 11, 2026:** Easter in Türkiye offers not only beautiful spring weather, but the opportunity to explore the roots of Christianity in the very places that shaped the holiday. From İznik—where the date of Easter was determined—to the Seven Churches of Revelation in western Türkiye, the underground refuges of Cappadocia, and the Saint Paul Trail across Anatolia, the country's Christian heritage routes provide an extraordinary historical setting for marking one of Christianity's most significant festivals.



Iznik Turkish & Islamic Arts Museum © GoTürkiye

### Seven Churches of Revelation

Türkiye's biblical heritage extends to the [Seven Churches of Revelation](#), located across modern-day İzmir, Manisa and Denizli. The first was in Ephesus, followed by Smyrna (modern-day İzmir), Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Set between the Aegean coast and the lush countryside, these sites are best explored in the springtime to experience their natural beauty and deep spiritual heritage. While visiting UNESCO-listed Ephesus, travelers can also stop by the nearby House of the Virgin Mary and attend Easter Mass in this sacred setting.



Fairy Chimneys, Cappadocia Hot Air Balloon © GoTürkiye

### In the Footsteps of Saint Paul

The [Saint Paul Trail](#) traces the life and missionary journeys of Saint Paul across Anatolia. Two branches—starting from Perge and Köprülü Canyon National Park—merge at the ancient city of Adada and end in Yalvaç in Isparta, offering a journey rich in both natural beauty and spiritual history. Travelers can also visit Demre in Antalya to see the Church of Saint Nicholas and his famous tomb.

### Iznik: Where Easter's Date Was Decided

Once considered a holy city, the lakeside town of Iznik hosted two of the most important ecumenical councils recognized by all Christian churches. The First Council of Nicaea determined the date of Easter that is still observed today. Just a day trip from Istanbul, Iznik is especially charming in the spring, when flowers are in bloom, and visitors can explore the Hagia Sophia Mosque, stroll along the ancient city walls, visit the Roman Theatre, and see the unique tomb chamber depicting "Good Shepherd Jesus" at the Hisardere Necropolis. Beyond its spiritual heritage, Iznik also offers lakeside walks, cycling, fresh seafood and traditional tile-making workshops.



Izmir Ephesus Ancient City © GoTürkiye

### Cappadocia

World-renowned for its fairy chimneys and hot air balloon rides, Cappadocia also holds one of the most [remarkable chapters of Christianity](#). The region became a refuge for early Christians who fled Roman persecution, repurposing a vast network of hand-carved underground settlements dating back to the Hittites, which can be explored today at Kaymaklı Underground City and Derinkuyu Underground City. Furthermore, the first churches were built in the Göreme Valley, including Tokalı and Karanlık (Dark) Churches within the UNESCO-listed Göreme Open Air Museum, renowned for their beautiful frescoes. Cappadocia also offers a centuries-old winemaking tradition dating back to the first Christian monks, alongside Michelin-starred cuisine and traditional pottery workshops in Avanos.



Antalya Köprülü Canyon © GoTürkiye

For more information about traveling to Türkiye, please visit: <https://goturkiye.com/>

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Geoffrey Weill Associates | 29 Broadway Suite 2205 | New York, NY 10006 US

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