

OCT. 6, 2022



*Routes of Faith* is the newsletter of the Faith Travel Association, blending articles that educate and inspire as well as share the many destinations offered by FTA members. *Routes of Faith* also provides insights that educate readers on new and innovative ways to travel, including eco-friendly and sustainable trends.

[FAITH TRAVEL ASSOCIATION](#)



[The Short Story](#)

It's important for tour operators and faith group leaders to hear about new ideas for their faith-based itineraries as well as updates from their favorite partners. For that reason, a group of Faith Travel Association members gathered a few weeks ago to record "The Short Story," a series of brief presentations on destinations and attractions that fit well into a faith-based itinerary.

Click below to hear the presentations from FTA members Ark Encounter, Deluks Turizm, Faith and Liberty Discovery Center, Sight & Sound Theatres, Quebec Religious and Spiritual Tourism Association, Plimoth Patuxet Museums, and the St. Augustine Visitors & Convention Bureau.

Whether you hear an exciting new update or are introduced to a potential itinerary addition, you'll be glad you watched "The Short Story."

## [THE SHORT STORY](#)



### [Find rarity and repose at Biltmore](#)

When people explore their faith through travel, they often seek out destinations with natural beauty and meaningful experiences. Faith Travel Association member, Biltmore Estate, has that kind of draw, offering the splendor of an estate, tranquil spaces, and unique history and events.

Click through to the full story on [NTAcourier.com](http://NTAcourier.com).

[NTACOURIER.COM](http://NTACOURIER.COM)

## NEW FTA MEMBER PROFILE

*In each issue of Routes of Faith, we'll highlight a new member of FTA, and in this issue, we're showcasing Deluks Turizm, a tour supplier-DMC based in Istanbul, Turkey. We asked **Guney Levi**, vice president, a few questions about her company:*

### **When was Deluks Turizm started, and what is your company's greatest strength?**

Two partners, with more than 30 years of experience in the travel industry, began Deluks Turizm in 2016. Our greatest strength is our know-how, based on that experience. We also have a well-established system of 24/7 concierge service and office support.

### **What makes Turkey such a premier destination for faith-based travel?**

Sites located in Turkey that are mentioned in the Old and New Testaments allow us to unveil the sources of the history of humanity. According to Genesis, Noah, his family, and the animals were saved from the flood and began to repopulate the earth from Mount Ararat (located in eastern Turkey).

It was in Harran (located in southeast Turkey) where Abraham received the call of the Lord, and it was in Antioch (also located in southeast Turkey) where disciples were first called Christians in the book of Acts.

So from the time of Noah through the time of Paul, Turkey was the scene of some of the great events of Christianity.

### **What are the must-see highlights that a faith-based Turkish itinerary should include?**

The region of Cappadocia, cities of Tarsus (the birthplace of Paul), and Antioch, as well as the sites of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelation: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

### **Why should tour operators and faith group leaders work with Deluks Turizm when planning a group trip to Turkey?**

We don't solely promote a tour package. Instead, we try to understand the specific needs and interests of each group so that we can customize the best tour solution. Additionally, we offer our services in multiple foreign languages.

### **What makes Turkey a repeat destination for faith travelers?**

For generations, Turkey has hosted a cultural and historical wealth of humanity. Turkey is a unique meeting between East and West that is captured in its architecture and culture. Faith journeys in Turkey serve to untie the knots of history woven throughout the centuries.



For more information on Deluks Turizm, contact Levi at [bookingamerica@deluksturizm.com](mailto:bookingamerica@deluksturizm.com) or visit [deluksturizm.com](http://deluksturizm.com).

## Faith Travel Advisory Group Member Profile

*The Faith Travel Advisory Group is a group of FTA members who meet periodically to discuss ways to enhance FTA membership benefits and expand the reach of FTA. This month, we feature Faith Travel Advisory Group member, **Mete Gurel**, of Tripotour.*



### **How did your company become involved in the faith travel market?**

After becoming a member of NTA, I began meeting with several industry leaders and attending Fam trips. As a result, I realized that I have a passion for faith travel, which made me very excited to explore holy sites and share this experience with our clients. So we decided to get into the faith travel business.

### **What are your most popular faith destinations?**

Our most popular faith destinations are Italy, Israel, and Portugal. Armenia and Turkey are the next destinations we will be adding to our faith itineraries.

### **Why do you think faith travel remained popular, even during the challenges of the pandemic?**

I believe people felt safer visiting faith-travel destinations, and they were willing to take the time to travel to places that helped them explore their beliefs.

### **Why are you optimistic about the future of faith travel?**

I strongly believe our clients feel more of a sense of belonging when they explore new sites and learn of the stories, sacrifices, and challenges of pilgrims. So, just as I feel excited each



time I visit a site, I see the same passion and excitement in our guests' eyes. Faith travel is also attracting younger travelers, so I think it will expand even more in coming years and will be much more popular.

For more information on Triptotour, contact Gurel at [mete@tripotour.com](mailto:mete@tripotour.com) or visit [tripotour.com](http://tripotour.com).



The [Faith Travel Association](#) is a worldwide community of tour operators, travel agents, destinations, and travel suppliers serving the faith-based travel market. *Routes of Faith* is the official newsletter of FTA. For more information on joining FTA, contact [Todd Probus](#).

Faith Travel Association  
PO Box 910881 | Lexington, KY 40591  
+1.859.264.6559 | [ntaonline.com](http://ntaonline.com) | [ntacourier.com](http://ntacourier.com)

