

SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR 8 DAYS



Day 1	Transatlantic
Day 2	Arrive Istanbul D
Day 3	Istanbul B,L
Day 4	Istanbul B
Day 5	Izmir / Ephesus / Laodicea / Pamukkale B,L,D
Day 6	Pamukkale / Bergama B,L,D
Day 7	Bergama / Istanbul B,L
Day 8	Istanbul / USA B

Explore Turkey's Seven Churches of Asia Minor, as mentioned in the New Testament Book of Revelation - Journey the route around the West Aegean and learn of the religious and social context of ancient biblical times. As well as visiting all major religious sites, the tour also includes those of cultural and tourist significance. From Istanbul to Izmir by return flight, explore the 7 churches at ancient Ephesus, Smyrna (Lydia), and Laodicea (Phrygia)...



ITINERARY

Day 1 **Transatlantic**

Depart USA to London. We must be at the airport at least 2 hours before flight time. Enjoy our on-board transatlantic experience.

ENROUTE TRANSATLANTIC

Day 2 **Istanbul**

Transfer from the airport to your hotel. Free day. Overnight in Istanbul.

OVERNIGHT ISTANBUL.

Day 3 **Istanbul**



Today, following breakfast, we enjoy a full day of touring the city of Istanbul. Pick up from your hotel to visit Topkapi Palace, with royal treasury and elegant four courts. After lunch, proceed to the Hagia Sophia, a great Byzantine architectural masterpiece, whose interior is resplendent with golden mosaics. Then admire the delicate design and Iznik tiles of the Blue Mosque. Explore the ancient Roman Hippodrome with Egyptian Obelisk and Serpentine Column. Finally, stop off at the dazzling Grand Bazaar with over 4000 shops. Drop off to hotel.

OVERNIGHT ISTANBUL.

Day 4 **Istanbul**

After breakfast we will enjoy a half day Bosphorus Cruise Tour. Pick up from your hotel to visit the bustling Spice Market - a colorful bazaar heaped with various sweets and spices. Stop into the beautifully tiled tiny Rustem Pasha Mosque before taking a relaxing Bosphorus boat cruise between the continents of Europe and Asia - gliding past Dolmabahce and Beylerbeyi Palaces, ornate wooden Ottoman mansions and

mosques, Rumeli Fortress and the Bosphorus Bridge. Free afternoon at your leisure. Drop off to hotel.

OVERNIGHT ISTANBUL

Day 5

Izmir / Ephesus / Laodicea / Pamukkale

Today, after breakfast, we transfer from our hotel to Istanbul airport and fly to Izmir. From Izmir, we visit the city of ancient Ephesus, the most important of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. See the great Library of Celsus, Agora, Odeon, Trajan Fountain, Domitianus Temple, Theater and Stadium in which St. Paul preached the gospel. Also visit the House of the Virgin Mary, where she is said to have spent her final years and St. John's Basilica, a Byzantine church marking his burial place. After lunch, we drive to Eskihisar, site of the Church of Laodicea, to which St. John addressed his letter concerning the city's waning faith.



DINNER AND OVERNIGHT PAMUKKALE.

Day 6

Pamukkale / Sardis / Philadelphia / Thyatira

After breakfast, pick up to visit the ancient city ruins of Hierapolis, where St. Philip was martyred in 1AD. See the Necropolis, Avenue of Tombs and Thermal Baths. Enjoy a break at Pamukkale with snow-white terraced cliff pools. Then we proceed to the ancient Philadelphia Church at Alasehir, the youngest of the Seven Churches of Revelation, visiting the remains of an early church and the city walls. After lunch, visit the site of Sardis - the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Walk the Royal Avenue and see the site of the Church of Sardis built on the foundations of the Temple of Artemis. Finally at Akhisar we visit the Church of ancient Thyatira, another one of the 7 churches, set in an ancient commercial town with strong ties to Troy and Sardis. Drop off to hotel.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT BERGAMA

Day 7

Bergama / Smyrna / St. Polycarp / Istanbul



After breakfast, drive to Pergamon, site of one of the Seven Churches, where St. John wrote of Satan's throne being sited. Visit the Church of Pergamon, the famous Red-Court and the Acropolis. After lunch, proceed to Smyrna (Izmir), whose early faithful were praised in a letter from St Paul. Finally visit the Church of St. Polycarp and enjoy a short tour of Izmir city. Transfer to Izmir Airport. Flight to Istanbul. Transfer to hotel.

OVERNIGHT ISTANBUL

Day 7 -

Istanbul

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport. Depart Turkey.

INCLUDED

1. Flight on regularly scheduled airline from USA to Istanbul and return
2. Six nights lodging double occupancy first class hotels
3. Full English breakfast and dinner daily
4. Touring coach and Tour Manager (6 days)
5. Transfers and sightseeing per itinerary
6. Entrances to sites listed in the itinerary
7. Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person on arrival and departure from each hotel
8. Emergency medical insurance for the whole group.

Not included in the above quotation:

Government taxes on airline tickets, airport taxes, and fuel charges.

Tips and gratuities to drivers, guides or headwaiters. Approximately \$12.00 per day.

Meals other than those specifically mentioned

Personal spending money for drinks, souvenirs etc.

Transfers to or from US departure airport and passenger's home or organization.

Local government taxes included at the current prevailing rates.

Travel insurance except for the emergency medical insurance mentioned above.

Cost of obtaining passports, visas, handling fees, excess baggage and forwarding of baggage, entrance fees not mentioned, optional tours, tips for personal favors, and costs resulting from absence or deviation from the itinerary and any items not mentioned as being included. Transfers to or from originating airport and passengers home or organization.