

Seven Churches of Revelation

9 days - 7 nights

Istanbul, Izmir, Smyrna, Ephesus, Pergamum, Sardis, Philadelphia, Pamukkale, Laodicea, Aphrodisias  
Faith, Art, History, Culture, Fun

“What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea” (Revelations, verse 11).

Day 1: USA, Istanbul

Board your overnight international flight to Istanbul. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

Day 2: Istanbul

Upon arrival in Istanbul you'll be met by our representative and transferred to the hotel for check-in. Leisure afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. [D]

Day 3: Istanbul

Full day guided sightseeing in Old Istanbul including Sultan Ahmet Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. [B/D]

Day 4: Istanbul

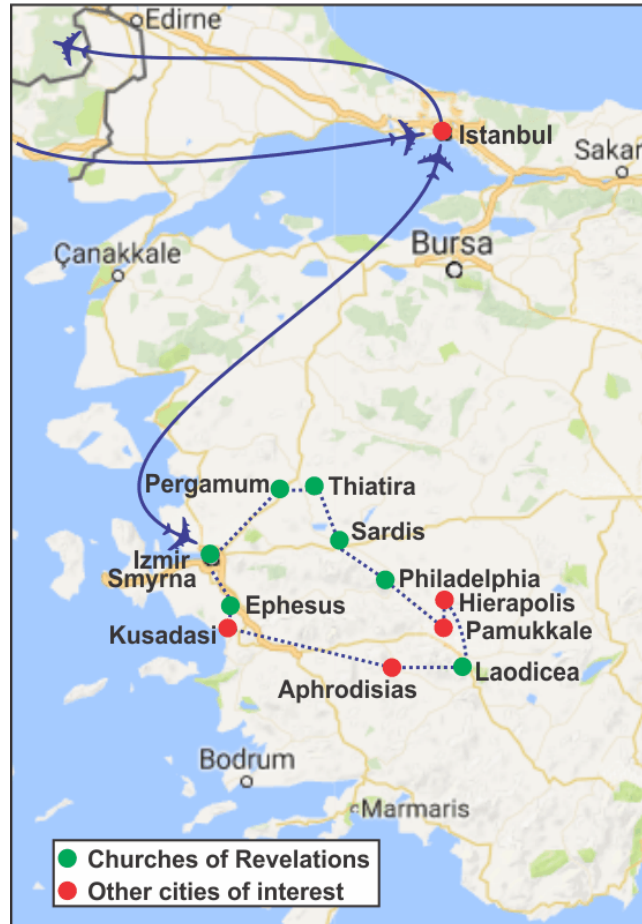
Guided Bosphorus Cruise including Dolmabahçe Palace. Visit to the exotic and aromatic Egyptian Spice Market, cross over to Asia, to Camlica Hill, for a view of Istanbul. During the cruise, view of Ottoman seaside mansions, marble palaces and small fishing villages. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. [B/D]

Day 5: Istanbul, Izmir (Smyrna), Pergamum

Morning transfer to the airport for a short flight to Izmir where you'll be picked-up and depart for the visit of ancient Smyrna. The city was the last stronghold of Christianity in Asia Minor and home of the great second century Bishop Polycarp who was burned alive at the age of eighty-six. Continue to Pergamum with its acropolis and Great Theatre, the steepest of the ancient world. Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as "where Satan's seat is", a reference to the altar of Zeus, where we pause for reflection on the fulfillment of Scripture. Then, visit the Red Basilica, once a pagan temple and later converted to a Christian church. Finally, walk through the Asclepius, the famous medical center of antiquity. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Izmir. [B/D]

Day 6: Izmir, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Pamukkale

After breakfast depart for Thyatira, once a busy trading center and famous for the dyeing of purple clothes. Thyatira is one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations that tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Then, travel to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3: 1-6). Coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated in Sardis. The massive scale of the Temple of Artemis with its white marble columns, Royal Road, gymnasium and synagogue will no doubt impress you! Continue to Philadelphia another one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3: 7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,



which is New Jerusalem." (Rev.3: 12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. [B/D]

Day 7: Pamukkale, Hierapolis, Laodicea, Kusadasi

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for the visit of Hierapolis, or "Holy City", evangelized by Paul and Epaphras. The Apostle Philip lived and is believed to be buried here. Continue to Laodicea, another church of the Revelations (Rev. 3:14-22). The Christians of Laodicea were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3: 20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock...". Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets and a chance to witness the newest excavations in Laodicea. Continue to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 8: Kusadasi (Ephesus)

Full day tour of Ephesus the last of Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1: 11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade bordered streets. St. Paul's first visit to Ephesus during his second missionary tour (Acts 18:19-21) was brief. His second visit, during his third missionary tour, lasted about three years (Acts 19:1 to 20:31). Luke's account of the worship of Diana appears in Acts 19:34-35. The Great Theatre (stadium) mentioned in Acts 19:29-31 could seat 25,000 people. Walk the marble-paved street with grooves made by chariot wheels, see the Fountain of Trajan, the Library of Celsus, and the Great Theatre. Visit the Chapel of the Virgin Mary (Double Church), where the Third Ancient Council convened. Continue to visit the Basilica of St. John. Early tradition associated John, the disciple of Jesus, the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation with the city of Ephesus. As early as the 4th or 5th century a Christian church was built over a simple grave, supposedly the grave of St. John. In the 6th century Emperor Justinian had an impressive domed basilica built to replace the earlier church. This church, known as the Church of St. John the Theologian, is located on Ayasuluk Hill, which can be reached by a street leading up from the center of the town called Selcuk. Visit the Museum of Ephesus for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi. [B/D]

Day 9: Kusadasi, Izmir, Istanbul

It is now time to say goodbye to Turkey. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and be ready for your transfer to Izmir airport where you'll board your connecting flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Airfare between the USA and Istanbul
- Round trip airfare Istanbul/Izmir/Istanbul
- Arrival and departure airport transfers.
- 7 nights' accommodation:
  - Istanbul - 3 nights
  - Izmir - 1 night
  - Pamukkale- 1 night
  - Kusadasi - 2 nights
- Breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Sightseeing of Istanbul
- Cruise on the Bosphorus
- Visit the 1<sup>st</sup> church in Smyrna
- Visit the 2<sup>nd</sup> church in Pergamum
- Tour the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> churches: Thyatira, Sardis and Philadelphia

- Visit Hierapolis
- Visit the 6<sup>th</sup> church in Laodicea
- Visit the 7<sup>th</sup> church in Ephesus
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- Technical and Religious assistance
- Transportation in A/C vehicle
- Professional English-speaking guides
- Hotel taxes

Tour does not include:

- Airport taxes and Carrier fees
- Travel Insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Tips to driver, guide or hotel staff
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

**Hotels in your Tour:**

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
<b>Tourist Class</b>		
Istanbul	Katelya Hotel	5
Izmir	Smart Hotels Izmir	4.5
Pamukkale	Venus Suite Hotels	4.5
Kusadasi	Old Town Boutique	5
<b>First Class</b>		
Istanbul	The Wing Hotel	5
Izmir	Smart Hotels Izmir	4.5
Pamukkale	Hal-Tur Hotel	4.5
Kusadasi	Ilayada Avangarde Hotel	4.5
<b>Deluxe</b>		
Istanbul	Raffles istanbul	5
Izmir	Smart Hotels Izmir	4.5
Pamukkale	Richmond Pamukkale	3.5
Kusadasi	Le Bleu Hotel & Resort	4.5

**MEAL PLAN:** Normally we include daily breakfast and dinner for all groups. However, the meal plan may vary depending on the organizer's request

- All hotels will be requested after discussion with the group Organizer

**Group Prices:**

The price for the group will be quoted based on the number of passengers, season, hotel type and meal plan.

**Group organizers always travel for free if the group has 15 or more paying passengers.**

*Inclusion of tour conductors must be considered at time of request.*

- If you wish to use this program for your group please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with you to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our special Leisure Fares, buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.

**Tour Code:** TK01IST20VT

**Other Options**

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.