

16 Days Grand Christian Tour

From January till December 2017

<p>1.Day (D)</p>	<p><u>Istanbul / Adana</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following our guests' arrival to the Istanbul international terminal, our staff will meet our guests and transfer them to the domestic terminal to board our flight to the city of Adana. In the city of Adana, our staff will meet our guests and take them to the hotel. After check-in, our tour director will brief our guests about the Biblical Itinerary. Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.
<p>2.Day (B-L-D)</p>	<p><u>Adana / Antakya / Seulecia Pieria / Adana</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After breakfast, we will drive to Antakya, the ancient Antioch on Orontes river. This was the city where St. Peter "The Rock" had established a church and for the first time in the church's history, Gentiles were welcomed into the church. The word "Christian" was used for the first time in history there. Also, St Paul and Barnabas had set sail to Cyprus from there. Following our arrival in this city, we will visit the Church of St. Peter. After this visit, we will head to the fascinating and colossal Mosaics and Archeology Museum, which was built in 2015. After visiting this museum, we will return to Adana. Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Adana.
<p>3.Day (B-L-D)</p>	<p><u>Adana / Tarsus / Cappadocia (287 Km)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After breakfast, we will check out from our hotel and drive to the town of Tarsus. This city was the hometown of St. Paul. We will visit the grounds of the House of St. Paul, where he was born. We will have a short stop at the Cleopatra Gate from where she and Mark Anthony had entered the city. After the short stop, we will set off for Cappadocia. We will have lunch en route and then drive to our hotel directly. Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.
<p>4.Day (B-L-D)</p>	<p><u>Cappadocia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, we will spend a full day in the fascinating region of Cappadocia. This location is unique in the world with its natural rock formations. Christianity came early to Cappadocia. In a book called, "The Acts of Saint Hieron," it was mentioned that St. Hieron disappeared into a rock while being chased by persecutors. It was therefore convenient to establish small chapels and churches in the hollowed out rock. We will visit Goreme Valley with its Troglodyte churches and explore the underground City of Kaymakli, which was a place for Christians to be safe from persecutors. We will have lunch at a local restaurant there. Then, we will visit Zelve and Avanos with their red-coned monastic complexes. Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.

5.Day
(B-L-D)

Cappadocia / Derbe / Lystra / Konya (223 Km)

- After breakfast, we will start driving to Konya. On the way to Konya, we will stop at **Derbe**, where St. Paul and Barnabas had preached and converted many people. After **Derbe**, we will continue to **Lystra**, another place that was visited several times by St. Paul. Upon our arrival in Konya, we will check into our hotel.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Konya.

6.Day
(B-L-D)

Konya / Antioch of Pisidia (Yalvac) / Antalya (323 Km)

- After breakfast, we will spend half a day in Konya (formerly known as ancient Iconium, a city where St. Paul and St. Barnabas were in the synagogue). First, we will visit the **Museum of the Whirling Dervishes**, which is also the site of the **Mausoleum of Mevlana (Rumi)**. After having lunch at a local restaurant in Konya, we will drive to the ancient “**Antioch of Pisidia**” (**Yalvac**), the city where St. Paul preached his first recorded sermon and was later expelled. Among the ruins, we will see the remains of two basilicas. We will continue driving southwest and finally arrive in Antalya (Attalia).
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Antalya.

7.Day
(B-L-D)

Antalya / Perge (Perga) / Aspendos / Antalya

- After breakfast, we will drive east, to the **ruins of Perge** (another site where St. Paul had preached). There we will visit the theater and the stadium. After Perge, we will head to **Aspendos**, which is famous for its theater. Following lunch, we will drive back to Antalya city center and visit the **Archaeological Museum**.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

8.Day
(B-L-D)

Antalya / Myra / Antalya

- After breakfast we will drive west to **Myra**, a town visited by St. Paul, St. Luke, and St. Aristarchus. This town is well known as being the **seat of St. Nicholas**, the bishop of this Mediterranean city during the 4th century. We will get to see the many rock tombs there that overlook the ruins' splendid theatre. After lunch, we will return to Antalya.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

9.Day
(B-L-D)

Antalya / Colossae / Laodicea / Pamukkale (Hierapolis) (222 Km)

- Early in the morning, we will start driving to **Colossae** (famous for St. Paul's letter to the Colossians) to see the Byzantine walls and the site's other remaining ruins. After the visit of Colossae and lunch, we will continue to **Laodicea**, one of the “Seven Churches”. Laodicea has been non-stop excavated all year round since 2009. An unbelievable amount of artifacts, temples, and buildings have been exposed to daylight. This is today the only one among the Seven Churches where we actually know the exact location of the Church of Laodicea. After this visit, we will continue to our hotel in Pamukkale (Hierapolis).
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Pamukkale.

10.Day
(B-L-D)

Hierapolis / Philadelphia / Thyatira / Sardis / Kusadasi (186 Km)

- After breakfast, we will visit the **ruins of Hierapolis** with its necropolis, baths, theater and the site of the **martyrdom of St. Philip**. After that, we will drive to **Philadelphia**, the city of brotherly love, founded during the reign of Attalus II, and a city that was also **one of the Seven Churches of Revelation**. Next, our drive will take us to **Thyatira**, another one of the Seven Churches. According to the letters, the members of this church were commended for their steadfastness against libertarianism. After lunch, we will continue to **Sardis**, the capital of ancient Lydia, which was one of the Seven Churches too. There we will visit the Diana (which later became a church), a beautiful synagogue, and the gymnasium. After this visit, our ride will take us to the port town of Kusadasi.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

11.Day
(B-L-D)

Kusadasi / Ephesus / Miletus / Kusadasi

- After breakfast, we will visit the extensive ruins of **Ephesus**, which was one of the Seven Churches. There, we will see the **theater where St. Paul had preached** to the Ephesians. We will take a stroll through the library, Odeon, Virgin Mary Church where the Third Ecumenical Council was held in 431, and the Marble Road. We will leave the ruins of Ephesus to visit **St. John's Basilica** and the nearby **House of the Virgin Mary**. After lunch, we will drive to **Miletus**, which was one of the principal Ionian cities and the home of **Thales**, the geometrician. There, we will visit the very well preserved **theater, the Byzantine Fortress, the Delphinium, the Nymphanion, the Bouleterium**, and the Faustina Baths. At the end of the day, we will return to the town of Kusadasi.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

12.Day
(B-L-D)

Kusadasi / Izmir / Pergamon / Assos / Ayvalik (243 Km)

- After breakfast, we will drive to **Izmir (Smyrna)** where Homer of Iliad was born. This city is among the 7 Churches of Revelation. The church there stood for the longest time among all the churches. We will also visit **Mount Pagus**, the site where **St. Polycarp** was martyred. After this visit, we will make our way to **Pergamum** to visit the **Asklepion** and the **Acropolis**, the theater, the Temple of Athena, and the Altar of Zeus, which John denounced to Pergamum church members as the **"Throne of Satan."** After lunch, we will visit the Asklepion, the medical center of the ancient world. At the end of the day, we will drive to Ayvalik town.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

13.Day
(B-L-D)

Ayvalik / Troy / Troas / Bursa (284 Km)

- After breakfast, we will visit the legendary site of **Troy**. Following lunch, we will continue our journey to **Alexandria Troas**, which was visited at least twice by St. Paul. In his third journey, we know that St. Paul also traveled by land from Alexandria Troas to Assos. In Troas, we will visit the theater, the Temple of Athena, and the Agora. From there, we will drive to Bursa.
- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

14.Day
(B-L-D)

Bursa / Nicea / Istanbul (243 Km)

- After breakfast, we will explore **Bursa** by visiting the **Grand Mosque, the Green Mausoleum, and the old silk market** in the covered bazaar. After lunch in Bursa, we will drive to **Nicaea**. The



	<p>importance of Nicaea in Christian history is the Nicene Creed, which was taken during the first Ecumenical Council of 325. The seventh Ecumenical Council of 787 was held there as well. In this fascinating town, we will visit the museum that was formerly the Church of Divine Wisdom. We will leave Nicaea to drive to Istanbul.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner and an overnight stay will be at our hotel in Istanbul.
<p>15.Day (B-L-D)</p>	<p><u>Istanbul</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we will start our full day sightseeing tour of Istanbul. First, we will visit the Blue Mosque, famous for its blue Iznik (modern name: Nicaea) tiles and unique with its' 6 minarets. After the Blue Mosque, we will walk to the Hippodrome, which was the center of sports events (chariots races and athletic games) and political activities in the old city. From the Hippodrome, we will walk to Hagia Sophia, which is right across from the Blue Mosque. Built as the church of divine wisdom, it is still one of the greatest marvels of architecture in the World. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian constructed it as a basilica in the 6th century. After that, we will continue with a tour of the Topkapi Palace Museum, which was the imperial residence of Ottoman Sultans. Today in the rooms of this palace, there are exhibits of the imperial treasury, Chinese porcelain, weapons, and holy relics (the Sword of King David, the staff of Moses, the Turban of Joseph, and Relics of St. John the Baptist). In the afternoon, we will visit Chora Church (famous for Byzantine mosaics) and the Grand Bazaar. It is the biggest oriental bazaar (market) in the world with around 4,000 shops which sell antiques, jewelry, gold, carpets, leather, etc. ** Unique Moment: During the visit of the Grand Bazaar, we will taste Turkish coffee in Sark Kahvesi, a 400 year old Turkish Coffee House. A variety of Turkish coffee and tea will be available. • Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.
<p>16.Day (B)</p>	<p><u>Istanbul</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport for our departure flights.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

INCLUDING	EXCLUDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel accommodations at below suggested hotels or similar • Sightseeing as per the above itinerary • All escorted transfers • Daily breakfast, lunches, & dinners where indicated. (Beverages are not included during lunches & Dinners) • Transportation via an air conditioned deluxe vehicle depending on the number of people • English speaking professional tour guide throughout the tour • All entry fees to the sites & museums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight tickets (International & Domestic) • Drinks and meals which are not listed in the itinerary • All personal expenses • Tips for the tour guide and driver

- Tips for the hotel and restaurant staff
- Service charges & local taxes
- Tips to hotels, restaurants

\$ 1,525 pp is valid for min 15 people and commissionable to the Travel industry
Please note that we can price the tours for different number of participants as well.

SUGGESTED HOTELS

ADANA

Hiltonsa Adana, 5 Star
www.hilton.com
or similar,

KONYA

Hotel Dedeman, 5 Star
www.dedeman.com
or similar,

PAMUKKALE

Spa Hotel Thermal Colossae, 5 Star
www.collossae.com
or similar,

IZMIR

Hilton Izmir, 5 Star
www.hilton.com
or similar,

ISTANBUL

DoubleTree by Hilton Istanbul Old Town, 5 Star
www.DoubleTree.com
or similar,

CAPPADOCIA

DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos Cappadocia, 5 Star
www.DoubleTree.com
or similar,

ANTALYA

Best Western Plus Khan Hotel, 4 Star
www.khanhotel.com
or similar,

KUSADASI

Charisma De-Luxe Hotel, 5 Star www.charismahotel.com
or similar,

AYVALIK

Grand Hotel Temizel , 5 Star
www.temizel.com.tr
or similar,