

8 Days Istanbul – The Seven Churches of Revelation

From January till December 2017

Day 1
(D)

Istanbul

- Following our guests' arrival in Istanbul, our staff will meet our guests and transfer 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.

Day 2
(B-D)

Istanbul

- 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 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. **Hagia Irini (Eirene) Church** will be our next visit (in the Topkapi Palace Garden). It was built as a church dedicated to divine peace on the former site of a temple of Aphrodite. **Constantine the Great** had it built in 324 AD. In the afternoon, 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, Relics of St. John the Baptist**). We will end the day after a visit to 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.



Day 3
(B)

Istanbul

- After breakfast, we will set off for a full day sightseeing tour of Istanbul. Today's itinerary will start with a visit of **Chora Church (Museum of Kariye –in Edirne Kapi district)**. It was built originally as a church of a Byzantine Monastery. The best-preserved Byzantine Mosaics in Turkey, depicting Biblical scenes, are in this church. The **Spice Market** will be our second visit. Built in the 17th century, this is **the second largest oriental covered bazaar** in Istanbul. In the Spice Market, the enchanting and savory aroma of exotic oils, herbs and spices hang in the air. People looking for herbs, spices, tea and Turkish delight (candy) have frequented this 350-year-old market for centuries. Today also selling nuts, honey, dried fruits, traditional sweets, and herbal remedies, the Spice Bazaar's vendors will try to lure you into their shops



with their amusing calls. **** Unique Moment :** During the visit of Spice Market, we will have a short break at **Ali Muhiddin Haci Bekir's shop** – the inventor of Turkish delight. Since 1777 (when it was founded), the name Haci Bekir has become a legend in Ottoman and Turkish confectionery and a leading symbol of this gastronomical art. After the Spice Market, we will take a short walk to the **Rustem Pasha Mosque**. The Ottoman imperial architect Mimar Sinan designed it for the Grand Vizier “Damat” Rustem Pasha (husband of Princess Mihrimah, the beloved daughter of the Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent). The construction took 2 years from 1561 to 1563. The Rustem Pasha Mosque is famous for its' exquisite Iznik tiles, displaying a wide variety of beautiful floral and geometric designs, which cover the Rustem Pasha Mosque inside out. These tiles exhibit a cherry-red color, which was the characteristic feature of the early Iznik period tiles (1555-1620). We will end the day with a **Bosporus Cruise** on an exclusive boat. During the boat ride along the strait separating Asia and Europe, we will see imperial palaces, old Ottoman wooden mansions, Ottoman fortresses, embassy estates, and small fishing villages located on the Asian and European sides of Istanbul.

- Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.

**Day 4
(B-D)**

Istanbul / Troy / Canakkale

- After breakfast we will begin our scenic ride to **Gallipoli**, through the European lands of Turkey and cross the second strategic waterway, the Dardanelles Strait by ferry. We will drive through the city of **Canakkale to Troy**. After visiting the legendary site of the ruins of Troy, we will drive back to Canakkale to our hotel.
- Dinner and an overnight will be at our hotel in Canakkale

**Day 5
(B-D)**

Canakkale / Troas / Pergamon / Izmir

- After breakfast, we will drive 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 visit the theater, the Temple of Athena, and the agora. After that, we will drive to **Pergamum**. On the 1,200 ft. high **Acropolis**, we will see the steepest sloped theatre of the ancient world, the Temple of Trajan, and the Library. We will continue our tour with a visit of the **Asklepion**, which were one of the 3 famous hospitals in the ancient world. We will also visit **the Red Basilica**, which was one of the seven Churches of the Revelation. In the late afternoon, we will drive to the city of **Izmir**. Upon arrival, depending on timing, we will have a short city tour of Izmir, the ancient Smyrna.
- Dinner and an overnight will be at hotel in Izmir.

**** Unique Moment;** Tonight you will enjoy a short **Fayton** (typical horse carriage of Izmir) tour in Izmir along the famous coastal promenade called Kordonboyu

**Day 6
(B-D)**

Izmir / Sardis / Philadelphia / Laodicea / Hierapolis / Pamukkale

- After breakfast, we will start our busy day with a visit to **Sardis**, the capital of ancient Lydia. We will see the Temple of Diana (which later became a church), the earliest built Synagogue discovered so far in Turkey and the Gymnasium. Sardis was **one of the 7 Churches** of Revelation. After Sardis, we will drive to **Philadelphia**, which was also one of the **7 Churches**



	<p>of Revelation. After the visit, we will drive to Laodicea, which has been extensively excavated non-stop all year round since 2009. Laodicea was one of the 7 Churches and this is the only one today where the exact location of the Church has been discovered. Our next visit will be the ruins of Hierapolis, with its beautiful calcium deposit covered travertine terraces, the ancient Necropolis, baths, theatre, and St. Philips's Martyrdom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner and an overnight will be in Karahayit (Pamukkale).
<p>Day 7 (B-D)</p>	<p><u>Pamukkale / Aphrodisias / Ephesus / Kusadasi</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, we will drive to Aphrodisias, the city of the Goddess of Love (Aphrodite). Among the extensively excavated ruins, we will see the well-preserved theatre, the stadium, the Odeon, and the Agora. After this visit, we will drive to the worldwide famous Ephesus area and visit the house of the Virgin Mary, where she was said to have spent her last years. After that, we will proceed to the Ephesus ruins, where excavations are also still going on. We will see the Odeon, the Bouleterion, the fountains, the temples, the library and the theatre where St. Paul had preached. • Dinner and an overnight will be at the hotel in Kusadasi town.
<p>Day 8 (B)</p>	<p><u>Kusadasi / Izmir /</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After breakfast, there will be a departure transfer from our hotel to Izmir to the airport for our flight to Istanbul for connecting flights to...



B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

INCLUDING	EXCLUDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel accommodation throughout the tour at select hotels • Sightseeing tours as per above itinerary • Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary • Meals as specified each day • Transportation in a airconditioned, deluxe vehicle • English speaking professional tour guide throughout the tour • Tips for hotels and restaurants • Domestic flight tickets on last day from ADB to IST • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight tickets (International) • Drinks and meals not listed in the itinerary • All personal expenses • Tips for the tour guide and driver.



\$ 730,00 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

ISTANBUL

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

IZMIR

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

PAMUKKALE

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

CANAKKALE

Kolin Hotel, 5 Star
www.kolinhotel.com
or similar,

IZMIR

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

KUSADASI

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