

## 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**



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



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

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





**\$ 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](http://www.DoubleTree.com)  
or similar,

**IZMIR**

Hilton Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
or similar,

**PAMUKKALE**

Spa Hotel Thermal Colossae, 5 Star  
[www.collossae.com](http://www.collossae.com)  
or similar,

**CANAKKALE**

Kolin Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.kolinhotel.com](http://www.kolinhotel.com)  
or similar,

**IZMIR**

Hilton Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
or similar,

**KUSADASI**

Charisma De-Luxe Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.charismahotel.com](http://www.charismahotel.com)  
or similar,

## 16 Days Footsteps of St.Paul Turkey & Greek Island Cruise Tour ( 16 Days / 15 Nights )

From March till November 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 **Blue Mosque**, famous for its blue Iznik (modern name of Nicaea) tiles and unique with its' 6 minarets. After Blue mosque we will walk to **Hippodrome**, which was the center of sports (chariots races, athletic games) events and political activities in the old city. From Hippodrome we will walk to **Hagia Irini Church** (in 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 imperial treasury, Chinese porcelain, weapons and Holy Relics (**Sword of King David, staff of Moses, 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 4000 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 years old Turkish Coffee House. Each variety of Turkish coffee is prepared with a love for he coffee.
- Dinner and overnight stay will be at the hotel.
- **Welcome Dinner at Hamdi Restaurant, [www.hamdi.com.tr](http://www.hamdi.com.tr)**



Hamdi Restaurant has been serving its traditional kebabs from southeast Turkey since its' foundation in 1970 and is the place to go for this famous Turkish dish. The popular restaurant is located in the historical Eminönü district (West of Sultanahmet), and offers stunning sea views looking over the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. The menu has a wide choice of meat dishes and superior quality of service, making Hamdi Restaurant one of Turkey's first class restaurants.


#### **Menu**

White Flat Bread & Water

¼ Turkish "Tulum" Cheese (Nomadic cheese made in goat skin)



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|  | <p>Served with fresh butter<br/>Findik Lahmacun (Mini Turkish Pizza)<br/>Bulgur rolls stuffed with meat and walnuts.<br/>Appetizers<br/>Spoon Salad<br/>A plate of Kebabs (a variety);<br/>(Served with Rice, Tomatoes, Pepper, Onion)<br/><b>½ Pistachio Kebab</b><br/>½ Vegetable Kebab<br/><b>2 Pieces of Lamb Kebab</b><br/>2 Pieces of Chicken on Skewers Kebab.<br/><b>2 Slices of Baklava (Dessert)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul.</li></ul> |
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| <p><b>Day 3</b><br/>(B - D)</p> | <p><b><u>Istanbul</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After After breakfast, we set off for a full day of sightseeing tour in Istanbul. We start our day with a visit to the <b>Chora Church (Kariye Museum)</b>, originally built as the primary structure of a Byzantine monastery. It is the only church <b>dedicated to Jesus Christ the Savior</b>. Today, this church has the best-preserved Byzantine Mosaics in Turkey and they can compete with Ravenna Mosaics. After our visit to the Chora Church, we will go to the <b>Spice Market</b>; the second biggest oriental market in Istanbul consisted of 400 shops. This bazaar has long and traditionally specialized in spices, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. <b>** Unique Moment:</b> During the visit of Spice Market we will have a short break at <b>Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir's shop</b> – the inventor of Turkish delight. Since its' foundation in 1777, the name Hacı Bekir has become a legend in Ottoman and Turkish confectionery and a leading symbol of this gastronomical art. We will continue our day with a <b>Cruise along the Bosphorus</b> on an exclusive boat. As we cruise along the strait of Istanbul, we will have a chance to see the Imperial Palaces built out of marble, beautifully built humble Ottoman mosques, Ottoman Mansion (called as Yali in Turkish), Ottoman Fortresses and the Bridges that connect Asia to Europe. Our day will end with the visit to the <b>Hagia Sophia</b>, the Church of Divine Wisdom. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian built this awe-inspiring building in the 6th Century. Having been there for 1500 years, it is still the 4<sup>TH</sup> Largest Basilica in the world.</li><li>• Dinner and Overnight stay will be at our Hotel in Istanbul.</li></ul> |  |
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| <p><b>Day 4</b><br/>(B-D)</p> | <p><b><u>Istanbul / Nicaea / Bursa</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After breakfast, we will drive to <b>Nicaea</b> (Iznik). The importance of Nicaea in Christian</li></ul> |
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history is because of the two major Christian meetings that were held here: **the first Ecumenical Council of 325** and the seventh Ecumenical Council of 787. **Nicene Creed** was written here. In this fascinating town we will visit the museum that was formerly the Church of Divine Wisdom. After the visits, we will leave Nicaea and drive to **Bursa**. We will explore Bursa by visiting the **Grand Mosque, the Green Mausoleum** and the **Old Silk Market** in the **Covered Bazaar**.

- Dinner and overnight will be at the Hotel in Bursa.

**Day 5  
(B-D)**

**Bursa / Canakkale / Ayvalik**

- After breakfast, we will drive to the city of Canakkale. We visit the ruins of legendary **Troy**. We will continue our journey to **Alexandria Troas**, which was visited at least twice by St. Paul. We know that in his third journey St. Paul also traveled by land from Alexandria Troas to Assos. In Troas we visit the theater, the Temple of Athena and the agora.
- Dinner and overnight will be at our Hotel in Ayvalik.

**Day 6  
(B-D)**

**Ayvalik / Pergamon / Thyatira / Izmir**


- After breakfast, we will drive to **Pergamum** to visit the **Asklepion** and the **Acropolis**. On the 1200ft. high Acropolis we will see the steepest sloped theater of the ancient world, the temple of Athena and the Altar of Zeus, which **St. John** denounced to Pergamum church members as a “Throne of Satan.” In his letters to **Seven Churches of Revelation**. After Acropolis, we will visit the Asklepion, which was one of the 3 famous hospitals of the ancient world. After we finish the visits around Pergamum, we make our way for **Thyatira**, whose church members were commended for their “steadfastness against libertarianism,” which was viewed as a constant threat to the Christian church.
- Dinner and overnight will be at Hotel in Izmir.

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

**Day 7  
(B-D)**

**Izmir / Ephesus / Miletus / Kusadasi**

- After breakfast, we will drive through the farming lands of Western Turkey to the town of Selcuk which is the home to the world wide known ruins of **Ephesus, the House of Virgin Mary and The Basilica of St John of Patmos**. Our first stop will be the **House of Virgin Mary**. The belief is that the Virgin Mary had spent her last years in the vicinity of Ephesus. After the visit of Virgin Mary’s House, we will drive shortly to the ruins of **Ephesus**, which was one of the 4 biggest Roman cities during the heydays of Roman Empire. **St Paul came here twice** and he **preached in the great theatre of Ephesus**. Our next visit will be the **St. John’s Basilica**. It is believed that the evangelist St. John had spent his last years in the region around Ephesus and buried in the southern slope of Ayosolug Hill. From here continue our drive to The Ancient City of Miletus, which was

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|                                  | <p>considered as one of the greatest and wealthiest of Greek cities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinner and overnight will be at our Hotel in Kusadasi.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Day 8</b><br/>(B-L-D)</p>  | <p><b><u>Kusadasi / Patmos ( Cruise )</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After breakfast, we will be transferred to Kusadasi Port to embark on a 3 nights Cruise of the Aegean Islands. Our first stop in the cruise will be <b>Patmos</b>; this island is known as the location of the apocalyptic revelations of St. John the Divine, written here during his exile by the Roman Empire. The cave where he lived is near the site of the <b>Monastery of the Apocalypse. The Monastery of St. John</b> built on one of the island's highest points, houses priceless icons and manuscripts in its Treasury.</li> <li>• Dinner and overnight will be on board.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Day 9</b><br/>(B-L-D)</p>  | <p><b><u>Patmos / Crete-Heraklion / Santorini ( Cruise )</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This morning following our arrival in <b>Heraklion</b>, we will visit the fantastic ruins of the <b>Palace of Knossos</b>. Discovered in 1899 and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture (<b>Minotaur comes from here</b>). The next island to visit will be <b>Santorini</b> and perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands, with its whitewashed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques.</li> <li>• Dinner and overnight will be on board.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Day 10</b><br/>(B-L-D)</p> | <p><b><u>Santorini / Athens / Mykonos ( Cruise )</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We arrive in <b>Piraeus</b>, the port city of <b>Athens</b>, cradle of democracy, and birthplace of Western Civilization. Athens is a vibrant city where old and new co-exists. The majestic <b>Parthenon</b> rises above the city and its ancient glory is still visible in the timeworn Stones. The last island to visit will be <b>Mykonos</b>. Hundreds of tiny chapels, beautiful windmills and blue-white buildings adorn this island. Find a table on the waterfront and enjoy the serenity of the sunset while looking at its picturesque harbor.</li> <li>• Dinner and overnight will be on board.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Day 11</b><br/>(B-D)</p>   | <p><b><u>Mykonos / Kusadasi / Sardis / Hierapolis / Pamukkale</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will disembark our boat in Kusadasi at around 07.00 o'clock and we will drive to <b>Sardis</b>. This ancient city was the capital of ancient Lydia and was also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. In the vicinity of this ancient town we will visit the temple of Diana (which later became a Church), the beautiful synagogue, and the gymnasium. After Sardis we will head to <b>Laodicea</b>, which has been extensively excavated non-stop all year around since 2009. Laodicea was one of the 7 Churches and <b>this is the only one among 7 Churches today where the exact location of the Church has been discovered.</b> We will</li> </ul>  |



visit its theaters, Odeon, gymnasium and the newly excavated temple. The day will end with the visit of **Hierapolis** with its necropolis, baths, theater and the site of the martyrdom of **St. Philip**.

- Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel in Pamukkale.

**Day 12  
(B-D)**

**Pamukkale / Pisidian / Konya**

- After breakfast, we drive to **Antioch of Pisidia**, the city where **St. Paul** preached his first recorded sermon and was later expelled. Among the ruins we also visit the remains of two basilicas. After that, we will drive to the city of **Konya** (ancient Iconium), where **St. Paul and St. Barnabas** had spent time in the synagogue. We will visit the museum of the **Whirling Dervishes**. Which is also the site of the **Mausoleum of Mevlana** (Rumi), the philosopher, mystic and poet.
- Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Hotel.



**Day 13  
(B-D)**

**Konya / Lystra / Derbe / Cappadocia**

- After breakfast we will begin our ride to Cappadocia. On the way we will stop at **Lystra**, a place that was visited several times by **St. Paul**. After there we will keep driving to **Derbe**, where St. Paul and St. Barnabas had preached and converted many people.
- Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.

**Day 14  
(B-D)**

**Cappadocia**

- After breakfast, we will explore the famous **valleys** of Cappadocia. It is a **unique location in the world** with one of a kind natural rock formation. A very long time ago, volcanic eruptions caused the lava flow that dried above the Earth's crust and formed tufa rocks. Erosion shaped them into famous formations called "fairy chimneys," but it is not only the landscape that makes this place unique. Hittites chiseled the soft tufa stones to **carve out this fairy tale world** into homes, stables, shops, churches, hospitals, etc., etc. **Early Christians** carved caves and made frescoes of Biblical scenes on the walls of these rock-carved chapels. Some of these frescoes are still incredibly vivid, attesting to the skills and religious fervor of the faithful. Within the Cappadocia region we will visit the **Open Air Museum of Goreme, Underground City of Kaymakli** and **Avanos**, the latter providing us with the opportunity to purchase some pottery made by kick-wheel method.
- Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.





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| <p><b>Day 15</b><br/><b>(B-D)</b></p> | <p><b><u>Cappadocia</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After breakfast, we will have a <b>private mass</b> at one of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century churches in Cappadocia Region from the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. We will continue our day with a visit to the <b>Devrent Valley</b> to see some spectacular rock formations. Then we will drive to <b>Pasabag</b> (Monk's Valley) to see the best-formed fairy-chimneys, which are the name for the mushroom shaped natural rock formations. In the afternoon we will visit the town of <b>Uchisar</b>, which has the highest altitude in Cappadocia. We will hike up to Uchisar Fortress/ Rock Formation, which offers magnificent view of the surrounding area with Mount Erciyes in the distance. The castle features many rooms hollowed out from the rock connected to each other with stairs, tunnels and passages. Today most of the rooms on the north side of the castle have become home to pigeons, which supply farmers, their droppings that are the best fertilizer for volcanic soil. <b>** Unique Moment: Cave house visit:</b> Here you will visit a historic cave house and experience how the locals still live in the caves.</li> <li>Dinner and overnight stay will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Day 16</b><br/><b>(B)</b></p>   | <p><b><u>Cappadocia / Istanbul / UK</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After breakfast, departure transfers from our hotel to Kayseri Airport for our departure flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul there will be connection flights to...</li> </ul>   |

**B** = Breakfast

**L** = Lunch

**D** = Dinner

| INCLUDING  | EXCLUDING   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel accommodation throughout the tour at specified selected hotels or similar</li> <li>Sightseeing tours as per above itinerary ( Except the shore excursions during cruise and optional tours )</li> <li>Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary</li> <li>Specified meals</li> <li>3 nights Greek Islands Cruise with Celestial Olympia with the respective cabin type</li> <li>Unlimited non-alcoholic beverage package during the Cruise</li> <li>Transportation by A/C deluxe vehicle</li> <li>English speaking professional tour guide throughout the tour</li> <li>Tips to hotels, restaurants and on board of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Flight tickets</li> <li>Drinks and meals which are not listed in the itinerary</li> <li>Shore Excursions during cruise</li> <li>All personal expenses</li> <li>Tips to the tour guide and driver.</li> </ul> |

the cruise vessel

- Port, Service and local taxes for all the tour
- Cappadocia – Istanbul domestic flight ticket on day 16.

**\$ 1,800 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](http://www.DoubleTree.com)  
or similar,

##### AYVALIK

Grand Hotel Temizel , 5 Star  
[www.temizel.com.tr](http://www.temizel.com.tr)  
or similar,

##### KUSADASI

Charisma De-Luxe Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.charismahotel.com](http://www.charismahotel.com)  
or similar,

##### KONYA

Hotel Dedeman, 5 Star  
[www.dedeman.com](http://www.dedeman.com)  
or similar,

##### BURSA

Almira Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.almira.com.tr](http://www.almira.com.tr)  
or similar,

##### IZMIR

Hilton Hotel, 5 Star  
[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
or similar,

##### PAMUKKALE

Spa Hotel Thermal Colossae, 5 Star  
[www.colossae.com](http://www.colossae.com)  
or similar,

##### CAPPADOCIA

DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos Cappadocia, 5 Star  
[www.DoubleTree.com](http://www.DoubleTree.com)  
or similar,



## 16 Days Grand Christian Tour

From January till December 2017

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|--------------------------|---|
| <p>1.Day<br/>(D)</p>     | <p><b><u>Istanbul / Adana</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>2.Day<br/>(B-L-D)</p> | <p><b><u>Adana / Antakya / Seulecia Pieria / Adana</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After breakfast, we will drive to Antakya, the ancient <b>Antioch on Orontes</b> river. This was the city where <b>St. Peter "The Rock"</b> had established a church and for the first time in the church's history, <b>Gentiles</b> were welcomed into the church. The word "<b>Christian</b>" 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 <b>the Church of St. Peter</b>. After this visit, we will head to the fascinating and colossal <b>Mosaics and Archeology Museum</b>, which was built in 2015. After visiting this museum, we will return to Adana.</li> <li>Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Adana.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>3.Day<br/>(B-L-D)</p> | <p><b><u>Adana / Tarsus / Cappadocia ( 287 Km )</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After breakfast, we will check out from our hotel and drive to the town of <b>Tarsus</b>. This city was the hometown of St. Paul. We will visit the grounds of the <b>House of St. Paul</b>, where he was born. We will have a short stop at the <b>Cleopatra Gate</b> 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.</li> <li>Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>4.Day<br/>(B-L-D)</p> | <p><b><u>Cappadocia</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, "<b>The Acts of Saint Hieron</b>," 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 <b>Goreme Valley</b> with its <b>Troglodyte churches</b> and explore the <b>underground City of Kaymakli</b>, which was a place for Christians to be safe from persecutors. We will have lunch at a local restaurant there. Then, we will visit <b>Zelve</b> and <b>Avanos</b> with their red-coned monastic complexes.</li> <li>Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel in Cappadocia.</li> </ul> |

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 <b>Nicene Creed</b>, 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"> <li>• Dinner and an overnight stay will be at our hotel in Istanbul.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>15.Day<br/>(B-L-D)</p> | <p><b>Istanbul</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After breakfast, we will start our full day sightseeing tour of Istanbul. First, we will visit the <b>Blue Mosque</b>, famous for its blue Iznik (modern name: Nicaea) tiles and unique with its' 6 minarets. After the Blue Mosque, we will walk to the <b>Hippodrome</b>, 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 <b>Hagia Sophia, which</b> 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 <b>Topkapi Palace Museum</b>, 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 (<b>the Sword of King David, the staff of Moses, the Turban of Joseph, and Relics of St. John the Baptist</b>). In the afternoon, we will visit <b>Chora Church</b> (famous for Byzantine mosaics) and the <b>Grand Bazaar</b>. It is <b>the biggest oriental bazaar</b> (market) in the world with around 4,000 shops which sell antiques, jewelry, gold, carpets, leather, etc. <b>** Unique Moment:</b> During the visit of the Grand Bazaar, we will taste <b>Turkish coffee</b> in <b>Sark Kahvesi</b>, a 400 year old Turkish Coffee House. A variety of Turkish coffee and tea will be available.</li> <li>• Dinner and an overnight stay will be at the hotel.</li> </ul> |
| <p>16.Day<br/>(B)</p>     | <p><b>Istanbul</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport for our departure flights.</li> </ul>  |

B = Breakfast                      L = Lunch                      D = Dinner

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

- 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](http://www.hilton.com)  
or similar,

#### KONYA

Hotel Dedeman, 5 Star  
[www.dedeman.com](http://www.dedeman.com)  
or similar,

#### PAMUKKALE

Spa Hotel Thermal Colossae, 5 Star  
[www.collossae.com](http://www.collossae.com)  
or similar,

#### IZMIR

Hilton Izmir, 5 Star  
[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)  
or similar,

#### ISTANBUL

DoubleTree by Hilton Istanbul Old Town, 5 Star  
[www.DoubleTree.com](http://www.DoubleTree.com)  
or similar,

#### CAPPADOCIA

DoubleTree by Hilton Avanos Cappadocia, 5 Star  
[www.DoubleTree.com](http://www.DoubleTree.com)  
or similar,

#### ANTALYA

Best Western Plus Khan Hotel, 4 Star  
[www.khanhotel.com](http://www.khanhotel.com)  
or similar,

#### KUSADASI

Charisma De-Luxe Hotel, 5 Star [www.charismahotel.com](http://www.charismahotel.com)  
or similar,

#### AYVALIK

Grand Hotel Temizel , 5 Star  
[www.temizel.com.tr](http://www.temizel.com.tr)  
or similar,