

Journey to the Seven Churches of Revelation

9 Day Tour

Day 1 – Depart US for Istanbul

Day 2 – Istanbul•Izmir

Arrive in Istanbul and board a domestic flight to Izmir. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 3–Smyra•Sardis•Philadelphia•Pamukkale

We begin our tour with a visit to Ancient Smyrna. We will stop at the oldest church in ancient Smyrna, Church of St. Polycarp, also a memorial to Polycarp, student of the Apostle John that was martyred in the city in 155AD. We then travel east to Sardis, part of the Roman Province of Asia in New Testament times. Ruins of Sardis are scattered throughout



the valley. Ancient Sardis had a very large and prosperous Jewish community, which produced the largest ancient synagogue outside of Israel. Christianity arrived in the 1st century AD and was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Next we visit Philadelphia which was referred to as the “New Jerusalem” in Revelation. Arrive in Pamukkale and check-in to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 – Laodicea•Heirapolis•Kusadasi

We spend the morning at Laodicea where the church was accused of being luke-warm. Ruins are spread over large areas with a remarkable visible stadium. We stop at Hierapolis, where Christianity came via Paul, and is known as the “cure center.” Calcium rich water from an underground thermal



spring has flowed over the mountainside and

slowly solidified, creating shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites. Drive to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 – Ephesus

After breakfast we will enjoy Kusadasi from a cultural perspective as we visit the local carpet cooperation. We then drive to Ephesus, the crown jewel of the Seven Churches. Ephesus is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the world and was famous throughout the ancient world for its Artemis Temple. See the Celsius Library, the best preserved of its kind. Explore terrace houses, the 24,000 seat theatre and Odeon, the marble street where Paul held daily discussions. We will visit the House of the Virgin Mary where, according to tradition, the Apostle John cared for the mother of Jesus. Return to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight.



Day 6 – Thyatira • Pergamum • Bursa

Today we drive north to Thyatira, acknowledged for their love, faith, service, and patient endurance. Paul’s first European convert, Lydia, who accepted the Lord at Philippi, was a seller of purple from Thyatira. Next we visit Pergamum, where Paul advised being faithful under



persecution. Impressive temples, library and medical facilities made Pergamum a renowned cultural center. Dinner and overnight in Bursa.

Day 7 – Nicaea

Departing Bursa, we begin our drive to Nicaea, site of two ecumenical councils in the Byzantine period and later known for its tiles during the Ottoman Empire. We then travel to Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 – Istanbul

Istanbul, the only city in the world situated on two continents. Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul - its three names span more than 2600 years. We visit the Topkapi Palace, once home to the great Sultans filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain.



We explore the Blue Mosque built in 1609. Interior walls are covered with 20,000 blue Iznik tiles. Next we stop at the Hippodrome, once the largest chariot race grounds of the Byzantine Empire. Next we visit St. Sophia, Church of Divine Wisdom, an architectural marvel. Constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and now a museum. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Day 9 – Istanbul • USA

Our journey comes to an end as we are transferred to the airport for our departure. We return to the states with a greater understanding of Revelation and a new appreciation for the Apostles who carried the gospel to the known world.

