

Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation

Day 1 Izmir, Turkey

Welcome to Turkey! Transfer to your hotel. Day is at leisure. Enjoy this evening's WELCOME DINNER with your traveling companions.

Day 2 Izmir–Sart–Alasehir–Pamukkale.

Enjoy a morning orientation tour of Izmir (Smyrna), one of the Seven Churches. Then, travel to Sart (Sardis), another church whose location is home to one of the world's oldest synagogues. Continue to Alasehir; this church was formerly called Philadelphia and referred to as "New Jerusalem." See PAMUKKALE (cotton fortress), the site of the ancient city of Hierapolis.

Day 3 Pamukkale–Kusadasi.

Travel to Eskihisar, the ancient city and church of Laodicea where the Apostle John addressed his letter and chastised the inhabitants for being lukewarm. See the nearby ruins of HIERAPOLIS, an important seat of early Christianity. Visit the MARTYRIUM of Apostle Philip, built on the spot where he is thought to have been martyred. Journey to Kusadasi.

Day 4 Kusadasi. Excursion to Ephesus.

Arrive at Ephesus, another one of the Seven Churches and a city filled with rich history and biblical sights. Apostle Paul came here in 53 AD, and Apostle John is said to have written his gospel here. Both Apostle John and the Virgin Mary are said to have died here as well. Visit the city's main ruins, including the HOUSE of MARY and the Basilica of St. John.

Day 5 Kusadasi. Excursion to Patmos, Greece.

Sail for the island of Patmos and the CAVE OF THE APOCALYPSE, where John the Evangelist wrote the Book of Revelation.

Day 6 Kusadasi–Bergama–Akhisar–Bursa.

A long but wonderful travel day to Bergama (Pergamum) and Akhisar (Thyathira), the last of the Seven Churches. Continue to Bursa.

Day 7 Bursa–Iznik (Nicaea)–Istanbul.

This morning, visit the GREEN OTTOMAN COMPLEX, the GREAT MOSQUE, and SILK BAZAAR. Journey to Iznik (Nicaea), where the Nicene Creed was created. Afterwards, depart by motorcoach or ferry for Istanbul, the city where East meets West.

Day 8 Istanbul.

Guided sightseeing of Istanbul includes the BLUE MOSQUE, HAGIA SOPHIA, and TOPKAI SERAGLIO. Free time to wander the GRAND BAZAAR. Enjoy this evening's FAREWELL DINNER.

Day 9 Depart Istanbul