

Turkey

Seven Churches of Revelation

“Seven Churches of Revelation” Turkey

A journey to the 7 Churches of Revelation! We want to invite you on an unforgettable journey in the footsteps of Paul which is filled with ancient biblical history, culture and spiritual blessings. Join us on a spiritual adventure that will bring the Bible alive.

This journey will provide you a deeper understanding of scriptures traveling thru the lands of the Bible. There are more Biblical Sites in Turkey than in any other country and it is known as the 2nd Holy Land. Not only will you visit the site of each of the Seven Churches, you will visit the actual places that the New Testament letters were penned or received. Imagine being in Ephesus, site of so many teachings that establish our salvation.

You can read your way through the New Testament, or you can bring it to life with an all-inclusive trip to where it all took place. At the end of this tour two things will most certainly be changed, you, and your understanding of the Bible.

- *The trip will take place in case of a group of 16 people
- 9 days / 7 nights
- Price is per person for double occupancy
- Extra charge for single room accommodation - totals are Bosphorus Cruise & Asia \$80 and 7 Churches of Revelation \$640 and More of Turkey \$480.
- * Accommodation at 4-5* hotels, or hotels of the appropriate level.
- *** Rate is valid with a deposit of \$500 at the moment of registration. Please, note, \$200 is non-refundable administrative fee in any dates in any case even due to war, conflicts etc.
- We do understand planes may change – please, see carefully all cancellation terms and conditions.



DEPARTURE DATE
OCT 07 - OCT 15, 2024



PRICE / PERSON
\$3,099.00

Pre Extension to Bosphorus Cruise & Asia

DAY 1 - Saturday

NEW YORK / ISTANBUL

Tour members are welcomed to New York for our departing flight to Istanbul via wide-body aircraft arriving the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 - Sunday

ISTANBUL

Today we will arrive in Istanbul. We will be met and loaded on our motor coach for our drive to Istanbul. We check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 - Monday

ISTANBUL / BOSPHORUS CRUISE / ASIA

This morning, we will embark on a cruise of the Bosphorus, the winding straight that separates Europe and Asia and connects the Black Sea with the inland Sea of Marmara. This is our time to relish the views of the old wooden mansions, Ottoman palaces, and ancient fortresses that dot the river's coast before the ship drops us off in Asia! Here, we will visit Beylerbeyi Palace, which was constructed between 1861 and 1865 during the reign of Sultan Abdülaziz as a summer residence for the Ottoman sultans. Next, we will enjoy impressive views from Camlica Hill. At 268 meters above sea level, it is the highest point in Istanbul, offering panoramic views of the surrounding area. From the top, we can see the Bosphorus Bridge, the Eminonu Peninsula, the Sea of Marmara, and the Princes' Island. And if the skies are clear this day, we may also see as far as Mount Uludag near Bursa! Then, we will drive across the bridge back to Europe and return to our hotel. Dinner and Overnight in Istanbul.

7 Churches of Revelation Begins Here

DAY 1 - Monday

NEW YORK / ISTANBUL

Tour members are welcomed to New York for our departing flight to Istanbul via wide-body aircraft arriving the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 - Tuesday,

ISTANBUL

Upon arrival to the Istanbul Ataturk Airport, we will meet our guide in the arrivals hall and head to our hotel located near Taksim Square, the bustling heart of modern Istanbul. Dinner and Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 3 - Wednesday

ISTANBUL / TOPKAPI PALACE / HAGIA SOPHIA / GRAND BAZAAR

After enjoying our Turkish breakfast, we will depart from our hotel and begin our tour of the historical highlights of Istanbul. First, we walk to Eminönü's Spice Bazaar, the large covered market that has remained the city's center for spice trade since its creation in the 17th century. Afterwards, we head to the hill where ancient Byzantium was founded and enjoy a stroll through Hippodrome Square, the former sporting and social center of Constantinople that hosted chariot races during the Roman period. Next, we are off to the domed masterpiece of Hagia Sophia, the Orthodox patriarchal basilica-turned Ottoman imperial mosque-turned secular museum commissioned by Byzantine Emperor Justinian in the 6th century. Next we head to Topkapi Palace, the former abode of Ottoman Sultans that still houses their legion of treasures, including an extensive collection of royal jewels. We will then end our day with an evening of shopping at the Grand Bazaar, the massive covered market that houses a labyrinth of streets lined with shops selling jewelry, leather products and many other handcrafted souvenirs. Dinner and Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 4 - Thursday,

ISTANBUL / THYATIRA / SARDIS / PHILADELPHIA / DENIZLI

Today after breakfasts we will board our bus and head to the town of Akhisar to visit ancient Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches praised for its increasing faith but admonished for its tolerance of Jezebel (Rev. 2:18-28). Next, we continue to Sardis, a once powerful city located along an important ancient highway and among the fertile plain of Hermus (Geldiz River). Though Sardis was a strong and wealthy city with a reputation for being alive, God announced that it was actually dead (Rev. 3:1-6). Here, we will explore the white marble royal way, the massive Temple of Artemis, the large gymnasium, and the famous synagogue. Annual archaeological expeditions sponsored by Harvard and Cornell Universities have unearthed over eighty Greek and seven Hebrew inscriptions as well as numerous mosaic floors revealing this synagogue as one of the most significant synagogues of antiquity. Afterwards, we will head to the modern town of Alasehir and visit the site of ancient Philadelphia, the church that received God's highest commendation (Rev. 3:7-13). Here, we will see the remains of a brick-built Byzantine basilica adorned with 11th century frescoes. Dinner and Overnight in Denizli.

DAY 5 - Friday,

DENIZLI / PAMUKKALE / LAODICEA / KUSADASI

This morning, we are off to visit Pamukkale, "Cotton Castle", and dip our feet in the thermal waters that flow down the hilltop's unique white travertine terraces. At the summit, we explore the archeological remains of Hierapolis, a significant site of early Christianity thanks to Paul's missionary efforts here (Colossians 4:13). Because the city sits atop the travertine cascades of Pamukkale (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), Hierapolis became a healing center wherein the site's thermal pools were used to treat various ailments. Today, we will stroll among a number of important ruins including well-preserved Roman structures like the town theatre and Temple of Apollo before continuing on to Laodicea. This city was one of the Seven Churches that the Apostle John chastised the inhabitants for being lukewarm (Rev. 3:14-22). Here, we will see the site's well-preserved stadium, gymnasium, and theatres, giving us insight into this city's former prominence. Next, we drive to Kusadasi, a beautiful resort town that sits on the Aegean coast. Dinner and Overnight in Kusadasi.

DAY 6 - Saturday,

KUSADASI / EPHESUS / KUSADASI

Today, we are off to explore Ephesus. Located in the modern town of Selcuk, ancient Ephesus is one of the most well-preserved archaeological sites in Turkey. Originally an ancient Greek Ionic city built in the 10th century B.C., Ephesus grew to become the largest metropolis and capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor. Ephesus played a vital role in the spread of Christianity. Starting in the first century A.D., notable Christians

such as Paul and John visited and rebuked the cults of Artemis, winning many Christian converts in the process. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is thought to have spent her last years in Ephesus with John, who was entrusted with her care. Today, we will walk on the Marble Road passing numerous historically rich sites including the Temple of Artemis (Diana), the fountain of Trajan, and the Temple of Hadrian. We will also see the Library of Celsus, which adorns the site's most impressive square, and sit in the theater (the largest surviving from the Roman period). This massive theatre (capable of entertaining up to 25,000 spectators) was the scene of an uprising provoked by a merchant named Demetrius against St. Paul and his teachings (Acts 19:23). Before returning to our Kusadasi hotel, we will stop at the ruins of St. John's Basilica. Constructed by Justinian in the 6th century, this basilica stands over the believed burial site of John the Apostle. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.

DAY 7 - Sunday,

KUSADASI / SMYRNA / PERGAMUM / CANAKKALE

This morning, we will drive to the thriving modern city of Izmir and visit the ruins of ancient Smyrna, one of the Seven Churches that the Apostle John relays the promise from God: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10). Here, we will see what remains of the Agora, the ancient market place that was built in the 4th century BC, before continuing on to Pergamum, one of the most powerful cities in the ancient world. The city rose to prominence following the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. and eventually came under Roman control in 133 B.C. Although the city benefited from immense wealth, in the Book of Revelations, the risen Christ instructs John to convey the message that the people of Pergamum, the site of "Satan's throne", needed to repent (Rev 2:13-16). Today, we will tour the Acropolis, which sits atop a 1000-foot windswept mountain, offering a view of the neighboring modern towns, the azure waters of the Aegean, and the ruins of Pergamum that cascade down from the ancient city center. Here, we will explore the Temple of Trajan, Temple of Athena and the Altar of Zeus. Unfortunately, little is left of the altar, which was once among the grandest monuments of the ancient world. In fact, every stone of the structure, including its 400-foot long frieze depicting the battle of the gods and giants, was shipped off to Berlin by German Archaeologists leaving only the altar's foundation. Thankfully, much more remains of the Great Theatre. Among the steepest of its kind and an acoustic phenomenon, this theatre could entertain up to 10,000 spectators. Nearby are the remains of the famous Library of Pergamum. Once housing some 200,000 scrolls, the library's collection even exceeded that of the great library of Alexandria before Mark Anthony gave it to Cleopatra as a wedding gift. Afterwards, we will drive to Canakkale for the night. Dinner and Overnight in Canakkale.

DAY 8 - Monday

CANAKKALE / TROY / ISTANBUL

After breakfast, we will drive to the village of Tevfikiye by the entrance of the Dardanelles to see the remains of the legendary city of Troy. Settled as early as 3,000 BC, Troy was made famous by Homer's Iliad, the epic account of the Trojan War. Afterwards, we will cross the Dardanelles by ferry and head to Istanbul for the night. Dinner and Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 9 - Tuesday,

ISTANBUL / USA

Today, we say good-bye to Turkey and return to the Ataturk International Airport to board our flight back home.

Post Extension to More of Turkey

DAY 1 - Tuesday,

ISTANBUL / ANTAKYA / ADANA

After enjoying our breakfast, we will head to the Istanbul Ataturk Airport to board our flight to Hatay Airport. Upon arrival, we will drive close by to the city of Antakya (Antioch), an important seat of early Christianity. Here, we will visit the Mosaic Museum to see the second largest collection of classical and Roman mosaics in the world. Afterwards, we will head to one of the oldest churches in Christianity, the Church of St. Peter. This church is actually a cave carved into the side of Mount Starius where the first Christians of Asia Minor worshipped. Before returning to our hotel, we will see Selucia Pieria, the ancient port of Antioch from which the Apostle Paul and Barnabas embarked on their first missionary journeys as chronicled by Acts (Acts:13:4). Dinner and Overnight in Adana.

DAY 2 - Wednesday,

ADANA / TARSUS / CAPPADOCIA

Today, we depart from our Adana hotel to drive to the dusty provincial town of Tarsus. Once the capital of the province of Cilicia, Tarsus was the site where Mark Antony and Cleopatra first met, and is the birthplace of Paul the Apostle. According to Acts, Paul was born "Saul of Tarsus", but was brought up in Jerusalem and became "Paul the Apostle" after his encounter with Christ (Acts 9:11; 21:39; 22:3). Here, we will visit the Well of St. Paul and the Gate of Cleopatra. Afterwards, we head north to Cappadocia, where we will stop at Pigeon Valley to enjoy a panoramic view of this region's unique rock formations, popularly known as fairy chimneys. Formed over many centuries by wind and water erosion on soft volcanic rock, these rock formations rise high from the valley floor like chimneys. Early inhabitants of this region carved these chimney tops with birdhouses to collect pigeon droppings long used by local farmers as fertilizer. Dinner and Overnight in Cappadocia.

DAY 3 - Thursday

CAPPADOCIA

This morning, we will visit the Kaymakli Underground City, the most impressive of the subterranean settlements due to its ventilation system. Afterwards, we are off to explore the Monastic Center of Goreme. This open-air museum is dotted with quaint carved-from-rock churches and chapels embellished with colorful frescoes. Then, we will visit Ortahisar to see its gorgeous valleys and stop at the Three Beauties, the most famous of the region's many conic rock formations. Today, we will also hike through the valley of Zelve and see its hundreds of carved-from-rock houses and chapels and we will visit Pasabag Valley, also known as Monk's Valley, to explore its tower-shaped hermitages. We will then end our day at the potter's studio in Avanos, a town established by the Hittites on the banks of the Halys River. This town has carried on the Hittites' tradition of pottery that uses the river's famous red clay to make ceramics. Dinner and Overnight in Cappadocia.

DAY 4 - Friday,

CAPPADOCIA / KONYA

This morning we leave Cappadocia bound for Konya. First, we reach ancient Iconium, where Paul the Apostle and Barnabas invested a lot of their missionary efforts preaching the Gospel despite persecution. According to Acts, they spoke boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders (Acts 14:1-3). Then, we will head to Konya's city center and visit the Mevlana Museum, which houses the tomb of the great 13th-century Persian poet and founder of the Order of the Whirling

Dervishes, Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi. Popularly known as Rumi in Western countries, meaning “Roman” in Arabic, his followers and Muslims alike call him “Mevlana”, meaning “our master”. We will then end our day at the Karatay Museum. This former medrese, or place of learning, was founded in 1251 by the Seljuk emir Celaleddin Karatay as an institution for Islamic studies. However, the building is now a museum showcasing the most beautiful examples of Seljuk tile work. Dinner and Overnight in Konya.

DAY 5 - Saturday

KONYA / ANTIOCH PISIDIA / ANTALYA

Today, we depart Konya and head to the modern town of Yalvac to see the ruins of Antioch in Pisidia. Sitting on the southern foothills of the Sultan Mountains, this city was once a major Roman colony that Paul the Apostle visited on his First Missionary Journey with Barnabas. Here we will tour the archeological site and visit the Yalvaç Archaeological Museum to see a display of many of the site’s discovered artifacts. Afterwards, we will continue onto Antalya, Turkey’s largest international sea resort which sits on the beautiful Mediterranean coast. Dinner and Overnight in Antalya.

DAY 6 - Sunday

ANTALYA / PERGE / ASPENDOS

After breakfast, we are off to the archeological site of Perge, a chief city of Pamphylia that was visited twice by Paul the Apostle and his companion St. Barnabas (Acts 13:13–14 and 14:25). Here, we will explore Perge’s extensive ruins, including a well-preserved theatre, the Agora, a colonnaded boulevard, Roman baths, a gymnasium, the necropolis, a memorial fountain, and the Greek and Roman gates. Next, we are off to the ancient Greco-Roman city of Aspendos to see the best-preserved theatre of antiquity. Here, we will also see the ruins of a basilica, agora, nymphaeum, Roman aqueduct, and the Roman Eurymedon Bridge before returning to our Antalya hotel. Dinner and Overnight in Antalya.

DAY 7 - Monday

ANTALYA / USA

Today, head to the Antalya Airport to board our flight back home via Istanbul.

* * The route, as well as the order of visiting places, may be changed due to quarantine restrictions, as well as for safety reasons or due to the weather, road repair work etc.

All-inclusive PACKAGE PRICE
INCLUDES:

- International Airfare from NY
 - Transfers;
- Guide;
- Deluxe A/C Motor Coaches
- Accommodation at 4,5-star hotel;
- Breakfasts and dinners (buffet) at the hotels;
- All entrance fees to museums, archeological parks on the program;
- Live Audio Headsets;
- Tips and gratitude for guide and bus driver

THE PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES.

- Insurance (from 60 usd per person – price depends on the age and state of residence and chosen coverage)
 - Lunches
 - Personal expences

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATIONS: Single-room supplement totals are Bosphorus Cruise & Asia \$80 and 7 Churches of Revelation \$640 and More of Turkey \$480.

MEALS: Unlimited buffet, Bosphorus Cruise & Asia **BREAKFASTS 1 and DINNERS 1**, 7 Churches of Revelation **BREAKFASTS 7 and DINNERS 6**, More of Turkey **BREAKFASTS 6 and DINNERS 6** are included. No meals are provided in USA. Extra charge for coffee, tea or other beverage not included in the menu of the day. If a passenger chooses not to have a meal, there will be no refund for unused meals.

AIRLINE ROUTES & TICKETS: In order to keep prices low, MTI does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once **printed** or **issued**, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation

to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing **APEX or SUPER APEX** non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. Full payment is due 45 days prior to commencement of travel. If the passenger cancels within 45 days of departure or after air tickets are written (whichever comes sooner), then 100% of airfare will be forfeited by passenger. All airfares are subject to government approval and change without notice. **AIR--cost and schedules could change.** Please Note: An overnight may be necessary for groups misconnecting on the outbound or return. Airline tickets are issued 45 days prior to departure, seat assignments can be requested but are not guaranteed as most group seat assignments can only be finalized at the airport upon check in.

ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES: You may incur additional airline baggage and optional fees (food, Excess Baggage, Items of a Personal Nature etc...) and will be charged by the airline at check in.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips to guides & drivers, gratuities to porters, restaurant and hotel servers, fuel surcharges, foreign departure taxes and visas (for US passport holders) are included in the tour cost. (Increases in government taxes, fuel surcharges, gratuities and visas fees are subject to change). The taxes as of print are: 7 Churches of Revelation \$540, the tips as of print are: Bosphorus Cruise & Asia \$29 7 Churches of Revelation \$130 More of Turkey \$101 per person. Turkey visas are \$20 and are included.

SIGHTSEEING: By modern motor coach including services of English speaking guides and entrance fees to places included in the itinerary. Where available all groups will be provided with portable listening devices. Passengers are responsible for loss or damage of the device.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport, laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters and after-dinner coffee or tea, meals not included in the itinerary, room service, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned. Baggage fees and surcharges are different for every airline therefore please contact the airline for specific baggage allowance and fees. FTTT and partners are not responsible for these related fees as this is solely the responsibility of the passenger.

PASSPORTS, VISAS: A valid passport is required for all passengers. If you do not have a passport please contact your local passport office. Passports must be valid for 6 months after return date. For all non-US citizens please consult the consulate for each country you will be entering as a VISA may also be required and will be the responsibility of each passenger to obtain.

TOUR PRICE: Price is based on international tariffs and rates in effect on Date of proposal and is subject to change should there be a revision in AIR or LAND rates prior to payment in full of the tour price. Price is based on a minimum of passengers using double occupancy. In the event that a minimum of passengers does not book the tour within 91 days of departure the agent reserves the right to cancel the tour. You will be notified immediately upon any increase and will have the option of paying the difference or cancelling with full refund. Late booking or changes may result in an additional fee. Maranatha Tours Inc. reserves the right to correct invoices, itineraries, and/or brochures without notice.

PRICE INCREASES: All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change if not paid in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. You will be notified immediately upon discovery of an increase and will have the option of paying the difference or canceling with full refund.

LAND ONLY: From time to time a tour may be canceled due to not materializing. If you choose to purchase a land only package and arrange your own domestic and international flight independently, Maranatha Tours Inc. is not responsible for any International flight schedule changes. If domestic tickets are purchased by an individual, all penalties and fare differences will be paid by the client.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations received within 90 days or less from departure may incur an additional late fee plus any additional fees based on air availability at that time of registration. For reservations received 90 - 61 days prior to departure a \$100 late reservation fee) will be applied (plus additional airline & land fees).. For Reservations received 60 - 31 days before departure the late fee will be \$200; for reservations received 30 - 1 days prior to departures the late fee will be \$300 per person. Additional fees will be advised upon registration

TOUR PROTECTION PLAN (optional): FTTT recommends you purchase a Tour Protection Plan for Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay, and more.

DEPOSIT, PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATION: A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure reservations, which will be applied to the price of the tour. An additional 25% of the remaining balance will be due at 200 days prior, 120 days prior, and 60 days prior to the departure. The remaining balance to be paid in full not later than 45 day prior to departure of the tour. If payment is not received 45 days prior to departure, a \$100 late payment fee will be assessed. All cancellations must be in writing by letter, fax or e-mail to FTTT and partners and will be in effect on the date of receipt by Partners of FTTT. There is no exception to cancellation fee. Any exceptions must be in writing from FTTT. Air penalties are not part of the percentages below and vary based on the airline policy at the time of ticket issue. Returned checks incur a \$30 NSF fee.

Cancellation Fees:

- 121 + Days Prior: \$200.00 per person administration fee**
- **120-91 Days Prior: \$200 for international tour, \$500 for international tour and cruise**
 - **90-61 Days Prior: \$500 for international tour, \$700 for International tour and cruise**
 - **60-46 Days Prior: 50% of tour cost**
 - **45 Days Prior or less: 100% of tour cost**

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY: Land arrangements including surface transportation: FTTT, and the participating Tour Operators operate the land tours offered under this program only as agents of the railroads, car rental contractors, steamship lines, hotels, bus operators, sightseeing contractors and others which provide the actual land arrangements and are not liable for any act, omission, delay, injury, loss or damage or non-performance occurring in connection with these land arrangements. International air carriers and other IATA carriers, steamship lines and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by these companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage. The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary, delete or substitute sites when tour operator feels it to be in the best interest of the tour. FTTT does not provide additional assistance to any passengers that have physical or mobility limitations as tour itineraries require full mobility. Please advise FTTT if you have any limitations that may impact your tour. All changes not received in writing by FTTT at least 45 days prior to departure will incur a \$75 change fee per person for each revision (that is in addition to any other charges per revision once the basic or pre/post tour package has been confirmed).

FIT TO TRAVEL: By registering, passengers accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Many sites are not accessible to physically challenged and may limit the overall tour experience. FTTT does not provide additional assistance to passengers with physical or mobility limitations as tour itineraries require full mobility. Please advise FTTT if you have any limitations that may impact your tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to emergencies. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged the cost of the additional hotel accommodations, meals and single rooms supplements required. Should sights be missed due to necessary changes, no refund for missed touring will be given.

CHANGES & DEVIATIONS: All changes and deviations will incur a \$125 fee, plus any other additional costs associated with services included in the basic or pre/post tour and change requests must be received at least 90 days prior to departure of the tour. Transfers are included in our group round-trip programs, passengers who deviate or purchase land only packages will be responsible for arriving and leaving independently and must transfer at their own expense.

CREDIT CARDS: All prices already include a 5% discount for payment by cash, check or money order.

EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS: Foreign currency exchange rates fluctuate daily. For example, in 2012, Euro rates versus the US Dollar fluctuated from a low below 1.10 to almost 1.70 (meaning that one Euro cost \$1.10 to \$1.70 US). It is very difficult to set the price of a tour when we cannot predict what exchange rates will do. We price our tours at \$1.10 = € 1 and adjust for fluctuations at final billing. If the rate drops below the original rate, we pass the savings on. If rates increase, we must pass those costs on.