



# SEVEN CHURCHES

*of the Revelation & Patmos*

**MAY 18, 2024 or OCTOBER 5, 2024**





**5 DAYS | STARTING AT \$1,399\***

### **Pre-Day 1 - Depart the USA**

### **Pre-Day 2 - Arrive in Turkiye**

Arrive in Istanbul today. Time permitting, enjoy a visit to the Spice Market. Enjoy dinner and overnight.

### **Pre-Day 3 - Cappadocia**

After breakfast, transfer to the Istanbul airport for your flight to Kayseri. Drive to Cappadocia and visit the Zelve Valley. Explore the underground city of Ozkonak. As you drive through Cappadocia, enjoy some free time at various photo stops in this magnificent landscape full of fairy chimneys. Check into your cave hotel this evening for dinner and overnight.

### **Pre-Day 4 - Cappadocia**

You can take an optional hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia this morning for an additional fee. After breakfast at the hotel, visit the Goreme Open-Air Museum, Avcilar and Uchisar.

***Optional balloon ride is approximately \$225 per person***

### **Pre-Day 5 - Istanbul**

Fly to Istanbul and enjoy a cruise on the Bosphorus strait. See the Byzantine walls and the Golden Horn. Enjoy time to shop and explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. Meet your group at your hotel in Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

**Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.**

# ITINERARY

## **Day 1 - Depart Home**

Your pilgrimage begins as you board your international flight for Istanbul.

## **Day 2 - Arrive in Turkiye**

Upon arrival, you will be met by our airport representative. Transfer to your hotel in Istanbul for dinner and overnight.

## **Day 3 - Istanbul**

The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents and is home to 450 mosques. You will visit the famous Blue Mosque with its six minarets and sparkling interior. Visit the underground cisterns dating to Byzantine times. Walk through Hagia Sophia, which was the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years, built by Justinian (532-537 AD). The church has 107 columns, fossil-embedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4,000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. This afternoon, you will fly to Izmir. Dinner & overnight in Izmir.

## **Day 4 - Pergamum & Thyatira**

Visit Pergamum, one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation (Rev. 2:12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which Christ hated (Rev. 2:13-17). The fabled Acropolis towers 1,000 feet above the town and commands a spectacular panorama. As you pass through the Royal Gates, you will enter one of the great centers of classic Greek culture. You will see the foundations of the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, and the ruins of the library, which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. You will see the remains of the Temple of Trajan, the Grand Theatre, the gymnasium, and the health center (Aesclepion). Visit Thyatira, once a busy trading center, home to Lydia, the "seller of purple" (Acts 16). Today, it is famous for Persian rugs. Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelation, tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1:11; 2:18-29). Dinner & overnight in Izmir.

## **Day 5 - Philadelphia, Sardis, Smyrna & Colossae**

Visit the site of Philadelphia, also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3:7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem." (Rev. 3:12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Travel to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. You will be impressed by the massive scale of the Temple of Artemis, the white marble Royal Road, the gymnasium, and the synagogue. The third-largest city in modern Turkiye is Izmir, long a center for Jewish and Christian communities. In Paul's day, the town was known as Smyrna. It was also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 2:8-11). You will see the agora, the colonnaded commercial center where Roman statues can still be seen. Famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the town of Colossae has fallen into obscurity. While you can still see traces of the theatre, the Necropolis, and the church, the ancient city is mostly indistinguishable ruins. Dinner & overnight in Pamukkale.

## **Day 6 - Hierapolis, Laodicea & Miletus**

Hierapolis is blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4:13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You will see the impressive amphitheater with seats still in perfect condition. You will see the City Gates, column-lined streets, and arches, which have stood through time and earthquakes. Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle," named for the limestone-laden hot springs which cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3:14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3:15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3:20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Visit the excavations at Miletus, where Paul bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus at the end of his Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20). Dinner & overnight in Kusadasi.



### Day 7 – Ephesus

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today, you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You will view the library and the huge agora. The Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You will visit the Basilica of St. John, the traditional site of his grave. From the basilica, enjoy a commanding view of the area. You will visit the Museum of Ephesus for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. You will have time to explore this powerful city on your own and recreate some of the footsteps of Paul. Dinner & overnight in Kusadasi.

### Day 8 – Patmos

Today, you will board the Celestyal Olympia and set sail for the Island of Patmos to visit the Monastery of St. John, high on the mountain overlooking the entire island. Walk down to the Grotto of the Apocalypse and the caves where it is believed that the exiled Apostle John lived and was inspired by God to write the Book of Revelation, as well as other letters to the early church.

### Day 9 – Heraklion & Santorini

Dock this morning in Crete's port of Heraklion, just three miles away from the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. 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. This afternoon, enjoy time in Santorini, one of the most beautiful of the Greek islands, where picturesque, whitewashed villages topped with brilliant blue domes stand in stark contrast to the sheer drop cliffs overlooking the Aegean Sea.

### Day 10 – Disembark the Cruise

Disembark in the port of Piraeus this morning. Enjoy a driving tour of Athens before checking into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

### Day 11 – Return to the USA

Continue with the Greece Extension or return to the USA.

#### Flights from New York

**\$5,198\*** ..... **MAY 18-28, 2024**

**\$5,098\*** ..... **OCTOBER 5-15, 2024**

#### YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

**Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing, Round-trip International Airfare**

Additional baggage & optional fees may apply; see fine print for details

**Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes**

Subject to change

**Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities & Program Fees**

**Daily Breakfast and Dinner, Deluxe Motorcoaches**

**First-Class Hotels & much more!**

\*See back for pricing details



**2 DAYS | STARTING AT \$799\***

### Day 11 - Corinth & Cenchrae

Disembark in the port of Piraeus this morning, where your guide will meet you. Journey to the city of Corinth, where the Apostle Paul met fellow tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla and received a vision from the Lord saying, "I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18: 10). As Paul spoke, Crispus (chief ruler of the synagogue) and many others believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8), establishing the church at Corinth to whom Paul later wrote his two epistles. Discover the archaeological museum, marketplace and temples. As you walk among the ruins, stand on the Bema, where the Apostle Paul stood before Gallio to face charges brought against him by the Jews. Stop briefly at the port town of Cenchrae, from which Paul later departed for Syria (Acts 18: 12-18). Travel to Athens for dinner and overnight.

### Day 12 - Athens

Enjoy the rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens as your guide introduces you to the world-renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon and the Erechtheum. Stand on Mars Hill as the Apostle Paul did when he proclaimed, "I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (Acts 17:23). As you stroll the agora, the ancient marketplace and center of Athenian public life, recall that this was where the Apostle Paul preached "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Also, see the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This afternoon is free to explore Athens on your own or enjoy an optional journey to Sounion to visit the famous Temple of Poseidon (additional \$85). Dinner and overnight will be spent in Athens.

### Day 13 - Return to the USA

Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.



# TRAVEL REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail completed form with payment and passport copy to:

Departure City: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (R)

First, Middle & Last Name must be submitted as it appears on your passport:

Guest 1: First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name Tag): \_\_\_\_\_
Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F
Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
How did you learn about this tour? \_\_\_\_\_
Tour Selection:  Basic Program Only  Add Cappadocia Pre-Tour  Add Greece Extension

Guest 2: First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name Tag): \_\_\_\_\_
Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_
Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F
Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
How did you learn about this tour? \_\_\_\_\_
Tour Selection:  Basic Program Only  Add Cappadocia Pre-Tour  Add Greece Extension

Roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

If No Roommate:  Try to Match Me  Single Room (availability limited - \$999)

Important Information Regarding Travel Protection Plan:
1. Travel Protection coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full.
2. Premium is based on TOTAL cost of trip and is non-refundable.
3. Coverage begins when your premium payment is received (separate from deposit & clearly designated as your travel protection premium).
4. Premium must be paid in full no later than 150 days prior to departure.
Guest 1:  Accept  Decline
Guest 2:  Accept  Decline

\$300 DEPOSIT PER PERSON REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION
FINAL PAYMENT DUE 150 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

via check # \_\_\_\_\_  via credit card (circle): **VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX**

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ CVN: \_\_\_\_\_

### PASSENGER AGREEMENT

By signing and submitting the registration form, I/we certify that I/we have read Passenger Agreement, Program Conditions, and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure, understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to the potential for price increases that may apply before payment in full has been received as set forth in the Program Conditions and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure and potential price increases after payment in full has been received due to government imposed taxes and fees.

Guest 1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour: XT24 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: R ID: \_\_\_\_\_ V.002 08/10/23

### Travel Protection Plan - Premium Rates

For a full description of the plan, go to: www.tripmate.com/wpF427E

Table with 8 columns: Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost, Trip Cost, Plan Cost. Rows show rates for various trip cost ranges from \$0 to \$999.

### Schedule of Coverages

Table with 3 columns: Schedule of Coverages, Maximum Benefit. Includes Part A (Trip Cancellation), Part B (Trip Interruption, Missed Connection, Travel Delay), and Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation.

### Additional Cancellation Protection

When You purchase this Travel Protection Plan at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip, you also receive the Educational Travel Services Pre-Departure Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Educational Travel Services travel arrangements up to the day of departure for any reason (excludes no shows and those not permitted boarding)...

Part A - Travel Arrangement Benefits are provided by Educational Travel Services. Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Co.

### Conditions and Limitations

This is a brief description of the plan available for all Travel Protection sales for Trips departing January 1, 2013 and after. Certain exclusions and limitations apply and are detailed in the Certificate of Coverage. For example, coverage does not apply to: any Sickness or condition of you, a Traveling Companion or a Family Member traveling with you that existed during the 60 days prior to the effective date of the coverages (The Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion is waived if payment for this plan is received by Educational Travel Services at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip or 105 days before departure date, whichever occurs first)...

### PROGRAM CONDITIONS

#### INCLUDED IN PRICE:

• Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing • Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in Itinerary) • Breakfast & dinner daily • Hotel gratuities • Program fees • Administrative Fee • Fuel surcharges • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

#### NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

• Tips for guide (\$6/day) & driver (\$3/day): will be collected by your bus captain on tour • Optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure • Miscellaneous fees i.e. individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, beverages & baggage fees • Visas for non-US citizens • Visas and Transfers for all ground only passengers • Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule)

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While we will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 30 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or if you request a single room, the following charges apply: \$999 during the basic tour; \$399 for Cappadocia; \$249 for Greece.

#### PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Table with 3 columns: Deposit, Payment Amount, Due Date. Rows include Registration Deposit (\$300), Final Payment (Full payment), and Travel Protection Premium Amount.

#### REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED less than 150 days prior to departure:

We welcome registrations after 150 days prior to departure. Registrations received between 149-90 days prior will incur a \$100 per person fee. Registrations received between 89-75 days prior will incur a \$200 per person fee. Registrations received between 74-60 days prior will incur a \$400 per person fee. Registrations received after 59 days prior or less will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration

#### CANCELLATION:

100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is covered. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 181 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 180-151 days = \$400; 150-121 days = \$700; 120-61 days = 50% of total cost; 60 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

#### STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

We do not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour. All such losses or expenses will be the responsibility of the passenger. We reserve the right to make adjustments to the itinerary as deemed desirable by us, and we reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. If a tour is canceled beyond the control of us, we will provide a refund or a future travel credit to be used two years from the date of issuance for the value of all funds paid by the passenger less nonrefundable travel supplier prepaid deposits, travel supplier change fees, nonrefundable travel protection premiums, and a \$150 administration fee.

#### FIT TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged and space limitations on tour buses, wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated. Those needing oxygen or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences. Persons using C-pap machines requiring distilled water will need to inform us ahead of time, so we can work with local operators to prepare as it is not always available. We reserve the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in our sole judgment, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request. If you have questions, please contact us for more details.

#### PASSPORT INFORMATION:

Passport information must be submitted to our office no later than 150 days prior to departure. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the return date.

#### PRICE INCREASES:

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

#### AIRLINE ROUTES and TICKETS:

In order to keep prices low, we do not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once 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. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or traveling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact your travel advisor for further details.

#### FLIGHT TIMES and SEATING:

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. We are not responsible for such changes or delays and do not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines. You will receive your flight information 60-30 days prior to departure. Final documents are sent approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

#### ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:

You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. You may also incur optional fees i.e. food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.

#### DEVIATIONS and AIR UPGRADE REQUESTS:

Deviation and Air Upgrade requests must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees. Deviations and Air Upgrades are not always possible given the group schedule and time of ticketing. Passengers who are ticketed with air deviations and/or upgrades will likely not fly with the group and will therefore need to provide their own transfers.

#### ITINERARY CHANGES:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While we will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator. Except as stated herein, no other person is authorized to cancel, modify or vary the tour arrangements or to make any representation of warranty concerning the tour.

Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$125 per night; single rooms \$175 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

#### VALIDITY DATE:

This brochure is valid until 02/10/24. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

#### RELEASE INFORMATION:

Payment of deposit indicates permission for us or our agents to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which we or our agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies us in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, we act only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall we be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that we assume no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service.

We do not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold us harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party.