



TURKEY'S BIBLICAL TOUR

In the footsteps of revelation

9 days / 8 nights

There are journeys that enrich the mind, and there are journeys that touch the soul. *Turkey's Biblical Tour* is a sacred passage through the lands where Scripture came alive — a pilgrimage that invites you to walk in the footsteps of apostles, early Christians, and the *Seven Churches of Revelation*, as addressed by St. John on the island of Patmos.

This extraordinary journey unfolds in **Asia Minor**, the cradle of early Christianity, where faith endured amid persecution, hope flourished against all odds, and the foundations of the Christian Church were laid. Here, among ancient cities and sacred ruins, the messages of **Revelation** still resonate — calling believers to reflect, renew, and reconnect.

Your pilgrimage begins in **Istanbul**, the historic gateway between East and West. Once known as **Constantinople**, this city has been a spiritual crossroads for centuries, home to patriarchs, councils, and magnificent churches that shaped Christian history. As you explore its venerable sanctuaries and sail along the **Bosphorus**, you witness a city where cultures and faith traditions have intertwined for millennia. From there, the journey leads you deep into biblical lands — to **Pergamon**, where the "Throne of Satan" once stood; to **Thyatira**, home of Lydia, the seller of purple; to **Sardis**, warned for spiritual complacency; to faithful **Philadelphia**; to wealthy yet lukewarm **Laodicea**; and to **Smyrna and Ephesus**, cities strengthened through suffering and devotion. Each site offers not only archaeological wonder, but spiritual meaning — a chance to read Scripture where it was first lived.

Along the way, you will visit places of martyrdom, healing, worship, and revelation: **Hierapolis**, where Apostle Philip gave his life for the Gospel; **Ephesus**, where St. Paul preached and St. John walked with the Virgin Mary; and sacred villages where Christian communities preserved their faith through centuries of change.

This pilgrimage is thoughtfully designed to combine spiritual depth with comfort and care. Expert guides illuminate Scripture and history, while peaceful accommodations, carefully paced visits, and shared moments of reflection allow space for prayer and personal contemplation.

This is more than a tour. It is a calling — to rediscover faith through place, history, and devotion. Join us on this sacred journey through the *Seven Churches of Revelation*, and let the land of **Asia Minor** speak to your heart as it once spoke to the early Church.

DAY 1 ISTANBUL Arrival

Welcome to Turkey! Upon your arrival at Istanbul International Airport, you'll be met and assisted by your guide, who will transfer you to your hotel. Once the capital of the Byzantine, Roman, and Ottoman Empires, Istanbul is a mesmerizing city where East meets West — bridging Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus. With its skyline of domes and minarets, vibrant bazaars, imperial palaces, and a population of over fifteen million, Istanbul is truly one of the world's most fascinating destinations. You will have the rest of the day at leisure for private activities. If you don't want to wait until tomorrow to explore the city, a half-day Dolmabahce Palace Tour can be an inspiring alternative.

DAY 2 ISTANBUL Church Tour

The tour will start after breakfast. Today you will visit one of the most special churches in Istanbul. Like the old city destinations, these churches are worth seeing. We will visit the Patriarchate at Fener, which dates back to the early days of Christianity and is an architectural masterpiece that blends Byzantine, Ottoman, and Neoclassical styles. One of the oldest and most important Greek Orthodox churches in Istanbul, Aya Yorgi Greek Orthodox Church, is our next destination. Despite being damaged by fires several times, the most valuable item in the structure, the patriarchal throne, has survived. It is believed that the throne dates back to the 5th century. The Church of St. Mary Pammakaristos, considered one of Istanbul's finest examples of Byzantine art, will be our next stop. The Bulgarian St. Stephen Church, on the other hand, is one of the few cast-iron construction

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EUR 2.060.-

**Surplus single Room
EUR 1.320.-**

**PRIVATE DEPARTURES 2026
ON REQUEST**

**MARCH THROUGH NOVEMBER
FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE!!**

INCLUDED

- All airport transfer services mentioned here
- 8 nights at selected hotels with breakfast
- ✓ **Istanbul** La Quinta by Wyndham 5*****
- ✓ **Canakkale** Troia Tusan Hotel
- ✓ **Izmir** Ramada Plaza 5*****
- ✓ **Pamukkale** Richmond Thermal Hotel 5***
- ✓ **Kusadasi** Odelia Resort Hotel
- 5 dinners
- Guided tours in Istanbul, Troy, Thyatira, Pergamon, Philadelphia, Sardes, Smyrna, Laodicea, Ephesus, Hierapolis & Aphrodisias
- Guided Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise Tour
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- Professional English - speaking tour guides

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Insurance: All types
- Turkey entry visa
- Tipping for guides and drivers
- Hotel room and city taxes
- Optional tours
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section





churches around the world. It was recently restored and made accessible to the public. The Church of Panagia of Blachernae is one of the Unesco World Heritage Sites and is the home of magnificent 14th century mosaics and frescoes, which we will visit before our last stop at St. Savior in Chora, where you will be impressed with the masterpieces of Byzantine art. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

DAY 3 ISTANBUL Bosphorus Cruise

We will pick you up from the hotel after breakfast around 8:00 a.m. for "Bosphorus by Boat", a traditional excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shoreline is home to dozens of old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. You will have the opportunity to see the 19th-century Ottoman masterpiece Dolmabahce Palace, Yildiz Palace, one of the unique samples of the last period of Ottoman architecture, and Ciragan Palace with its amazing marble facades from the boat. Additionally, the Rumeli Fortress, one of the most exquisite examples of Ottoman military architecture, the harmony of eastern and western architectural styles at the Beylerbeyi Palace, the iconic view of Ortakoy, and more can be seen during the boat tour. After lunch, we will take you to the bazaar, where you can find authentic goods. The air here is filled with the enticing aromas of cinnamon, caraway, saffron, mint, thyme, and various herbs, Turkish baklava, Turkish delight, and fresh Turkish coffee, as well as handicraft souvenirs. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

DAY 4 ISTANBUL – TROY - CANAKKALE

After breakfast, we depart at 6:00 a.m. for Gallipoli, through the European lands of Turkey. We will cross the Dardanelles Strait by ferry. Lunch break en route. Visit ancient Troy, see the legendary walls, and see the replica of the wooden horse. The Iliad, an epic poem by Homer, describes the Trojan War, a conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans, which made it famous. From the Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine era, the city was inhabited for thousands of years, and since the 19th century, archaeologists have been excavating its ruins. Today, the site of Troy is a popular tourist destination, and the archaeological remains of the ancient city can be seen in the city of Canakkale. Continue to Canakkale, which is located on the Asian side of the Dardanelles strait. It is an important transportation hub and a gateway to the Gallipoli Peninsula, which was the site of a major World War I battle between the Ottoman Empire and Allied forces. Also, the city is a popular destination for tourists willing to visit the nearby ruins of Troy. Overnight in Canakkale. (B) (D)

DAY 5 CANAKKALE – PERGAMON – THYATIRA - IZMIR

After breakfast, we will pick you up from your hotel and take you to Bergama, also known as Pergamon. It is one of the locations of the Seven Churches of Asia (Rev. 1:11; 2:12). Here, we explore the impressive Acropolis, home to the steepest theater in the world. Visit Askleplion, a well-known classical medical facility, and see the Trajan's Temple marble columns and the Altar of Zeus, which the Book of Revelation refers to as the "Throne of Satan". Furthermore, the library, which was the largest in the world and had long been a rival of the equally well-known Library of Alexandria in Egypt, was thought to contain more than 200,000 books. It served as the basis for parchment's creation. The Red Basilica (St. John's Church) is another place we go. Then we proceed to Thyatira, which is now known as Akhisar and is one of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 2:18–24; Acts 16:14]. The city was well-known for its purple dyes. We stop by some Roman-era architectural remnants and the ruins of a basilica. Lydia, the seller of purple in Philippi, was from Thyatira. Next, we drive to Izmir, where we enjoy a panoramic ride over Smyrna, the third largest city in Turkey and one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 2:12-17]. Smyrna is the old name for the ancient city here, a city scarred by a bloody history of trade and warfare. After the tour, drop back to the hotel. Overnight in Izmir. (B) (D)

DAY 6 IZMIR – SARDIS – PHILADELPHIA - HIERAPOLIS

After breakfast, we will pick you up from your hotel and drive to one of the most picturesque areas of any of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:1–4]. Sardis is our first stop. It was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the 6th century BC. You we will see the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele, which later became a Byzantine church. We'll also stop by the renovated synagogue, the renovated gym, and the final few meters of Cyrus the Great's "golden" river Pactolus, which runs from Susa to Sardis. A lunch break will be given en route. Then we continue our journey to Philadelphia, nowadays called Alasehir, another church of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11;





3:7], and the only church not censured. There we will see the remains of a Byzantine basilica built of brick with a bit of a high arch and some 11th-century frescoes. We drive to the healing city of Hierapolis, also called Pamukkale, the white "cotton fortress," where hot mineral water bursts from the earth and cascades over steep cliffs, forming pools, channels, and stalactites. The therapeutic waters were known to Hierapolis' founders and Laodicea in 190 BC. We go to the Martyrium of the Apostle Philip in Hierapolis, where he was martyred during the Domitian persecutions. (B) (D)

DAY 7 HIERAPOLIS – LAODICEA – APHRODISIAS - KUSADASI

Breakfast at the hotel. Proceed to the Laodicea ancient site (today's Denizli), yet another of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13–16]. The ancient theater, the remains of basilicas and ancient stone water pipes, the Gate of Domitian, the Arcadian Way, the 2nd century AD theater, the Nymphaeum, the Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium, and the Necropolis are on our "to-see list." Aphrodisias is our next stop. We visit the best-preserved ancient stadium ever excavated, where the seating capacity is 30, 000. We see the Odeon with its extraordinary blue marble stage, the Temple of Aphrodite that marks the site of ancient veneration, Hadrian's Bath, and the Bishop's Palace. Lunch is on the way. Then we drive to Kusadasi, which is a coastal resort town in western Turkey's Aydn province. The town, which is on the Aegean Sea, is well-known for its stunning beaches, exciting nightlife, and proximity to important historical and cultural sites. One of the main attractions of Kusadasi are its beaches, its marina, where visitors can rent boats or take a cruise along the coastline, and several historical and cultural landmarks such as Ephesus. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B) (D)

DAY 8 KUSADASI – EPHESUS – SIRINCE VILLAGE - KUSADASI

After breakfast, we will pick you up from your hotel and take you to Ephesus to see the Basilica of St. John and the other important sites of the city. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an epistle from him. We visit the magnificent ruins of this formerly significant city, which was founded in the tenth century BC, where excavations are still ongoing. In Ephesus, walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, and the Theater. The Temple of Artemis of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city. We will visit the Basilica of St. John and the House of the Virgin Mary next. While Sirince promises a cute village visit, it can impress you with its religious gems. In St. Dimitrios Church, explore the interior decoration and architecture. Learn about the history and significance of the church and the Orthodox Christian community in the area. After that, take a short walk to St. John Baptist Church. The distinctive octagonal design of the church will charm you. Take some time to walk around the charming streets of Sirince and explore the traditional houses, shops, and cafes. Sirince is known for its well-preserved historical architecture and traditional way of life, so there is much to discover and enjoy. After the tour, transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi and check in. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B) (D)

DAY 9 KUSADASI – IZMIR

After breakfast, enjoy your final moments in Kusadasi at leisure — a quiet opportunity to reflect, pray, or simply absorb the depth of the journey you have just completed. Over the past days, you have walked the sacred paths of apostles, stood in the cities addressed in the Book of Revelation, and encountered the living testimony of faith that has endured for centuries. As you transfer to Izmir Airport for your onward journey home, carry with you more than photographs and memories. Carry the messages of the Seven Churches — of perseverance, renewal, faithfulness, and hope — written not only in ancient stones, but now also in your heart. This pilgrimage may be ending, but its meaning continues. May the landscapes you have seen, the Scriptures you have revisited, and the moments of reflection you have shared inspire your spiritual life long after you return home. We thank you for choosing to experience this sacred Biblical journey with us and hope that the lands of Asia Minor will welcome you again on another pilgrimage of faith and discovery. Safe travels, and may this journey remain a blessing on your path. End of services. (B)

(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

