

7 Churches of Revelation Tour

Friendship Church

March 27 – April 7, 2025

DAY 1/Thu. 27 March 2025: DEPART MSP

Today we depart from MSP International Airport to Turkey.

DAY 2/Fri, 28 March 2025: ARRIVAL TO ISTANBUL

Welcome to Turkey! The land of culture, faith, and mystery. Upon arrival in Istanbul, you will be transferred to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Discover the beauty and hidden gems of this magnificent city.

Hotel- Grand Gulsoy Hotel, Istanbul

DAY 3/Sat, 29 March 2025: ISTANBUL

Our journey begins in Istanbul, the only city in the world located on two continents. Visit the Hippodrome Square where chariot races used to take place and proceed to nearby Hagia Sophia, built in AD 532 by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I. Continue to the Blue Mosque, which is famous for its beautiful blue Iznik tiles. Then walk to Topkapi Palace, which was not only the residence of the Ottoman Sultans, but also the administrative and educational center of the state. Before our tour ends, we visit the Spice Bazaar (Egyptian Bazaar). The air here is filled with the enticing aromas of cinnamon, caraway, saffron, mint, thyme, and every other conceivable herb and spice.

Hotel- Grand Gulsoy Hotel, Istanbul

DAY 4/Sun, 30 March 2025: ISTANBUL – FLIGHT TO IZMIR

We start the day with a visit to the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world with more than 58 covered streets and over 1,200 shops. Later, we enjoy a traditional excursion by boat on the Bosphorus along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, marble palaces, fortresses, and small fishing villages. Afternoon visit to the Underground Cistern and then transfer to the Airport for a flight to Izmir. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Hotel- Hilton Garden Inn, Bayrakli

DAY 5/Mon, 31 March 2025: IZMIR – PERGAMUM – THYATIRA – IZMIR

Our first stop of the day is Pergamum, [Rev. 1:11; 2:12] with its impressive sites including the Altar of Zeus referred to as the “Throne of Satan” in the book of Revelation. We continue on to Thyatira [Rev. 1:11; 2:18-24; Acts 16:14], famous for its purple dyes. Enjoy a panoramic drive of the city of Smyrna [Rev. 2:12-17] before returning to the hotel.

Hotel- Hilton Garden Inn, Bayrakli

DAY 6/Tue, 1 April 2025: IZMIR – SARDIS – PHILADELPHIA – PAMUKKALE

Today, we first visit the Ancient Agora in Izmir. Then we drive to Sardis (presently Sart) [Rev. 1:11; 3:1-4], one of the most picturesque sites of the Seven Churches of Asia. We visit the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele. In Philadelphia (Alasehir) [Rev. 1:11; 3:7], we will see the remains of the Byzantine Basilica and 11th-century frescoes. Drive to Pamukkale for check-in to the hotel.

Hotel- Pam Thermal Hotel, Pamukkale

Day 7/Wed, 2 April 2025: PAMUKKALE – COLOSSAE – LAODICEA – HIERAPOLIS

We travel to Colossae first thing in the morning. Epaphras, the friend and companion of the apostle Paul, who was imprisoned with him, brought Christianity to Colossae [Col. 1:2]. Then, we proceed to Laodicea (Denizli) [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13-16], where we see the ancient theater and visit the Gate of Domitian and the Arcadian Way among other monuments. Today's tour will end with a visit to Hierapolis [Col. 4:13] where ancient hot springs cascade over cliffs, forming stalactites and pools.

Hotel- Pam Thermal Hotel, Pamukkale

DAY 8/Thu, 3 April 2025: PAMUKKALE – DIDYMA – MILETUS – KUSADASI

After checking out of the hotel, we drive to Didyma, the famed prophecy center dedicated to Apollo. It was not a city, but a sanctuary linked to Miletus by Milesians with a 19 km/12 mi sacred road. We continue to Miletus, an ancient city located near the present Akkoy at the mouth of the Buyuk Menderes (meander) River. Miletus owed its importance to its position on the trade routes. It was one of the largest cities in Anatolia with a population of between 80,000 and 100,000. Highly prosperous, it founded many colonies and was the home of the 6th BC philosophers Anaximander, Anaximenes, and Thales, the town planner Hippodamus, and the architect of Hagia Sophia, Isidorus. Having a prominent position, Miletus became the most important port in this area, and it was the most active member of the twelve cities of the Ionian Confederation. In the 7th century BC, Lydians besieged the city. The city was then controlled by Persians, Romans, and Seljuk Turks.

Drive to Kusadasi for our next two nights.

Hotel- Charisma Hotel, Kusadasi

DAY 9/Fri, 4 April 2025: KUSADASI – PATMOS, GREECE – KUSADASI

The day begins with an early morning transfer to the port of Kusadasi for a ferry ride to the Island of Patmos, Greece. Upon arrival meet your local guide and enjoy a tour. Visit the Byzantine Monastery of the Apostle John the Evangelist with its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. Continue to the nearby cave where the Apostle John stayed during his exile and wrote the Book of Revelation. Free time for lunch (on your own).

Return to the port and take your private ferry back to Kusadasi.

Hotel- Charisma Hotel, Kusadasi

DAY 10/Sat, 5 April 2025: EPHESUS – KUSADASI

Today we drive to Ephesus (Acts 18:19-21) and visit the ancient city and the Basilica of St. John. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. We tour the spectacular ruins where excavations continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. Return to Kusadasi for our overnight stay.

Hotel- Charisma Hotel, Kusadasi

DAY 11/Sun, 6 April 2025: IZMIR – FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL

This morning, we transfer to Izmir airport for a flight back to Istanbul. The remainder of the day is free to explore the city on your own. Discover the old and new parts of Istanbul and get a real feel for this fascinating city! Enjoy dinner and our last night in Turkey.

Hotel- Grand Gulsoy Hotel, Istanbul

DAY 12/Mon, 7 April 2025: ISTANBUL – DEPARTURE

Early morning check-out of the hotel, and then transfer to Istanbul Airport for the flight home.