



"10 days, Biblical Tour in Asia Minor, On the trail Apostle Paul, and the first seven churches"

Day 1: Istanbul. Your guide welcomes you at the airport and accompanies you to the hotel. After a welcome dinner, we relax in the hotel. We stay two nights in Istanbul.

Day 2: Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Hippodrom, Suleymaniye Mosque, Palace of Ibrahim Pasa - Museum of Turkish and Islamic arts and crafts, Grand Bazaar: We visit Hagia Sophia, the most important and largest church of Christianity in the Middle Ages. The name Hagia Sophia means "Holy Wisdom". Afterwards we will visit the Museum of Turkish and Islamic arts and crafts. Later, we visit a Hippodrome. The Blue Mosque is our next visit in front of Hagia Sophia with its charming atmosphere and with its unique pottery. We visit the Suleymaniye Mosque, built by the architect Sinan, the name of the Sultan, "Süleyman the Magnificent." We experience the Grand Bazaar with its purely oriental atmosphere.

Day 3: Tekirdag - Troy and Assos: Today we leave Istanbul with tour buses to the west (Thrakia and Hellespontes). Firstly we visit the Monument of 1 World War II in Canakkale for a trip across Tekirdag. We cross the Dardanelles by ferry. We visit Troy, with its 5000 year history and discover its famous Trojan horse. Assos city is a place with a marvellously view to the Lesbos island where the famous Aristotle, 347-344 BC in. had lived. We stay overnight in Güre - Edremit.

Day 4: Assos - Pergamum (Bergama) - Thyatira (Akhisar) - Smyrna (Izmir): Today we attend three of the seven communities, namely, Pergamum, Thyatira and Smyrna. Our first goal is to visit Pergamum - the castle rock rises above the Bergama. The excellent view of the city, which every visitor will experience. Smyrna / Izmir, the third largest city of Turkey, it is still impressive as thousands years before. Here we feel the old and new, ancient and modern atmosphere at once. We overnight in Izmir.

Day 5: Izmir - Sardis (Sart) - Philedelphia (Alasehir) - Denizli - Laodiceia – Pamukkale; We visit Hierapolis the next three of the seven communities, namely, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodiceia. In Pamukkale we see the natural calcium travertine. This natural phenomenon with hot water and white colour is a recreation opportunity and deserves its name "Cotton Castle. We will also visit Hierapolis, necropolis with tombs, etc., theatre. The thermal baths in the hotel are waiting for refreshment. We stay overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 6: Pamukkale - Tavas - Aphrodisias - Aydin – Kusadasi; Today we drive to Aphrodisias. Its stadium is so far the best preserved ancient stadium with the 262 m long and with 59 m width.in the 5th century. Aphrodisiac was the capital of Caria, famous as a centre of medicine and philosophy. Here were trained sculptor students, which were esteemed in Rome. We stay overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 7: Ephesus (Efes) - Selcuk - Smyrna (Izmir) - Bursa: Ephesus is important historically city and one of the best-preserved ancient cities. Ephesus had considerable Influence on the history and Christianity in ancient and medieval times, one of the seven churches and also the meeting place of the 3.Ecumenical Council. It was the dominant city for commerce, the arts, in politics, science and architecture in ancient and medieval times. We also visit the Temple of Artemis one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The House of Mary is a place of pilgrimage for Christians. The Basilica of St. John is another most important place to visit. We stay overnight in Bursa.

Day 8: Bursa - Nicea (Iznik) - Istanbul This morning we visit the Bursa city, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, which named "Yesil Bursa" (Green Bursa). We will visit the Yesil Mosque, Ulu Mosque from 14 and 15th.Century, then the interesting oriental bazaar in Bursa and then another important city of the middle Ages, namely Nikea (Iznik). The first and 7 Ecumenical council had gathered here. After the Crusaders' occupation of Nicea,

Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine Empire to 1261st. We will visit the city walls and gates, the Haghia Sophia Church (meeting of 7th Ecumenical Council). We stay two nights in Istanbul.

Day 9: Topkapi Palace, Chora Church, Spice Bazaar, Yeni Mosque and Bosphorus: Today we are attending the modern and oriental faces of Istanbul. We visit the famous Topkapi Palace and we can dream about the lives of sultans and feel even once. Our next visit is the Chora Church, which is one of the most important churches of the Byzantine era. Its frescoes and mosaics from this period give us an idea of this importance. We also visit Spice Bazaar and Yeni Mosque at Eminönü.

The white gulls in the blue sky accompany us with their singing during the Bosphorus boat trip. The dark blue of the Bosphorus is as deep as the history of Istanbul.

Day 10: Departure: Transfer from hotel to airport. We say "goodbye" until next time.

