

## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 9 Day Biblical Tour Turkey

Welcome to Turkey! In these 9 days, we will get to see the religious and legendary elements of ancient times from Istanbul to Ancient City of Troy, Biblical Monuments and mystical temples all around Aegean Region. This trip will be a journey of a lifetime for religion enthusiastic and believers.



**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€455 €455

**DURATION**

9 days

**TOUR ID**

7

## ITINERARY

## **Day 1 : Istanbul - Arrival Day**

Upon our arrival at Istanbul International Airport, your guide will meet, assist and transfer you to the hotel. Istanbul's original name is Byzantium then Constantinople. It is a most fascinating city, which actually crosses two continents Europe and Asia. It is a city of amalgamation of bazaars, minarets, mosques, churches, palaces, and restaurants catering to every one's taste, museums, customs and twelve million people. Overnight in Istanbul.

## **Day 2 : Istanbul City Tour**

Breakfast Included

Our journey begins in Istanbul, the only city in the world situated on two continents. Today we will discover the Byzantine and Ottoman treasures of Istanbul. We visit St. Sofia, the (church of the sacred wisdom), converted to a mosque from a Christian basilica after the fall of Constantinople in 1453. We see the Hippodrome and the Obelisk brought from Egypt. Then our next visit is the Blue Mosque with its six minarets. Afternoon we will visit the Topkapi Palace, which was the residence of the Ottoman sultans, with its fabulous treasure chambers.

After the lunch, Murtis Tour will take you to the Grand Spice Bazaar which is a unique atmosphere with reasonable prices for your shopping. Here you will find; Exotic Spices and Herbs, Turkish Baklava, Turkish Delights, Turkish Coffee, nuts and fruits, small souvenirs such as Ceramic Handicrafts, Evil Eyes totems, all natural olive oil, soaps and many other goods in Souvenir Shops and stores. After the tour, transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

## **Day 3 : Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast between 08:00 am and 09:30 am pick ups from hotel. Final timing one day before will be given you by your tour consultant. **BOSPHORUS BY BOAT**; a traditional excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. During the excursion, you will see the magnificent sights of the following attractions from your boat.

See Dolmabahce Palace, and further along, the parks and imperial pavilions of Yildiz Palace. On the coastal edge of this park, is Ciragan Palace, 300 meters of its marble facade faces the shore. At Ortakoy a great variety of artists, gather every Sunday to display their work along the street. Ortakoy is a symbol of tolerance with a church, a mosque and a synagogue existing side by side for centuries.

**RUMELI FORTRESS** (view from boat), Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Istanbul was completed in only four months to control and protect the infamous Bosphorus passage. It is one of the most beautiful works of military architecture anywhere in the world. **BEYLERBEYI PALACE** (view from boat), is the summer residence of Ottoman sultans exists in its original renovated glory featuring original antique furniture and magnificent gardens with the Harem on the Asian side of Istanbul.

Lunch break at the Turkish restaurant. After the lunch we will then take you to the **GRAND COVERED BAZAAR** In this labyrinth of streets and passages are more than 4,000 shops with each trade having its own area: the goldsmiths' street, the carpet sellers, Turkish arts and crafts, such as hand painted ceramic plates, hand-honed copperware, brassware and trays, water ewers, onyx-ware and meerschaum pipes. After the tour transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

## **Day 4 : Istanbul - Troy - Canakkale**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast, we depart for Gallipoli, through the European lands of Turkey. Cross the Dardanelles Strait by ferry - boat. Lunch break will be given en route. Visit ancient Troy, see the legendary walls and the replica of the wooden horse. Drive to Canakkale, that lends its name to the Straits of the Dardanelles (in antiquity it was called Hellespont).

This narrow passage connects the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and further north opens into the Black Sea, on the southern shores of the former USSR. Check in at the hotel followed by dinner. Overnight in Canakkale.

## **Day 5 : Pergamon - Thyatira - Izmir**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

After breakfast at our hotel in Canakkale, we drive to Pergamum, actually called Bergama. It is one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 2:12]. Here we explore the impressive Acropolis, the steepest theatre in the world. Then the Asklepion, famous medical centre of classical times, see the Altar of Zeus, which mentioned as the «Throne of Satan» in the book of Revelation. Moreover, the marble columns of the Temple of Trajan and the Library, which was foremost in the world and was, long a rival of the equally famous Library of Alexandria in Egypt. Its wealth of volumes was estimated at over 200, 000. It inspired the invention of parchment.

We also visit the Red Basilica (St. Johns Church). Lunch break will be given en route. Then we continue our visit to Thyatira, now called Akhisar, another one of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 2:18 - 24; Acts 16:14]. It was a city famous for purple dyes. We visit the remains of a basilica and some architectural fragments from the Roman period. Lydia, the seller of purple in Philippi, was from Thyatira.

Before we check in at the hotel in Izmir, we enjoy a panoramic ride of Smyrna, the third largest city in Turkey and one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 2:12 - 17]. Smyrna is a city scarred with a bloody history of trade and warfare. We ascend to Mount Pagus where we visit the Citadel of Lysimachos, commander of Alexander the Great, erected in the 4th century BC. We will also see the Clock Tower. Check in at the hotel for dinner. Overnight in Izmir.

## **Day 6 : Izmir - Sardis - Philadelphia - Hierapolis**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Today we depart early in the morning to one of the most picturesque areas of any of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:1 - 4], Sardis, presently Sart. This was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the 6th century BC, portrayed as a dying church. We visit the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele, which became a Byzantine Church. We will also visit the restored gymnasium and reconstructed Synagogue. We also see the last several meters of the royal Persian Road from Susa to Sardis built by Cyrus the Great and the «golden» river Pactolos. Lunch 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 see the remains of a Byzantine basilica built of brick, with a bit of high arch and some 11th century frescoes.

We drive to the healing city of Hierapolis, actually 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 the founders of Hierapolis and of Laodicea in 190 BC. In Hierapolis [Col. 4:13] we visit the Martyrium of the Apostle Philip where he was martyred during the

persecutions ordered by Domitian.

We visit the Gate of Domitian, the Arcadian Way, the 2nd century AD Theatre, the Nymphaion, the Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium and the Necropolis. Dinner and overnight. Pamukkale

### **Day 7 : Laodicea-Aphrodisias-Kusadasi**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

We depart for Laodicea (present name Denizli) yet another of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13 - 16]. We see the ancient theatre, the remains of basilica and ancient stone water pipes. Aphrodisias is our next stop. We visit the best - preserved ancient stadium ever excavated where the seating capacity was 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, part of a building christened by the archaeologists. Lunch en route.

Drive to Kusadasi, in the Turkish language, Kusadasi, this lovely and peaceful little port and fashionable resort, means "Island of Birds". It is built along the shores of a glittering bay, around a tiny islet covered with pine - trees and flowers. The terraced town overlooks the most beautiful bay of the Aegean Sea and seems it has been created purely for the delight of the holidaymaker. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.

### **Day 8 : Ephesus - Kusadasi**

Breakfast and Dinner Included

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Ephesus including the Basilica of St. John. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an epistle from him. We tour the spectacular ruins where excavations still continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC.

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 Theatre. The Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city. Lunch en route. We visit the Basilica of St. John. We visit The House of Virgin Mary where she spent her latest years. Overnight in Kusadasi.

### **Day 9 : Izmir - End of Tour**

Breakfast Included

Pick up from hotel and transfer to Izmir Airport for flight back home. We hope your tour was a memorable one and we would like to see you in the future in one of our tours again. Have a nice trip back home and thanks for choosing us.

## **Includes**

- Guided Istanbul city tour

- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- Guided Istanbul Bosphorus cruise
- Guided Ephesus tour
- 2 nights hotel in Kusadasi
- 1 nights hotel in Pamukkale
- Arrival airport transfer from Istanbul airport
- 1 night hotel in Canakkale
- 8 open buffet breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Guided Troy tour
- 3 nights hotel in Istanbul
- Guided Philadelphia, Sardes and Smyrna tour
- 1 night hotel in Izmir
- Guided Laodicea - Aphrodisias – Kusadasi tour
- Guided Thyatira Pergamum Tour
- Hotel room taxes
- Return airport transfer for Izmir Airport

## **Excludes**

- International flights
- Insurance: All types
- Turkey entry visa
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Domestic flight price for adult travelers is approximately Euros: 50,00 for one way and for under 2 years old, approximately Euros: 20,00 as an insurance policy.
- City tax
- Tipping
- Domestic flight from Izmir to Istanbul

## **Routes**

## **Conditions**

## Available On Dates

14 May, 2020 - 31 March, 2022 Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

## Hotels

Destination SILVER TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category GOLDTOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category Istanbul Pullman Hotel or Ramada Hotel Golden Horn The Marmara Pera Hotel Canakkale Troia Tusan Hotel Troia Tusan Hotel Izmir Karaca Hotel Wyndham Grand ?zmir Ozdilek Hotel Pamukkale Pam Thermal Hotel Pam Thermal Hotel Kusadasi Comfort Ada Class Hotel Suhan 360 Hotel