



## In The Footsteps Of St. Paul, Seven Churches and Patmos

**Tour Days :** 14

**Tour Departure From :** Istanbul

**Tour Departure End :** Istanbul

**Tour Departure :** All year round

**Tour Overview :** 3 nights Istanbul, 1 night Bursa, 1 night Ayvalik, 2 nights Izmir, 2 nights Kusadasi, 1 night Pamukkale, 2 nights Cappadocia, 1 night Antakya

\*\* On Mondays, when St. Sophia is closed, we visit the Chora Church, famed for its mosaics.

\*\* On Tuesdays, when Topkapi Palace is closed, this tour is not offered.

### Tour Highlights

- St. Sophia Museum, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, St. Irene and St. Chora Museum
- Iznik (Nicea), Bursa Green Mosque and Green Mausoleum
- Canakkale Gallipoli, Troy, Alexandra Troas
- Pergamon, Asclepion, Acropolis, ancient Serapium, Red Court, Akhisar Thyatira
- Sardes, Philadelphia, Izmir St. Policarp Church
- Ephesus, Virgin Mary`s House, Basilica of St. John, Miletos
- Greek Island of Patmos, Cave of Revelation and St. John`s Monastery
- Aphrodisias, Laodicea and Hierapolis
- Pisidian Antioch, Konya the Mevlana Mosque and Mausoleum
- Goreme, Zelve Valley, Underground City
- Tarsus and Antakya
- Museum of Antioch, the Cave Church

### Tour Itinerary

#### Day 1 : Istanbul

Arrive Istanbul. Meet and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon orientation tour in Istanbul, if time permits (according to the arrival time). Overnight in Istanbul.

#### Day 2 : Istanbul

St. Sophia, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, St. Irene and St. Chora Museum. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

#### Day 3 : Istanbul - Bursa

Drive to Iznik (Nicea), the site of the First and Seventh Ecumenical Councils. Drive to Bursa, visit the Green Mosque and the Green Mausoleum. Overnight in Bursa. (B,L,D)

#### Day 4 : Bursa - Troy - Ayvalik

Continue to Canakkale, visit Gallipoli, Troy, Alexandra Troas where St.Paul met Luke. Overnight in Ayvalik. (B,L,D)

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

Depart to Pergamon, visit the Asclepion, the ancient hospital, the Acropolis, the Church at the site of ancient Serapium and the Red Court dedicated to St. John. Then visit Akhisar, the site of ancient Thyatira. Overnight in Izmir. (B,L)

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

Visit Sardis, the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia, visit the Church built on the foundations of the Temple of Artemis. Continue to Alasehir, ancient Philadelphia. Return to Izmir, visit St. Policarp Church. Overnight in Izmir. (B,L)

**Day 7 : Ephesus - Kusadasi**

Drive to Ephesus where St. Paul stayed a while, visit the ancient city, House of the Virgin Mary, the Basilica of St. John, continue to Miletos where St. Paul gave a speech to spread Christianity. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B,L,D)

**Day 8 : Kusadasi - Patmos (Greek Island) - Kusadasi**

Daily tour to the Greek Island of Patmos by private boat. Visit the Cave of Revelation and St. John's Monastery. Return to Kusadasi for overnight. (B,D)

**Day 9 : Aphrodisias - Laodicea - Pamukkale**

Visit Aphrodisias, Laodicea and Hierapolis, overnight in Pamukkale. (B,L,D)

**Day 10 : Pisidian Antioch - Iconium - Cappadocia**

Visit Pisidian Antioch, Konya (Iconium), the Mevlana Mosque and Mausoleum, proceed to Cappadocia for overnight. (B,L,D)

**Day 11 : Cappadocia**

Visit Goreme, Zelve Valley, Underground City. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B,L,D)

Optional: Balloon Tour

Pick up from the hotel roughly one hour before the sunrise (App. 05:00 o'clock) and transfer to the base. After serving tea, coffee and cookies while waiting for the other participants proceed to the take-off field designated for that day. After a safety briefing delivered by the pilot, climb in to the baskets and take off. Rise to the altitudes of several hundred meters to have a good view of the area and drift through the valleys and canyons for some 60 minutes. On landing, have a traditional celebration party with champagne and cakes. Thereafter transfer back to the hotel.

Per Person Group Rate : 120.-Euro

**Day 12 : Cappadocia - Tarsus - Antioch**

Depart to Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul, continue to Antakya (Biblical city of Antioch) where St. Paul and St. Barnabas stayed. Overnight in Antakya. (B,L,D)

**Day 13 : Antioch - Fly Istanbul**

Visit the Museum of Antioch with its famous mosaics and St. Peter's Grotto, the Cave Church where early Christians met in secret. Drive to Adana airport for late afternoon flight to Istanbul. Transfer to hotel, overnight in Istanbul. (B,L)

**Day 14 : Istanbul**

Transfer to Istanbul airport for departure. (B)

**Tour Inclusions**

- 13 nights hotel accommodation at the above mentioned hotels
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- All escorted transfers
- Daily breakfast, 10 lunches, 8 dinners
- Transportation by A/C bus, or A/C van depending on the size of the group

