

ytc



BIBLICAL TOUR

Spiritual Director - Rev Dr Stefan Attard

TÜRKIYE

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Celebrating the 1700th anniversary of Nicaea council.
Audience with the Patriarch Bartolimeo of Constantinople

19.09 - 27.09.2025

sacred passages | pilgrimage

DAY 1

Arrival in Istanbul

The group will gather at 08:45 at Malta International Airport for a 10:50 departure on Turkish Airlines, arriving in Istanbul at 16:40. Upon arrival, guests will check in at the hotel and enjoy dinner. Istanbul, a city where East meets West, is renowned for its historical significance as a cultural and political hub of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires.

DAY 2

Exploring Nicaea and Pergamon

After breakfast, the group will check out and visit Nicaea, commemorating the 1700th Anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, where foundational Christian doctrines were established. The journey continues to Pergamon, an ancient city known for its Acropolis, which housed the second-largest library of antiquity and the grand Altar of Zeus. After lunch and free time, the group will proceed to Izmir (ancient Smyrna), a vibrant city where Saint Polycarp, a disciple of the Apostle John, served as bishop. The day ends with check-in at a hotel in Izmir and dinner.

DAY 3

Journey through Sardis and Philadelphia

Following breakfast, the group will check out and visit Sardis, the capital of the Lydian Kingdom and famed for its wealth and archaeological remains, including a grand gymnasium and synagogue. The trip continues to Philadelphia, where the group will explore the ruins of the Church of St. John, an early Christian church. The day concludes with a drive to Pamukkale, known for its dazzling white thermal terraces, followed by check-in at a thermal hotel and dinner.

DAY 4

Discovering Laodicea and Hierapolis

The day begins with breakfast before traveling to Laodicea, a prosperous ancient city that boasts the ruins of the first basilica built after the Edict of Milan. The group will then visit Hierapolis, an ancient spa city, and see the tomb of Apostle Philip. Guests will also experience the stunning Cotton Terraces of Pamukkale, famous for their natural white travertine formations. Afterward, they will return to the hotel for dinner, with an optional hot-air balloon ride available for breath taking views of the terraces.

DAY 5

Historical Wonders of Miletus, Didyma, and Priene

After breakfast, the group will check out and travel to Miletus, a city that was an intellectual hub for Ionian philosophers and mathematicians such as Thales. They will visit Didyma, home to the impressive Temple of Apollo, known for its immense size and intricate carvings. Next, the group will explore Priene, an ancient city featuring the Seat of the Bishop and a well-preserved theatre. The day concludes in Kusadasi, where guests will check in and relax by the Aegean Sea, enjoying dinner.

DAY 6

Ephesus and Selcuk

The group will start the day by visiting the Hill of the Nightingales, home to the House of Mary, revered as the final residence of the Virgin Mary. They will then explore Ephesus, a magnificent archaeological site featuring the Library of Celsius and the Great Theatre. Afterward, they will travel to Selcuk to visit the Basilica of St. John, built over the tomb of the apostle. The day concludes with a return to Kusadasi for dinner and rest at the hotel.

DAY 7

Return to Istanbul and Thyatira

After breakfast, the group will check out and travel back to Istanbul. Along the way, they will visit Thyatira, an ancient city mentioned in the Book of Revelation, known for its textile and dyeing industries. The day ends with check-in at a hotel in Istanbul and dinner.

DAY 8

Exploring Istanbul's Treasures

After breakfast, the group will explore Istanbul's most iconic landmarks. They will visit the majestic Hagia Sophia, the opulent Topkapi Palace, the stunning Blue Mosque, and the underground basilica system, an engineering marvel of ancient times. A scenic Bosphorus cruise offers panoramic views of the city. If available, guests may meet with the Patriarch at the St. George Church. The day concludes with dinner at the hotel.

DAY 9

Farewell to Türkiye

The final day begins with breakfast and check-out. The group will attend Mass at the Minor Basilica of St. Anthony, one of the most prominent Roman Catholic churches in Istanbul. They will then visit the Chora Monastery, celebrated for its exquisite Byzantine mosaics, and the Patriarchate of Constantinople, the spiritual centre of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. The journey ends with a transfer to the airport in Edirne for a 14:25 departure, arriving in Malta at 18:20.





your dream | your destination

€1695 per person in Double/Twin Room
€280 Single Room Supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Return flights with Turkish Air to Turkiye
20KG check-in luggage
Return airport transfers
All excursion transportation as per itinerary
All excursions as per itinerary
Hotels 4* and 5* accommodation HB
Maltese/English speaking group leader
English speaking local tour guide
Service of a spiritual director, Rev Dr Stefan Attard
Entrance fees according to itinerary
Water in the Bus
Insolvency fund

PRICE EXCLUDES

Travel Insurance
Personal expenses
Lunches and Beverage
Entrances fees in Istanbul and Bosphorus cruise (€185)
Hot air balloon ride
Bosphorus cruise

The above itinerary and entrances are subject to change to unforeseen circumstances and weather conditions.

Terms & Conditions Apply

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