



A Pilgrimage to the Seven Churches of Revelation

MAY 8-15, 2023

Classical Treasures and Apocalyptic Churches
of Turkey's Aegean Region

LED BY

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- WITH
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(CHAPLAIN IN IZMIR)

TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —





St. John Basilica, Ephesus



SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION & more

May 8-15, 2023



Pergamum

Tour Itinerary:

May 8 Mon ARRIVE IZMIR (AIRPORT CODE ADB)

After landing at the Izmir International Airport, you may join one of our shuttle transfers at either 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, or 6:00 pm to your hotel. Dinner and overnight at your Hotel in Izmir. **(B,D)**

May 9 Tue PERGAMUM (Rev 1:11; 2:12-17) and THYATIRA (Rev 1:11; 2:18-29) - IZMIR

This morning, we'll travel north to visit the first of the seven cities of Revelation—**Pergamum**. It is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in all of Turkey. Its attractions are hard to surpass: a 10,000-seat **theatre** on the side of the **Acropolis** that is the steepest in the ancient world; the magnificently restored **Temple of Trajan**; the remains of a **library** of 200,000 volumes second in size only to that in Alexandria; the base of the **Altar of Zeus**; the **Temple of Dionysus**; and the **medical center of Asclepion**. This ancient healing center had its own theater, library, underground tunnel and other buildings. John warned the church here that they were living in a place of "Satan's throne" (Rev. 2:12-17). On our way back to Izmir, we'll make a brief stop at the ancient city of **Thyatira**, where, due to the presence of the modern city of Akhisar, few archaeological remains have thus far been uncovered. John warned the church here about its toleration of a woman symbolically called Jezebel who was leading believers astray, causing them "to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols" (Rev. 2:18-29). Return to Izmir. Dinner at Sirena Restaurant. Overnight. **(B,D)**

May 10 Wed EPHESUS (Acts 18:19-21, 24-26; 19:1-20:1; 20:16-17; 1 Cor 15:32; 16:8; Eph 1:1; 1 Tim 1:3; 2 Tim 1:18; 4:12; Rev 1:11; 2:1-7)

After enjoying one of our famous Turkish breakfasts at your hotel, you'll be met at your hotel by your driver and guide who will take you on a tour of ancient Ephesus. First, we'll visit the famous **ancient city of Ephesus**. This site had successive Hellenistic and Roman settlements and was an outstanding example of a Roman port city with a sea channel and harbor basin into which the Apostle Paul sailed. He lived and ministered here for 2-3 years after a riot in the **Great Theater**, which we can still visit today. Excavations have revealed other grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period including marble-paved roads, terrace homes of the elite, Roman Baths, the Celsus Library, and more. Today, Ephesus is also one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Next, we'll visit the **Tomb and Basilica of St. John**, the last-surviving disciple of Jesus who is said to have lived in Ephesus during his final years along with Jesus' mother Mary. After lunch in Selcuk, we drive to Mount Bulbul and stop at the **House of the Virgin Mary**. Both Christians and Muslims consider this site sacred, and on their visits they light candles and leave their prayers and wishes tucked into a wall there.

In the evening we shall celebrate the Eucharist together at our newly restored church of St Mary Magdalene, Bornova, followed by dinner al fresco in the gardens of one of Bornova's great Levantine mansions. Overnight Izmir. **(B,D)**

May 11 Thur DAY IN CENTRAL IZMIR

After breakfast we walk from our hotel to the Kemiralti (Izmir's grand bazaar) through the Basmane district along the chaotic but picturesque Anarfartalar Street. In the Bazaar we visit several of Izmir's beautiful synagogues and mosques, and the impressive Kizlagahanasi (a restored caravanserai) where we'll relax with a cup of Turkish Coffee. Lunch will be at the Abacioglu Han deep inside the Bazaar. We have a relaxed afternoon in which a stroll is recommended (!), which may include Clock Tower Square, a walk along the beautiful Kordon (seafront) with its cafes and galleries. Evening meal at Adabeyi Restaurant. Overnight Izmir. **(B,D)**

May 12 Fri SARDIS (Rev 1:11; 3:1-6), and PHILADELPHIA (Rev 1:11; 3:7-13)- COLOSSEA (Col 1:2) - PAMUKKALE

Depart for **Sardis**, one of the other cities of Revelation. Here, we'll see the remains of the magnificent **temple of Artemis** (later converted into a church), the beautifully reconstructed **gymnasium and public baths**, and the largest known **synagogue** outside Palestine. We'll make a brief stop in **Philadelphia**, where much of this ancient city has either been destroyed or lies buried under the modern city. John wrote to the church here (Rev. 3:7-13), commending them for their patience endurance in spite of persecution.

After a short visit to the unexcavated Colossae, our day will end in **Pamukkale**, "the Cotton Castle." This area is another UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its breathtaking waterfalls and calcium cliffs. This evening, you'll be able to have dinner and relax our hotel, which will have some of Pamukkale's famous heated thermal pools. Dinner and Overnight in Pamukkale. **(B, D)**



Laodicea

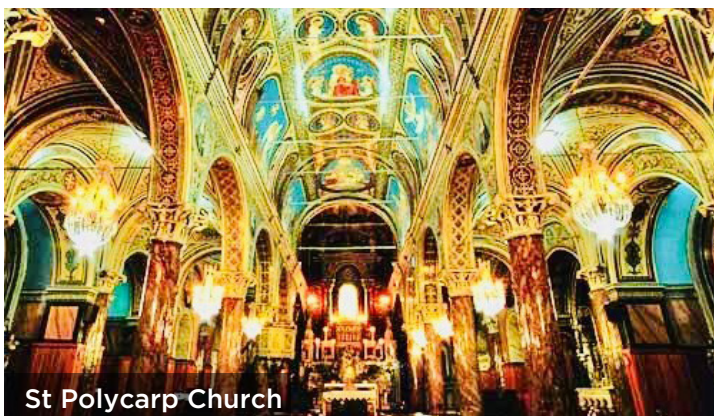
May 13 Sat LAODICEA (Col. 2:1, 4:13-16; Rev 1:11; 3:14-22), and **HIERAPOLIS** (Col. 4:13-15; 4:16) - **IZMIR**

Today, we'll enjoy the scenic **Lycus River Valley** where three important biblical cities are to be found: **Colossae, Laodicea,** and **Hierapolis**. Our first stop in **Colossae** will be brief since this city is one of the only biblical sites in Turkey that remains unexcavated. Nevertheless, this is an important site for Christians to visit since Paul sent here two letters: one to the church of Colossae and one to the rich Christian slave-owner Philemon, who hosted the Colossian church in his home. Our second stop is **Laodicea**, a major city in Roman times that is rapidly being uncovered. Laodicea had not one but two **theatres**, a **stadium**, an **aqueduct**, and over **20 churches** dating to Byzantine times that archaeologists have already uncovered. Laodicea is the last of the seven churches to whom John directed the book of Revelation (Rev. 3:14-22). It also had a close relationship with the nearby churches of Colossae and Hierapolis (Col. 4:13-15) and was the recipient of one of Paul's now lost letters (Col. 4:16). We'll finish our day with a walk along **Pamukkale's dazzling Calcium Cliffs**. In addition, we'll visit the remains of ancient **Hierapolisto** see the newly found **Tomb and Martyrium of St. Philip** and the city's **theater** with one of most impressive reconstructed **Roman skenes**. Return to hotel in Izmir. Dinner at Midpoint Restaurant. Overnight in Izmir. **(B, D)**

May 14 Sun IZMIR

Walk to St John's church through the Kultur Park (setting off at 9.20 AM) to attend 10.00 AM Eucharist at the Church of St John the Evangelist in the district of Alsancak. Enjoy refreshments with St John's Congregation, then walk to Kibris Sehitleri street and have lunch at Kircicegi Restaurant. After lunch we travel by coach to the citadel (Kadifekale), the place of the martyrdom of St Polycarp for spectacular views over the city. We conclude the day's visits with our final act of worship at the spectacular Roman Catholic Church of St Polycarp, where we will reflect on the life and witness of the city's most famous saint, and give thanks for the time of pilgrimage we have shared together. Final tour dinner. Final Tour Dinner at Altinkapi Restaurant. **(B, D)**

May 15 Mon DEPART FOR UK



St Polycarp Church

LAND RATES

GBP 650 Per Person in Double Occupancy

GBP 220 Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- 4 nights at **Kordon Cankaya Hotel** or similar
- 1 night at **Doga Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale** or similar
- 2 night at **Kordon Cankaya Hotel in Izmir** or similar
- Daily open buffet breakfasts at the hotels
- 2 dinners at the hotels (first day in Izmir and in Pamukkale)
- 5 dinners at local restaurants in Izmir
 - 1 dinner at Sirena Pub Restaurant
 - 1 dinner at Bornova
 - 1 dinner at Adabeyi Seafood Restaurant
 - 1 dinner at Altinkapi Restaurant
 - 1 dinner at Midpoint Restaurant
- Entrance fees to all sightseeing
- Government Licensed, Bible-oriented Tour guide throughout the tour
- Map of Turkey, Tutku Bag, Tutku t-shirt, electric plug, Luggage Tag
- Tips to hotel staff
- Service charges and local taxes

EXCLUDING

- Lunches and drinks
- Tips to tour guide, driver
- Personal Expenses, Travel and Health Insurance, any other item which is not included above
- Flights to and from Izmir

PAYMENT PROCEDURE

DEPOSIT : GBP 50 per person

FULL BALANCE PAYMENT : April 3, 2023

If you wish to pay with a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only), you can fill in the secure form at our website

<https://tutku.travel/payment/230508BUXTON>

You can also pay by bank transfer. Please ask us for our account details

Cancellation:

- 89-60 days prior to departure: No Penalty
- 59-45 days prior to departure: No Penalty
- 44-30 days prior to departure: 20%
- 29-15 days prior to departure: 50%
- 14 days & After: No refund



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