

Seven Churches of Revelation

Day 1 Early morning flight to Denizli (**Laodicea**), site of the 6th Church of Revelation. Continue to Hierapolis and visit the martyrium of St. Philip in the form of an octagonal chamber that was recently found. Continue to visit the last two churches from the Book of Revelation. Visit the ruins of (**Philadelphia**) then drive to (**Sardis**), capital of the Lydian Kingdom. See the remains of the Temple of Artemis, a Byzantine church, a reconstructed synagogue, and a large gymnasium. Continue to Ephesus for overnight.

Day 2 Full day visit to (**Ephesus**), the site of the first of the Seven Churches, to see the **Basilica of St. John**, and the extensive ancient ruins -colonnaded marble streets, temples, baths, gymnasium, the theatre where silversmiths rioted against St. Paul, the site of the Third Ecumenical Council, and the site of the Temple of Diana, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Last visit of the day is to the Ephesus Archaeological Museum to see the statue of Diana of the Ephesians. Overnight in Ephesus.

Day 3 In the morning, drive to Izmir, the third largest city in Turkey and the largest port on the Aegean. Izmir, known by the ancients as (**Smyrna**) is home to the second of the Seven Churches of Revelation as told in the New Testament. In the afternoon visit Mt. Pagos and its ancient castle, known as "Velvet Castle," the Roman Agora, and the Archaeological Museum with its impressive collection of ancient and Roman artifacts from area excavations. Overnight in Izmir.

Day 4 Full day excursion to (**Pergamum**), third of the Seven Churches to see the Atlas of Zeus, believed to be referred to as the "Throne of Satan" in the Book of Revelation, the precipitous theatre, the library, and the gymnasium. Continue to the Aesculepium, the hospital of the ancient world. Here, patients underwent an amazingly advanced blend of psychosomatic cures. Also, visit the Archaeological Museum in the nearby Town of Bergama. On the way back to Izmir Airport, visit (**Thyatira**), site of the fourth of the Seven Churches to see the remains of a basilica and other architectural fragments from the Roman period. At Izmir Airport, take an evening flight back to Istanbul.