

Join Dr. Joe Shakour and Dr. John Reynolds for the Seven Churches of Asia Minor Tour March 13-20, 2027

with optional Patmos and Greek Islands Cruise March 20-23, 2027

YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

March 13: NEWYORK / ISTANBUL - Depart on an international overnight flight to Istanbul. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

March 14: ISTANBUL - Upon arrival in Istanbul, we'll be greeted by our tour escort, and next board our deluxe motorcoach for transfer to our hotel. Istanbul is the former Byzantium, the powerful capital of the Byzantine Empire, and the stronghold of Early Christianity. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (D)

March 15: ISTANBUL - Today we explore the magical city of Istanbul connecting two continents, Europe and Asia. We visit the Hagia Sophia Mosque, built as a Christian church in the 6th century CE; the Hippodrome of Constantinople, the center of social life in the Byzantine Empire; the impressive Blue Mosque with its iconic six minarets; the Topkapi Palace, home of the Ottoman Sultans for 400 years; and the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest and the oldest covered markets in the world. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul. (B/D)

March 16: ASSOS - Today we leave Istanbul and head to Canakkale via the Dardanelles. On the way we stop and visit a UNESCO World Heritage site, the city of Troy, one of the most famous cities in the ancient world and immortalized by Homer in "Iliad". We continue to Canakkale, ancient Dardanelia. We stop to see the wooden horse from the 2004 movie "Troy" exhibited on the Canakkale waterfront. Dinner and overnight in Assos. (B/D)

March 17: IZMIR - In the morning we drive to Alexandria Troas from where Paul, inspired by a dream, set sail to Neapolis in Macedonia on his second missionary journey (Act of the Apostles: 16-9). We continue to Assos where Paul rejoined his companions after more than 10 hours walk from Alexandria Troas (Acts: 20-13). Then on to Pergamon, one of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor addressed in Revelation. We see the majestic Acropolis with the remains of Temple of Zeus (The Great Altar of Pergamon associated with the temple and often referred to as "Satan's Altar" was moved in the 19th century to the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Germany); the Asclepium dedicated to the god of healing; the Serapeum, the temple dedicated to Egyptian god of healing and worshipped in ancient Rome and Greece; the Temple of Trajan; and the Theater with its seating capacity of 10,000 people. Next, we drive to Izmir stopping at Thyatira, home to one of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor: Lydia, the seller of purple (Acts 16:14) was from here. Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B/D)

March 18: PAMUKKALE - After a short morning sightseeing tour of Izmir (ancient Smyrna and one of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (Rev: 2-8)) we drive to Sardes (Rev: 3-1). We visit the Temple of Artemis dedicated to the goddess of the city; the Gymnasium - Bathhouse, the large complex housing bathhouse and exercise facilities; and the Synagogue of Sardis, the largest synagogue discovered in Asia Minor. We continue to Philadelphia (Rev: 3-7) and then to Laodicea (Rev: 3-14) to visit the next Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Drive to Pamukkale, famous for its unique stalactite formations and the beautiful natural pools of warm water. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B/D)

March 19: IZMIR / SELCUK - In the morning we visit Hierapolis (modern Pamukkale), a sacred and thriving Roman city was an important Christian center in the ancient world. We see its marvels such as the Necropolis, the Theater, the Temple of Apollo, the Byzantine Steet and Pluto's Gate, a site believed to be gateway to hell. Next, we drive to Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here (Acts: 17 and Rev: 2-1) we visit the Basilica of John, the last House of the Virgin Mary, and the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Dinner and overnight in Selcuk (B/D)

March 20: SELCUK / IZMIR / NEWYORK After breakfast we transfer to Izmir airport for our flight back home arriving the same day. (B)

OPTIONAL CRUISE EXTENSION

March 20: SELCUK / KUSADASI PATMOS - After breakfast we transfer to the port of Kusadasi where we embark on our cruise ship departing after noon. We sail to the island of Patmos where John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelation. We join the excursion to the "Cave of the Apocalypse" and the Monastery of St. John the Divine. Overnight on board. (B/L/D)

March 21: SANTORINI - We arrive in the charming island of Santorini in the morning. Here, you can take an optional excursion to visit the villages of Oia (at additional cost) or just relax and explore the island at your own pace. Overnight on board. (B/L/D)

March 22: LAVRIO / ATHENS - This morning we disembark in the port of Lavrio and depart for Corinth with a brief stop at the Corinth Canal which separates Peloponnese from the Greek mainland and connects the Ionian Sea with the Aegean Sea. Corinth was Paul's home for eighteen months. We visit the Archaeological Museum, the Bema, the Marketplace and the temples of Aphrodite, Apollo, and Poseidon. From the Bema at Corinth, Paul spoke to the Corinthians about our Lord and Savior Christ. Return to Athens in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Athens. (B/D)

March 23: ATHENS / NEW YORK - After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight back home arriving the same day. (B)

* (B,L,D) = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PRICE

\$3,998 with deposit by June 13, 2026

\$4,048 with deposit by Septemberr 13, 2026

\$4,098 with deposit after September 13, 2026

Pricing is per person,
based on double occupancy

Included:

- International airfare from New York to Istanbul and return from Izmir on Turkish Airlines.
- 6 nights in 4-star hotels 2 nights at the Ramada Inn by Wyndham-Istanbul, 1 night Nazihan Hotel in Assos, 1 night Kaya Prestige Hotel-Izmir, 1 night Adenpira Hotel in Pammukale and 1 night Hitit Hotel in Selcuk.
- Breakfast and dinner daily at the hotels
- Deluxe air-conditioned bus as per program
- English-speaking Tour Escort throughout
- Sightseeing as listed in the itinerary
- Porterage at hotels – 1 bag per person in/out (where available)
- City taxes

Not Included:

- Schengen visa, if any (strictly under own arrangement)
- Travel Insurance (highly recommended)
- Visits and entrances not mentioned in the program
- Other meals
- Any kind of tips/gratuities (Basic Tour \$100, Cruise \$25)
- Single Room Supplement - \$630 per person
- Cruise Extension - \$1,598 per person
- Cruise Single Supplement - \$950 per person
- Celestyal Cruise – 2 nights based on inside cabin, 1 night at the Athenaum Grand Hotel, Patmos shore excursion included. Meals daily on ship breakfast, lunch & dinner. In Athens, breakfast and dinner only.
- While on cruise the Greek Tourism Sustainability Fee must be paid locally at each port of call and cannot be collected in advance and be included in price

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