

## 8 DAYS THE SEVEN CHURCHES TOUR (Istanbul to Izmir ) (Valid Till : 16 Mar – Dec 2019)

Tour Code - BLC2

Highlights - Istanbul - Saint Sophia - Topkapi Palace - Blu Mosque - Grand Bazaar - Chora Church - Ecumenical Patriarchate

Izmir - Thyatira - Pergamon - Smyrna - Sardis - Philadelphia - Pamukkale - Kusadasi - Laodicea - Ephesus

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1 – ISTANBUL ARRIVAL

Arrival in Istanbul airport and meeting with guide at the airport, transfer to the hotel and check-in. Take a relax in your hotel and Discover to Istanbul on your free time. Overnight stay in *Istanbul*. (B)

#### DAY 2 – SULTANAHMET TOUR HAGIA SOPHIA – TOPKAPI PALACE – BLU MOSQUE – GRAND BAZAAR

After breakfast meet with our guide and start Istanbul Tour at 08:45 Today we will visit **the Topkapi Palace**, which was the home of the Ottoman sultans (15th-19th century A.D.) You will see the Imperial Treasury, diamond, gold and the famous Spoonmaker Diamond. (Harem section is optional and due an extra entry fee). After visit the **Saint Sophia** (Hagia Sofia) which was built by the emperor Justinian in the 6th century A.D and stands over much older remains of a church. See beautiful mosaics of biblical scenes and the Byzantine emperors and empresses. We take a selected restaurant.

We will see incredible beautiful the Blue Mosque, which was built in the 17th century and is the only imperial mosque with 6 minarets. Walking in the Hippodrome, a stadium and meeting place in Byzantine times, the Serpent Pillar from Delphi and the Egyptian Obelisk, with the Fountain of Wilhelm.

Finally visiting Grand Bazaar, which has over 4000 shops full of treasures and rich antique shops.

\*Note that on Sunday the Grand Bazaar is closed. On Monday the St Sophia is closed and on Tuesday the Topkapi Palace is closed. (All sights that are closed except for Grand Bazaar are replaced by a visit to the Yerebatan Underground Cistern). The end of tour return back to hotel Overnight stay in Istanbul. (B. L.)

#### DAY 3 - BYZANTINE CITY WALLS - CHORA CHURCH – ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE – IRON CHURCH – PIER LOTI

Departure from your hotel at 08:45. We will see Istanbul's Byzantine City Walls that were for the most part built during the 5th century by Emperor Theodosius and are 8 km long. We visit the **Kariye Museum** (Chora Church) with its 14th century mosaics and frescoes with scenes from the Bible.

After continue to the **Tekfur Palace** (view only) built during the 13th century, it is the only Byzantine Palace still standing today. We are visiting the **Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople** which has been in service since the 6th century. We take a lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch we continue to **Bulgarian Iron Church** The most metal church of all time. It was very old building and non use. But it was restored by the Turkish Government in 2015 and opened for worship. After we see **Eyup Sultan Mosque** (view from outside). It is one of the most holy places in Istanbul and the burial place of Eyub el-Ensari. Before the tour final we take a Cable Car up to **Pierre Loti Hill**, where you will get a beautiful view of the Golden Horn and can enjoy a Turkish coffee or tea in the famous Pierre Loti Café with a beautiful **Golden Horn** view. The end of tour transfer and overnight stay in Istanbul. (B.L.)

#### **DAY 4 – IZMIR – THYATIRA - PARGAMON**

Early Morning arrival and meeting with guide at the Izmir Airport just outside the arrival's gate with a sign bearing your name. Then we continue our visit to **Thyatira**, now called **Akhisar**, another one of the **Seven Churches of Asia** [Rev. 1:11; 2:18 - 24; Acts 16:14]. It was a city famous for purple dyes. We visit the remains of a basilica and some architectural fragments from the Roman period. Lydia, the seller of purple in Philippi, was from Thyatira.

After drive to **Pergamon** arrive and we have a lunch in a local restaurant.

Visit Acropolis and Great Theatre, the steepest of the ancient world. Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as "where Satan's seat is", a reference to the altar of Zeus, where we pause for reflection on the fulfillment of Scripture. The church in Pergamum (2:12-17) existed in the place where Satan had his throne. Visit **Red Basilica**, Asclepion which is the famous medical center of antiquity. Arrive and overnight stay at hotel in Izmir. (B.L.D.)

#### **DAY 5 – SMYRNA – SARDIS – PHILIDELPHIA - PAMUKKALE**

After breakfast sight seeing in Izmir. Visit the second city of the seven churches of Book of Revelation to receive the message from the St. John was that of **Smyrna**. Visit **Smyrna Ancient biblical church** (Rev. 1:11;2:8) one of the biblical seven churches. And continue Salihli city ( **Sardis** ), presently Sart. This was the capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the 6th century BC, portrayed as a dying church. We visit the great Temple of Artemis and the Temple of Cybele, which became a Byzantine Church. We will also visit the restored gymnasium and reconstructed Synagogue. Lunch en route. Then we continue our journey to **Philadelphia**, nowadays called **Alasehir**, another church of the Seven Churches of Asia [Rev. 1:11; 3:7], and the only church not censured. There we see the remains of a Byzantine basilica built of brick, with a bit of high arch and some 11th century frescoes. Arrive and overnight at thermal hotel in Pamukkale. ( B.L.D.)

#### **DAY 6 – HIERAPOLIS – LAODICEA – APHRODISIAS - KUSADASI**

After breakfast start our tour in Pamukkale. In **Hierapolis** [Col. 4:13] we visit the Martyrium of the Apostle Philip where he was martyred during the persecutions ordered by Domitian. We visit the Gate of Domitian, the Arcadian Way, the 2nd century AD Theatre, the Nymphaion, the Temple of Apollo, the Plutonium and the Necropolis. Walking on the white travertines. We take a Lunch in a local restaurant.

We depart for **Laodicea** (present name Denizli) yet another of the **Seven Churches of Asia Minor** [Rev. 1:11; 3:14; Col. 2:1; 4:13 - 16]. We see the ancient theatre, the remains of basilica and ancient stone water pipes. Aphrodisias is our next stop. We see the odeon with its extraordinary blue marble stage, the Temple of Aphrodite that marks the site of ancient veneration, Hadrian's Bath and the Bishop's Palace, part of a building christened by the archaeologists.

We depart for Aphrodisias visiting the ancient site of **Aphrodisias** the ancient city of Aphrodisias is one of the most important archaeological sites of the Greek and Roman periods in Turkey. The name of the city is derived from the goddess of love, Aphrodite – called Venus by Romans, who has her famous sanctuary here. Arrive and Overnight stay in Kusadasi ( B.L.D. )

#### **DAY 7 – EPHEBUS – THE HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARRY – ST. JOHN CHURCH**

Ephesus is the most important of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. It is thought that the Gospel of John was written here. Visit the famous ancient city of **Ephesus** (Acts 18:19-24; 19:1-35), and its **Terrace Houses**, the **Ephesus Archaeological Museum** and the **Basilica of St. John**. Today we enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Ephesus including the **Basilica of St. John**. The Apostle Paul preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an epistle from him. We tour the spectacular ruins where excavations still continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Theatre. The Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, another of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city.

Lunch at a selected local restaurant. After visit Temple of Artemis is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. We visit the **Basilica of St. John**.. See the final abode of the Virgin Mary where she spent her last years. Overnight stay at hotel in Kusadasi. ( B.L.D.)

#### DAY 8 – THE END OF TOUR – RETURN TO COUNTRY

**Kusadasi** is one of the most popular touristic resort in Turkey. After breakfast explore Kuşadası in your free time till your flight time from Izmir Airport . You can visit the historical caravanserai, the excellent bazaar, the Pigeon Island Castle.

Our tour concludes and are transferred to the airport for your onward flight to your country. Hope to see you at the another tour.

## PRICES

### Private Tour Price list ( Guaranteed Departures Daily )

(Rate In Euro)

<b>Winter Season Date : 01.11.2019 - 29.12.2019 //</b>						
Rates are based on per person						
Hotels	2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10	11 - 12
	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person
<b>HOTELS 4*</b>	<b>1770 €</b>	<b>1350 €</b>	<b>1015 €</b>	<b>885 €</b>	<b>798 €</b>	<b>750 €</b>
<b>HOTELS 5*</b>	<b>1885 €</b>	<b>1466 €</b>	<b>1130 €</b>	<b>986 €</b>	<b>917 €</b>	<b>865 €</b>

- Child 03 - 06,99 : **190 EURO**

<b>Summer Season Date : 16.03.2019 – 31.10.2019 //</b>						
Rates are based on per person						
Hotels	2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10	11 - 12
	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person	Per Person
<b>HOTELS 4*</b>	<b>1870 €</b>	<b>1456 €</b>	<b>1120 €</b>	<b>970 €</b>	<b>895 €</b>	<b>845 €</b>
<b>HOTELS 5*</b>	<b>2050 €</b>	<b>1629 €</b>	<b>1294 €</b>	<b>1150 €</b>	<b>1080 €</b>	<b>1015 €</b>

- Child 03 - 06,99 : **220 EURO**

- Please kindly contact us for your group requests

**Prices includes**

- Istanbul Airport Transfer pick-up and drop back to your hotel
- Izmir Airport – Hotel – Izmir Airport Transfer
- Istanbul - Izmir - Istanbul Domestic Flight
- All Entrance Fees the sides and museum.
- All tours in the program
- Professional licenced educucatiidional tour guide
- 7 Nights Accommodation at your preferred hotel.
- Transportation Private A.C. Luxurius Car, Van, or Midibus, parking and VAT.
- Breakfast included in the hotel.
- 6 Lunches 4 Dinner 7 Breakfast:
- Transfers Car, Van, or Midibus, parking and VAT.

**Tour Excluding**

- Personal expences
- Beverages
- Tips to guide, driver and hotel personnel

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(AT-10/06/2019)