



Mavi Marmara Inc., 1912, La Brisa Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77807, USA
USA: Tel: +1 (979) 485 1776, Fax: +1 (979) 704 6542
Turkiye: WhatsApp: +90 533 634 95 15
www.mavitours.net
www.mavitoursmed.com

Biblical Group Tour-7 Churches of Revelations

Minimum Group of 12+ PAX

Istanbul/Selcuk/Pamukkale (6 nights/7 days)

January to December 2024

A Brief History of Istanbul:

Istanbul, previously known as Constantinople or ancient Byzantium, is the largest city in Turkiye and used to be the capital of both the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires.

For more than 2,500 years the old walled city was one of the most coveted cities in the world surrounded by water (Bosporus) dividing Europe and Asia. It has seen religious conflicts, cultural transformation, and a seat of imperial power.

The Importance of This Tour:

This tour is specially designed to suit the spiritual and historical needs of those interested in visiting the holy sites of the Christian civilization in Turkiye.

About 7 Churches of Revelation:

The Book of Revelation addresses seven letters to these seven churches located in Asia Minor (Turkiye). Each letter, as proclaimed by Jesus and recorded by John the Apostle, declares the triumphs and failings of the recipient churches, and warns each congregation to repent.

What do the churches symbolize:

- **The Church of Pergamum** - The Church that compromises its beliefs (*Revelation 2:12-17*)
- **The Church of Thyatira** - The Church that follows false prophets (*Revelation 2:18-29*)

- **The Church of Ephesus** - The Church that has abandoned its love for Christ and his teachings (*Revelation 2:1-7*)
- **The Church of Smyrna** - The Church that remains faithful despite persecution (*Revelation 2:8-11*)
- **The Church of Sardis** - The Church that is spiritually dead (*Revelation 3:1-6*)
- **The Church of Philadelphia** - The Church that patiently endured despite weaknesses (*Revelation 3:7-13*)
- **The Church of Laodicea** - The Church with lukewarm faith (*Revelation 3:14-22*)

Day-1: Welcome to Istanbul!

Departure from Home Country: The Tours starts from 2nd Saturday of each month; you have to take a flight to reach Istanbul on Friday and join the tour.

Pickup from Istanbul airport by a Mavi Tours representative and transferred to the hotel where you will be able to check in and rest for a while.

Afterwards, you have the freedom to walk and explore the old city of Istanbul on your own. No tours will be organized on this day.

Hotel: Ottoman Imperial Hotel <https://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com/index.php> or similar hotels

Room: Single, Twin, & Triple w/B&B

Rating: ★★★★★☆

Tour Guide: Not Available

Day-2: Istanbul:

Meet at the hotel lobby at 9:00 AM after breakfast to visit the following sites with a licensed English-speaking tour guide:

- **Topkapi Palace:** Built after the capture of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet and used by all the sultans till 1857 when they moved to Dolmabahce Palace (2 hours)
- **Hagia Irene:** Hagia Irene or Hagia Irene, sometimes known also as Saint Irene, is an Eastern Orthodox church located in the outer courtyard of Topkapi Palace (½ hour)
- **Hagia Sophia:** Officially the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, is a mosque and a major cultural and historical site in Istanbul, Turkiye. The church was built by Byzantine emperor Justinian was originally a Greek Orthodox church from 360 AD until the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. It served as a mosque until 1925, when it was converted into a museum by Ataturk, and converted again into a mosque in 2019. (1 ½ hour)

lunch break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

- **Basilica Cistern:** This underground water cistern was a source of water supply to Constantinople built in the 4th century by Emperor Constantine (1 hour)
- **Mosaic Museum:** Located close to the Blue Mosque, at Arasta Bazaar, the museum houses mosaics from the Byzantine period, unearthed at the site of the Great Palace of Constantinople (1 hour)
- **Bosporous Cruise Dinner:** starting at 8.00pm the cruise will last for about 3 hours with music and dance.

Drop back to the hotel at around 11.00 PM.

Day-3: Istanbul:

Meet at the hotel lobby at 10:00 AM after breakfast to visit the following sites.

- **Grand Bazaar:** Built in 1456, this is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with over 4,000 shops, attracting between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. The shops sell a variety of goods such as carpets and kilims, colorful lamps and lanterns, ceramics, Turkish metalware, gold and silver jewelry, leather goods, etc. Price bargains are customary at most shops which could be in the range of 10% to 40% (3 hours)
- **Galata Tower:** The Galata Tower, officially The Galata Kulesi Museum, is an old Genoese tower in the Galata part of the Beyoglu district of Istanbul, Turkiye. Built as a watchtower at the highest point of The Walls of Galata, the tower is now an exhibition space and museum, and a symbol of Beyoglu district and Istanbul.
- **St. Antoine Church:** The Church of St. Anthony of Padua, alternatively known as Sant'Antonio di Padova Church or S. Antonio di Padova, is the largest Catholic church in Istanbul. It is located on Istiklal Avenue in the Beyoglu district, together with the churches of St. Mary Draperis and of SS.
- **Istiklal Street:** You may walk along Istiklal Street, also called the walking street for shopping, and take a break for lunch, dinner and perhaps enjoy a cup of Turkish tea or coffee.

lunch break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Back to the hotel by 8:00 PM after dinner at Istiklal street.

Day-4: Istanbul/Selcuk:

Check out and leave the hotel after breakfast by 8:00 AM for Bergama (Pergamum) in a Mercedes Sprinter airconditioned Luxury Van. It is about 5 hours' drive and reach there by 2:00 PM with stop overs. A licensed English-speaking tour guide will be available:

Have a lunch break for an hour on the way to The Church of Pergamum at about 1:00 PM.

- **The Third Church, Church of Pergamum:** Christianity in Pergamum was at odds with the city's strong belief and history of Pagan Gods. The clash of the Christian

and the Pagan is also addressed in the letter to the Church, praising those who held fast in their faith and admonishing those who persisted in the worship of Pagan Gods.
(1 ½ hour)

- **The Fourth Church, Church of Thyatira (Akhisar):** It is about 1 1/2 hours' drive. This Church was doing many things well, but they, too, were being led astray by teachings of a false doctrine. This meant participation in the guide feats that included immoral acts and the worship of false idols (2 hour).

Leave for the hotel, about 45km, at 6:00 PM to reach by 7:00 PM in Selcuk. After some rest you can venture out to explore this small town and have dinner.

Hotel: Hitit Hotel, a 4 star hotel <https://www.hitithotel.com.tr>

or similar hotels

Room: Single, Double, & Triple room w/B&B

Rating: ★★★★★

Tour Guide: Available

Day-5: Selcuk:

Meet at the hotel lobby after breakfast at 9:00 AM to visit the following sites with a licensed English-speaking tour guide:

- **Ephesus:** The city was built in the 10th century BC by Attica and the Ionian Greek colonists. The city came under the control of the Roman Empire in 129 BC. The ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus includes the iconic Library of Celsus, the Great Theater, the ancient walkway called the 'Curetes Street', and the incredible frescoes and mosaics of the Terrace Houses and the First Church of Revelation, The Church of Ephesus is where St. John lived and Christianity eventually became the city's main religion. In forsaking its original love for Jesus Christ, the Church of Ephesus has embraced power and control rather than serve, sacrifice, and love and the grace of Christ. (3 hours)
- **Temple of Artemis:** One of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis also known as the Temple of Diana, was a Greek temple dedicated to an ancient, local form of the goddess Artemis. By 401 AD it had been ruined or destroyed. Only foundations and fragments of the last temple remain at the site.
- **Cave of The Seven Sleepers:** It is believed in both Christianity and Islam that during the persecutions by the Roman Emperor Decius, around 250 AD, seven young men were accused of following Christianity. They were given some time to recant their faith, but they refused to bow to Roman idols. Instead, they chose to give their worldly goods to the poor and retire to a mountain cave to pray, where they fell asleep as it is claimed for 309 years.
- **The House of Virgin Mary:** Roman Catholics believe that Virgin Mary came to this place 5 years after the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, to spend the last years of her life.
- **Basilica of St. John:** The Basilica of St. John was a basilica in Ephesus, it was constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century.

Drop back to the hotel at around 8:00 PM after having dinner.

Day-6: Selcuk/Pamukkale:

Meet at the hotel lobby at 8:00 AM after breakfast and check out to visit the following sites with a licensed English-speaking tour guide:

- **The Second Church, Church of Smyrna (Izmir):** It is about 65 km to reach the destination by 9:30 AM.
The Church of Smyrna experienced persecution and the believers grew spiritually stronger from it. Their faith was proved to be real as they persevered and it encouraged others to remain faithful. **(1 hour)**
- **The Fifth Church, Church of Sardis (Sart):** It is about a 2-hour drive from Smyrna.
Biblically known as the home of the Church. Sardis was the capital of the Lydian Empire and one of the greatest cities and wealthiest Roman cities and home to a significant Jewish population and was an important city for the growth of Christianity in the area. Today, the city features the remains of The Temple of Artemis, a Synagogue, a Byzantine Church, and evidence of daily Roman life **(1 hour)**.

Lunch break for ½ hour.

- **The Sixth Church, Church of Philadelphia (Ataşehir):** It is about a 30-minute drive from Sardis.
Members of the Church of God in Philadelphia undoubtedly faced similar influences and pressures as did other Christians at the time. Yet the nature of Christ's message to this Church did not include correction. It only offered encouragement and promises. The Churches of St. John and St. Jean are the remaining Christian sites in the city **(spend 30 mins here)**
- **The Seventh Church, Church of Laodicea:** It is about a 1/2-hour drive from The Church of Philadelphia.
It probably is the most malignant of The Seven Churches. The Church of Laodicea is the last of The Seven Churches addressed in Revelation. This harsh pronouncement suggests that the Christians at Laodicea - located in modern Turkiye - wavered their commitments to the Christian faith. **(1 hour)**
- **Pamukkale:** It is about a 15 minutes' drive from Laodicea. The site of Pamukkale closes at 8:00 PM during spring and 8:30 PM in the summer.

Pamukkale is a town in western Turkiye known for the mineral-rich thermal waters flowing down white travertine terraces on a nearby hillside. It neighbors Hierapolis, an ancient Roman city founded around 190 B.C. Ruins there included a well-preserved theater, and a necropolis with sarcophagi that stretches for 2 km (1.24 miles). In this area, there are 17 hot springs with temperatures ranging from 5 °C to 100 °C (95 °F to 212 °F).

- **City of Hierapolis:** It is the place of St. Philip's martyrdom in 80 A.D., commemorated by his Martyrium building in the 5th century, Hierapolis with its several churches became an important religious center for the Eastern Roman Empire
- **Cleopatra's Pool:** According to legend, this artificially sculpted pool was a gift from Marc Anthony to Cleopatra. It is actually the most famous of the Marc Anthony gifts to Cleopatra, the Egyptian Queen. It is said that the historical pool, which dates back to the 16th century, was formed by the collapse of the buildings in the region into a pit formed as a result of earthquakes, and that this pit was filled with healing and soda thermal water.
- **Travertines of Pamukkale:** These were formed when a spring with a high content of dissolved calcium bicarbonate cascaded over the edge of the cliff, which cooled and hardened leaving calcium deposits. This formed into natural pools, shelves, and ridges, which tourists could plunge and splash in the warm water.

After exploring Pamukkale, you may then leave for Denizli, where you will be staying over for the night. After reaching the hotel and settling down, venture out for dinner.

Hotel: [Park Dedeman](#) or similar hotels

Room: Double, & Triple room w/B&B

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

Tour Guide: Available

Day-7: Pamukkale/Istanbul:

Checkout from the hotel after breakfast at 7:30 AM for Denizli airport for your flight back to Istanbul (Flight No.: TK 2579) leaving at 9:50 AM and reaching Istanbul at around 11:05 am. You will then be taking the flight back to your home country.

END OF THE TOUR

Dates of the Tour/Cancellation: Refer page 9 of this program for the tour dates. Mavi Tours reserves the right to cancel the tour any time and refund the amounts paid in full.

Pricing Per Person in US Dollars:

January-March/October-December 2024:

	Single B/R	Double B/R	Triple B/R
USD Per Person	1,575.00	1,250.00	1,195.00
Children Under 4-11	1,420.00	1,125.00	1,075.00

April-September 2024:

	Single B/R	Double B/R	Triple B/R
USD Per Person	1,725.00	1,330.00	1,260.00
Children Under 4-11	1,555.00	1,195.00	1,135.00

Children Under 3 are free.

Payment Terms:

- **Payment:** A deposit of 40% needs to be paid at the time of booking and the balance needs to be paid 10 days prior to the start of the tour.
- **Refund:** 70% of the amount paid will be refunded if cancellation is made between the date of deposit paid and 10 days prior to the start of the tour, 60% of the amount paid will be refunded if the cancellation is made 10 to 3 days prior to the start of the tour. No refund will be made if the cancellation occurs within 3 days from the start of the tour.

Inclusions:

- Hotel accommodation in Istanbul, Selcuk and in Pamukkale in a 4-star hotel with breakfast for 6 nights.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned Van or minibus with driver, petrol, car park and highway tolls for:
 - sightseeing in Istanbul, Selcuk and Pamukkale
 - Airport pick and drop in Istanbul and Denizli
 - Intercity travel between Istanbul, Selcuk and Pamukkale
- Airfare from Pamukkale/Denizli to Istanbul.
- Bosphorous cruise with dinner in Istanbul
- An English-Tour guide will be available in Istanbul, Selcuk and Pamukkale.
- VAT and other local taxes.

Exclusions:

- Air ticket from/to from your home country to the destination.
- Visa and related expenses
- Lunches, Dinners, and drinks
- Tips to the driver
- Medical Insurance and cost incurred due to medical condition and emergency medical treatment.
- Force majeure

Notes:

- We strongly advise you to get Travel Insurance policy to safeguard against any contingencies.
- We also advise you to take care of your personal belongings, Mavi Tours is not responsible for the loss of baggage or personal items during the duration of the tour.
- Please give tips to the supporting staff including concierge at the hotel, driver, and other staff for helping you with the luggage and other support services provided. It is normal practice in Turkey to give a tip of around 10% of the bill at the restaurants.

GROUP TOUR DATES-2024

Saturday, March 9th

Saturday, April 13th

Saturday, May 11th

Saturday, June 8th

Saturday, July 13th

Saturday, August 10th

Saturday, September 7th

Saturday, October 12th

Saturday, November 9th

Saturday, December 7th

Note:

- *We are flexible to change the travel dates if a group of 12 persons agrees to the change.*
- *We can customize the tour based on the requirements of potential customers.*