

Turkey & Greece with a Greek Islands Cruise

Including the 7 Churches of the Book of Revelation

Istanbul, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Smyrna, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Athens



Day 1 - Depart U.S.A

Day 2 - Arrive Istanbul

Day 3 - Istanbul

Full day tour of Istanbul visiting: the Hippodrome, the former sporting and social centre of Constantinople; the Blue Mosque, the 17th century Ottoman sanctuary adorned with six minarets and more than 20,000 hand-painted Iznik tiles; The Hagia Sophia, the domed Byzantine masterpiece; and Topkapi Palace, the former abode of Ottoman Sultans that still houses their legion of treasures, including an extensive collection of Chinese porcelain. In the afternoon wander the streets of the Nuruosmaniye District and the Grand Bazaar to shop for jewelry, leather, carpets and other souvenirs.

Day 4 - Istanbul

We will begin our day at the Church of Saint Savior in Chora, an exquisite example of Byzantine architecture embellished with 13th century frescoes and gold-gilded mosaics. Then on to the old city to shop, explore the Spice Market, and enjoy lunch at our leisure. In the afternoon, we will embark on a cruise of the Bosphorus, the winding straight that separates Europe and Asia and connects the Black Sea with the inland Sea of Marmara.

Day 5 - Istanbul - Kayseri - Cappadocia

Today, we fly to Kayseri and head to Cappadocia. Here, we will make our way through Goreme Valley, an open-air museum dotted with quaint carved-from-rock churches and chapels embellished with colorful frescoes. Then, we are off to Kaymakli, an underground city carved from volcanic rock by early Christians escaping Roman persecution. Afterwards, we will tour the monastic Valley of Zelve, the Valley of Fairy Chimneys, before returning to our hotel.

Day 6 - Cappadocia - Pamukkale

In the morning, will depart for the town of Yalvac on Lake Beysehir and visit the remains of the ancient city of Antioch in Pisidia where St. Paul wiped "the dust off his shoes" and turned to the Gentiles. Afterwards, we will continue on to our hotel in Pamukkale.

Day 7 - Pamukkale - Izmir

Today, we visit ancient Hierapolis, the Roman Basilica, and the Calcified Travertine's, which was recently declared a World Heritage Site. Afterwards, we continue to Laodocia, the ancient city which



is one of the Seven Churches. Next, we stop at the town of Alasehir to visit the remains of the ancient city of Philadelphia. And then we continue on to the ancient city of Sardis before we head to Izmir for the night.

Day 8 - Izmir - Smyrna - Pergamum - Thyatira - Kusadasi

We will begin our tour of Izmir at Smyrna, a city established in 3,000 B.C. and one of the Seven Churches. Then, we are off to Pergamon where we will visit the Asclepeion, the ancient hospital, the Acropolis, and the Church at the site of ancient Serapeium. Afterwards, we will visit Akhisar, the site of ancient Thyatira, and continue on to our hotel in Kusadasi.

Day 9 - Kusadasi - Ephesus - House of the Virgin Mary - Kusadasi

In the morning, we will visit the House of the Virgin Mary. Then we are off to Ephesus, the town where St. Paul lived and preached to the Ephesians. We will walk the town's marble streets, passing the Temple of Hadrian, the Theater and the Library of Celsus.

Day 10 - Start of Cruise - Island of Patmos

Sail to the Island of Patmos where St. John was exiled and wrote the Book of Revelation. Here, we have the chance to participate in an Optional Tour of the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist and the Grotto of the Revelation. Afterwards, we will leave Patmos and sail to the Island of Crete.

Day 11 - Island Of Crete - Island of Santorini

Arrive in Crete and explore the city at your leisure or participate in an Optional Tour offered by the cruise ship. Afterwards, we sail to Santorini where we can enjoy wandering the island's narrow streets lined with colorful houses, cafes and vendors and take in the amazing sunset before our ship sails for Piraeus.

Day 12 - Athens - Corinth

Disembark and begin our morning excursion, which takes us out of Athens by the Saronic Gulf and over the Corinthian Canal to Corinth. This is where the Apostle Paul established a thriving church. And it is here where will visit all the sites associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon and the Archaeological Museum. Afterwards, we will return to Athens and start our tour of the famous Parthenon and the Erechtheum and head to Mars Hill (Areopagus) where St. Paul delivered his famous sermon.

Day 13 - Return to USA

This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: anton@travelwithus.com

