



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS – 10 NIGHTS SEVEN CHURCHES

ANTIOCH-on-the-Orontes This city borrows its name from the Hellenistic city of Antiochia and the nearby Orontes river. Visit apostle Peter's grotto, the tunnel of the Roman emperor Titus and rock tombs from the Hellenistic period.

Tarsus the birth place of the apostle Paul and in his day, a university city surpassing Athens and Alexandria. Highlights include St Paul's well and Cleopatra's Gate.

CAPPADOCIA The landscape looks like it came out of a fairy tale, but Cappadocia has given us some great fathers of the Christian faith, including Basil the Great.

Derinkuyu A huge chimney ventilates this 8-level underground dwelling, which was used by Christians hiding from their Roman and Byzantine persecutors. Colourful frescoes abound in this massive labyrinth of tunnels, rooms, kitchens and wine cellars.

Valleys of Goreme Explore the unusual troglodyte dwellings, remains of early churches comprising rooms hollowed out of volcanic ash and scratched with frescoes.

Pasabagi See the rock-hewn rooms in which monks had lived in seclusion.

Avanos For centuries, the banks of Turkey's longest river have provided red clay for pottery.

KONYA Visit a 13th century Seljuk masterpiece, the Sultanhan caravansarai, a type of village inn.

YALVAC/BIBLICAL ANTIOCH This is where the apostle Paul opened Christianity to the world and the word "Christians" applied (Acts 11:26). See the remains of a Byzantine church.

PAMUKKALE - Hierapolis This city was named after the wife of a Pergamon king. During the Byzantine period, it became the seat of a diocese with a church dedicated to the apostle Philip, who was martyred here in 80 A.D.

LAODICEA See the two theaters, stadium, water tower and odeon at the last of the seven churches that the book of Revelation speaks of (Rev 3:14).

PHILADELPHIA An important Christian centre during Byzantine times, it is another of the seven churches (Rev 3:7) named in the book Revelation.

SARDIS felt the influence of Christianity very early and is listed among the seven churches of Revelation (Rev 3:1). Its history dates back to 12th century BC.

EPHESUS, one of the world's finest archaeological sites and the first seven churches listed (Rev 2:1) It features a basilica dedicated to the apostle John who is believed to have written his account of the Gospel here. Visit also what is believed to be the house of Mary, the mother of Jesus where tradition states, she spent her last years.

IZMIR/BIBLICAL SMYRNA Glimpse another of the Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:8).

THYTERI/BIBLICAL THYATIRA See the remains of the church (Rev 2:18) in one of the principle towns where Christianity spread quickly.

BERGAMA/BIBLICAL PERGAMUM This is the church which was noted for having lived in the presence of satan's seat (Rev 2:13) which is widely held to be the Altar of Zeus and centres of pagan worship.

IZNIK/NICEA This was the scene where the Nicene creed was written and adopted by the church of the Roman empire.

ISTANBUL 'Old City' – Experience the majesty of former Constantinople, the imperial seat of several powerful empires, most notably, the Roman and Byzantine.

Underground Cistern/Hippodrome The centre of Byzantine civic life

Haggia Sophia Now a museum, view its famous eastern Christian mosaics.

Topkapi Palace Home of the ruling sultans from the 15th to 19th century, it is now a museum showcasing collections of crystal, silver, Chinese porcelain and imperial costumes.