

15-DAY JOURNEYS OF PAUL AND JOHN AND SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION TOUR

INCLUDING A 3-NIGHT AEGEAN CRUISE

DAY 1

DEPART USA

Depart from the US on our overnight flight to Istanbul.

(meals aloft)

DAY 2

ARRIVE ISTANBUL

Arrive to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

(meals aloft,D)

DAY 3

ISTANBUL

Today we tour Istanbul, visiting the spectacular Blue Mosque, the 17th century Ottoman Mosque famous for its six minarets. After leaving your shoes at the door, step inside to see the brightly-colored interior decorated with at least 20,000 shimmering blue Iznik tiles and stained-glass windows. We view the historical Hippodrome, where chariot races and athletic events took place during the Roman period, and then we visit the great St. Sophia, the headquarters church of the Byzantine empire and the largest building at that time, later converted into a mosque and now a museum famous for its mosaics. We also spend some time this afternoon at the Istanbul Archaeology Museums. Then we visit the Grand Bazaar, a market of over 3,000 tiny shops, before dinner and overnight at our hotel in Istanbul.

(B,D)

DAY 4

NICEA/IZMIR

Today we depart Istanbul and travel to Iznik, ancient Nicea, located in the northeast of Bursa on the side of Iznik Lake. Under Constantine I when Christianity became the state religion, Nicea became an important religious center where two ecumenical councils were held, in AD 325 and AD 787. The first one, under Constantine I, articulated the important confessional statements of Christian Orthodoxy regarding the Holy Trinity. The second Nicene Council focused on the use of saints, images, and icons. Following our time here we continue to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

(B,D)

DAY 5

PERGAMON/THYATIRA/IZMIR

Our touring begins in Pergamon, the early Roman capital of the Roman province of Asia and today known as Bergama. Recipient of the apostle John's third letter in revelation, it was celebrated worldwide for its magnificent library with the 200,000 scrolls which Anthony presented to Cleopatra, for its parchment made of goatskin known as "Pergamum paper" used as a substitute for Egyptian papyrus, and for its Aesclepiion (with its symbolic entwined snakes), which was the most advanced medical center in the ancient world. The largest of all Hellenistic theaters stands here and the city's temples are remarkable for both their size and beauty. From here we continue to Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation as well as a major commercial center of ancient Asia Minor, from which Lydia a seller of purple came (Acts 16:14). We travel on to Izmir, biblical Smyrna, where we visit the ancient Agora and the Church of St. Polycarp, who was Smyrna's first bishop. From there we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

(B,D)



Ephesus

DAY 6

SARDIS/PHILADELPHIA/ HIERAPOLIS/PAMUKKALE

Today we first visit Sardis, set upon a steep hill surrounded by an impregnable citadel and one of the most picturesque areas of the Seven Churches. We will visit its famous third-century Jewish synagogue, the largest synagogue ever excavated, with a seating capacity of a thousand persons. Other highlights include the Gymnasium, House of Bronzes, Temple of Artemis, and the ancient Church. We travel to Philadelphia, another of the seven churches of Revelation, and an important Christian center during Byzantine times. The modern town of Alasehir is built over ancient Philadelphia, although the ruins of a Byzantine basilica built of brick with a high arch and frescoes are still visible. The city was destroyed in AD 17 and AD 23 by earthquakes. We proceed to Hierapolis and see its well-preserved baths, the basilica (dating back to the 6th century AD), the Temple of Apollo, and the theater. Then we continue to Pamukkale, known as the "Cotton Castle" because of its fantastic calcium formations and pools of natural warm water, for dinner and overnight.

(B,D)

DAY 7

COLOSSAE/APHRODISIAS/ LAODICEA/KUSADASI

This morning we travel to Colossae, recipient of one of Paul's letters, and home to Philemon. We tour Aphrodisias, constructed to pay homage to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and fertility. One of the best preserved stadiums in the world is here. We then journey to Laodicea, where Mark, Timothy and Epaphras brought the Gospel and established the first

church. In Revelation the church members were condemned for their "lukewarm attitude" toward Christianity. Highlights will be the Nymphaeum, the Amphitheater, and the Council Chamber. After our visit we proceed to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 8

MILETUS/DIDYMA/ MAGNESIA/KUSADASI

Today we visit the city of Miletus where the apostle Paul visited on his third missionary journey. We visit the ruins at Didyma, an ancient Ionian sanctuary containing a temple and oracle of Apollo. Didyma was the largest and most significant sanctuary on the territory of the great classical city Miletus. Next to Delphi, Didyma was the most renowned oracle of the Hellenic world. We continue to Magnesia (modern-day Manisa). The decisive Roman victory at the Battle of Magnesia in 190 BC resulted in Roman domination over the internal affairs of a large part of the territory once controlled by the Seleucid Empire. Later today we return to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 9

EPHESUS/KUSADASI

This morning we journey to Ephesus where Paul spent two years and which had become the capital city of the Roman Province of Asia by the time John wrote the Book of Revelation to the churches there. We walk through history in a city founded as early as the 10th century BC. In the magnificent excavations we see streets lined with wonderful public buildings such as the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Basilica of St. John and the great Theater where the Ephesians screamed against Paul (Acts 19:28). Following our full day here, we return to our hotel in Kusadasi for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 10

KUSADASI/PATMOS

This morning we board the *Celestyal Discovery* at the port of Kusadasi for our three-day journey across the Aegean Sea. We arrive in the afternoon at the former Roman prison island of Patmos where John received his "Revelation." Here we visit the Grotto named for his book and the Monastery of St. John which houses ancient manuscripts, including an early one of the Gospel. (B,L,D)

DAY 11

RHODES

Enjoy the day at leisure in Rhodes. The Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, once dominated the strategic harbor entrance. Later it served as a crucial outpost for the Crusaders in many of their ill-fated journeys to Israel during their conflicts with the Muslim conquerors. Wandering through the old city you can see its fortifications, the Street of the Knights with medieval stone mansions, the Palace of the Grand Master and the Hospital of the Knights (now a museum). There are also art shops as well as many lovely beaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 12

HERAKLION/SANTORINI

The largest of the Greek islands, Heraklion (Crete) is well-known for its archaeological sites. You may wish to take an optional excursion to the Palace of Knossos, the residence of the ruling house and also an administrative and religious center for the whole region. The buildings (a labyrinth complex) covered an area of 22 square miles. The high standard of

Minoan civilization 4000 years ago, displayed here through architecture, frescoes and the perfect plumbing system, surprise modern visitors. This afternoon we sail on to the island of Santorini, widely considered to be the lost continent of Atlantis. Off the entrance of the bay of Santorini lies the only active volcano in the Eastern Mediterranean. After you have strolled through the narrow streets you can enjoy the fascinating and marvelous sunset. (B,L,D)

DAY 13

ATHENS

Our cruise ends this morning. We disembark and drive to Athens, where we visit the Acropolis with the Parthenon shimmering in its ageless grace and unmatched design and see the unique Erechtheion (the only double temple). Nearby we climb the Areopagus (Mars Hill), where Paul addressed the philosophic court about Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 17:22-34). Our full day of touring also features a visit to the National Archaeological Museum, as well as a panoramic tour including Embassy Row, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Palace, the House of Parliament, and the University. After our tour, we check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 14

CORINTH/MYCENAE

In the morning we drive along the spectacular Greek coastline into the Peloponnese. We stop at the Corinth Canal, a remarkable engineering feat connecting the waters of two seas before continuing to Corinth, Paul's beloved city and site of his most extensive ministry. Dominated by the Acro-corinth rising 1700 feet above the ruins, the marketplace is laid out exactly as it stood in the days of the great Apostle. To the side is the impressive Doric Temple of Apollo. The point of central interest for Christians is the bema (the judgment seat) where Paul stood before Gallio and preached (Acts 18). We see the synagogue where Paul preached, and the house of Justus next door. This afternoon we travel to Mycenae, Greece's most important archaeological site where the underground beehive royal tombs and the famous Lion Gate are located. Then we return to our hotel in Athens for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 15

ATHENS/USA

We transfer to the airport this morning for our flight back to the US, arriving home later today. (B,meals aloft)

The sequence of touring and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedule changes, ship operation, etc. Hotels listed subject to availability.



3008 Charlestown Crossing

New Albany, IN 47150

Phone: (812) 206-1080

Email: info@dehoneytravel.com

www.dehoneytravel.com