



TOUR BROCHURE
Pre-Trip 3-Night Turkey Program
with visits to Izmir / Smyrna / Ephesus / Istanbul
October 15 – 19, 2021
Itinerary and Inclusions
Pending weather, time, and conditions

Inclusions:

All international and domestic flights, roundtrip, short flights: Istanbul/Izmir/Istanbul
1 night, Moevenpick Hotel, Izmir, or similar
2 nights, Moevenpick Golden Horn, Istanbul, or similar
Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
All transfers and transportation by private air-conditioned bus
English-speaking, certified, licensed tour guide with knowledge of Old and New Testaments and experienced driver
Entry fees to sites mentioned per itinerary
Service charges and local taxes
Bottled water
Gratuities (guide, driver, hotel staff)

Cost per person, double-occupancy: \$1,350
Single room supplement, additional \$250

Exclusions:

Turkish visa fee (all participants are responsible to check their own visa regulations) www.evisa.gov.tr
Travel Insurance, purchases of a personal nature, hotel wi-fi, hotel minibars, lunches, dinners, other than those mentioned in the *Signature Touch Service*, any meals and beverages not mentioned in this proposal, animal ride and animal handling is per passenger's preference and is customarily \$5 gratuity to handler per ride.

Friday, October 15, 2021

Depart Chicago O'Hare Airport / Istanbul, Turkey

Enjoy our transatlantic flight. Dinner and breakfast are served en route along with myriad choices of entertainment on your personal television screen.

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Arrival in Istanbul / Local flight to Izmir / Izmir / Ancient Smyrna Agora

Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey, and immediately meet our domestic flight from Istanbul to Izmir, Turkey. Our tour guide will meet us at Izmir Airport. We will enjoy an orientation drive of Izmir and head to our hotel in Izmir. Overnight at our hotel in Izmir. Moevenpick Hotel, Izmir, or similar
<http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com/en/europe/turkey/izmir/hotel-izmir/overview/>

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Izmir / Ephesus / Church of St. John / Istanbul

Depart from Izmir to Ephesus. Drive through Izmir to view the ancient Agora of Smyrna. Full day tour of Ephesus. After late lunch, we will then visit the church of St. John. Transfer to Izmir Airport for evening flight to Istanbul. Private bus transfer to our hotel in Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul. Moevenpick Golden Horn, Istanbul, or similar
<http://www.moevenpick.com/en/europe/turkey/istanbul/istanbul-golden-horn/overview/>

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Monday, October 18, 2021

Istanbul

Full day tour of Istanbul including visits to Roman Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, Museum of Archaeology, and the famous Grand Bazaar. Overnight at our hotel in Istanbul.

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Istanbul / Tel Aviv

After breakfast, visit Chora Museum, the Church of St. George, an Eastern Orthodox church, and the Christian neighborhood of Fener. Private transfer to airport for our late-afternoon/early-evening flight from Istanbul to Tel Aviv. Dinner and overnight in Netanya.

3-night Turkey Program Pre-Israel Trip: A Taste of Turkey and its significance in Early-Christianity

At the time of early-Christianity, Asia Minor (today's Turkey), was one of the most important lands. It was the center for the growing Christian movement in the early centuries. Most of the city names mentioned in the Bible are here, and two-thirds of the New Testament had been written to, and from, the churches located in Turkey.

Ephesus

Ancient Ephesus in Turkey is amongst the most important sites of significance or the faith-inspired visitor. Many of the city's graceful buildings remain standing today. Dedicated to Artemis, the ancient city boasted a gigantic temple to the goddess that was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Tradition holds that St. John brought the Virgin Mary to Ephesus after the Crucifixion and that she lived in a small stone house (Meryemana Evi) on what is now Mt. Koressos (Bülbüldağı). A popular place of pilgrimage for Christians and Muslims, the house has received the official sanction of the Vatican. A commemoration service is held annually on August 15, the Feast of the Virgin. The Third Ecumenical Council was held in the Basilica of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus in 431 AD. In the modern town of Selcuk, adjoining ancient Ephesus, stands the Basilica of St. John, said to have been constructed above the saint's tomb, and the Isabey Mosque, built in the Seljuk period.

Izmir (Smyrna)

Set on a coastline which resembles the delicate tracery of handmade lace, we find Izmir, the "Pearl of the Aegean." It was in this region, a land of "eternal spring and harmony," that the foundations of western civilization were laid. Homer was born here. The Church of St. Polycarp, the "anchor" of the Seven Churches, in the oldest church in Izmir.

Istanbul

The only city in the world built on two continents, Istanbul, stands on the shores of the Istanbul Bogazi, the Bosphorus, where the waters of the Black Sea mingle with those of the Sea of Marmara and the Golden Horn. Here, on this splendid site, Istanbul guards the precious relics of the three empires (Eastern Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman) of which the city always served as the capital, a unique link between east and west, past and present.

This historic and magnificent city is fascinating and vividly alive. Beneath the unchanging skyline of Istanbul's domes and minarets, there is a continual bustle and movement of the crowd, the rumbling of vehicles along the ancient cobbled streets, the incessant coming and going and calls of street sellers mingling with the sounds of visitors looking for some exotic tale to weave into their stories of their travels. You can enjoy the beauty of the unique landscape while sailing back through history to Byzantine and Ottoman times and view this stunning domes, mosques, palaces, and castles. The Roman Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, Museum of Archaeology, and the famous Grand Bazaar are but small pieces of thread that blend colorfully and richly into the textured fabric of all visitors' experiences in Istanbul.

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