



## THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE TURKEY & GREECE BIBLICAL TOUR

### TOUR DATES

17 NOV 14, MONDAY – 27 NOV 14, THURSDAY  
11 Days 9 Nights (10 Full Days of Touring)

### AIRLINE SCHEDULES (TURKISH AIRLINES) – CONFIRMED SEATS

#### DEPARTURE FROM SINGAPORE

TK 67 SIN/IST (17NOV) 0030 / 0640 (17NOV)

#### RETURNING TO SINGAPORE

TK 1844 ATH/IST (26NOV) 2140 / 2305 (26NOV)

TK 66 IST/SIN (27NOV) 0040 / 1720 (27NOV)

Organized by:



### TOUR FEE

**Twin/Triple Sharing: S\$ 3,190.00 per person** <sup>1, 2</sup>

\*Note that rates do not include airline fuel and taxes.

| INCLUDED IN LAND TOUR FEE   | NOT INCLUDED  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return economy class airfare on Turkish Airlines from Singapore to Istanbul and return from Athens.</li> <li>• Spiritual Tour Director from the Bible Society of Singapore.</li> <li>• English speaking professional guides.</li> <li>• <b>10 Full Days</b> of touring in an air-conditioned luxury bus.</li> <li>• <b>9 Nights</b> stay in good local touring class hotels.</li> <li>• <b>Turkey:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17–18 Nov 14, Istanbul, Tryp Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>18–19 Nov 14, Sardis, Lidya Termal Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>19–20 Nov 14, Kusadasi, Kismet Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>20–21 Nov 14, Izmir, Anemon Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>21–22 Nov 14, Assos, Eden Garden Hotel or similar (1N)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Greece:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22–23 Nov 14, Kavala, Lucy Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>23–24 Nov 14, Kalambaka, Divani Meteora or similar (1N)</li> <li>24–25 Nov 14, Delphi, Nafsika Palace Hotel or similar (1N)</li> <li>25–26 Nov 14, Athens, Divani Acropolis or similar (1N)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All sites and entrance fees as stated in the itinerary.</li> <li>• Meals as stated in the itinerary.</li> <li>• Drinking water during lunch &amp; dinner.</li> <li>• 02 x 500ml (bottled) mineral water per person per day onboard coach.</li> <li>• All group transfers.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airline taxes and fuel surcharge of S\$620.00 (as at May 2014)</li> <li>• Any increase in airline fuel surcharge and taxes.</li> <li>• Single room surcharge of S\$530.00 (if applicable).</li> <li>• All tips of USD 70.00 to the tour guides, bus drivers, hotels and restaurants.</li> <li>• Travel insurance.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Personal expenses, medical coverage and drinks during meals.</li> <li>• Additional mineral water consumed on the bus or during the tour.</li> <li>• Turkish and Greece visa if required.</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> The above tour fee is based on a minimum number of 40 persons per bus. There will be a surcharge of S\$100.00 per person for 35 persons per bus, S\$200.00 per person for 30 persons per bus and S\$360.00 per person for 25 persons per bus.

<sup>2</sup> A non-refundable deposit of SGD 1,500.00 per person is to be submitted together with the booking form by **11 Jul 2014**. Balance collection is due on **19 Sep 2014**. Payment for the tour is by cheque or cash only.

<sup>3</sup> All passengers are entitled to 15% discount for Travel Insurance by AIG or TENET via Omega website.



## THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE TURKEY & GREECE BIBLICAL TOUR

### DAY 01      17 NOV 14, MON      SINGAPORE-ISTANBUL

Assemble at Changi International Airport on **16 Nov 2014, Sun at 9.30pm** for the beginning of an incredibly moving and enriching journey following the story of the New Testament Christians.

TK 67              SIN/IST              (17NOV) 0030 / 0640 (17NOV)

Flight will touch down at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport in the morning. After customs clearance, we will proceed with Istanbul tour, the Grand City of Turkey.

#### **Istanbul**

**Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque)** is a magnificent mosque that has blue tiles adorning the wall of its interior.

**Hippodrome of Constantinople** was a horse racing track that was the sporting and social centre of Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire and the largest city in Europe in that time.

Lunch

**Topkapi Palace** is the imperial residence and administrative center of the Ottoman Sultans for more than 400 years, now housing the priceless collections of porcelains, jewellery, calligraphy and many masterpieces of art.

**Grand Bazaar of Istanbul** is one of the largest covered markets in the world with over 58 streets and 4000 shops. One can find a host of items ranging from jewelry, pottery, spices, carpets, clothes and many more. That mixed with the atmosphere and buzz of the local scene would make this a great shopping experience for anyone. Free and easy to shop.

(Overnight in Istanbul. Meals: L/D)

### DAY 02      18 NOV 14, TUE      THYATEIRA/SARDIS

**Ayasofya (St Sophia) Museum.** One of the most important Christian monuments of all times, this ancient basilica, Hagia Sophia Church (Church of the Divine Wisdom) built by Constantinople the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, is one of the architectural marvels of the world. Its immense dome rises 55 meters above the ground and is 31 meters in diameter. The beautiful decorations include stunning Byzantine mosaics. It was converted into a mosque in 1453 right after the conquest of Constantinople by Ottoman Turks and is now a museum.

Transfer to port for fast ferry boat to Bursa.

Lunch

Drive to Thyateira.

### Thyateira (Akhisar)

**Thyateira** (also **Thyatira**) is the name of the modern Turkish city of Akhisar ("white castle"). In early Christian times Thyateira was home to a significant Christian Church, mentioned as one of the seven Churches of the Book of Revelation in the Book of Revelation. The Apostle Paul and Silas might have visited Thyateira during Paul's second or third journey, although the evidence is entirely circumstantial. They visited several small unnamed towns in the general vicinity during the second journey. While in Philippi, Paul and Silas stayed with a woman named Lydia from Thyateira, who continued to help them even after they were jailed and released.

(Overnight in Sardis. Meals: B/L/D)

## DAY 03      19 NOV 14, WED      SARDIS/PHILADELPHIA/LAODICEA/HIERAPOLIS

### Sardis (Sart, Salihli)

- **Ancient synagogue**, built in the 3rd century A.D., is the most important archaeological discovery in the Sardis excavations. It is one of the oldest synagogues in Turkey. The extensive ruins here also include beautiful mosaic tiles
- The **Temple of Artemis**
- Gymnasium and ancient school.

Sardis, the fifth of the seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 3:1-6), is about 64 km south of Thyatira and about 80 km east of Smyrna. The ruins of ancient Sardis, once the capital of the Lydian realm of Croesus, lie on the Sart Cayu (Pactole River) plain. The world's first coins were minted here. The modern city of Salihli is just a few kilometres away.

Drive to Philadelphia.

### Alasehir (Philadelphia)

- Remains of a Byzantine basilica. St John Church.

### Laodicea (Eskihisar)

- Ruins and old Roman Road

Laodicea, the last of the seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 3:14-22), is 10 km across the valley from Pamukkale's hot springs. It is about 177 km east of Ephesus and 97 km south-east from Philadelphia in the Lycus Valley. It is part of the tri-city area with Hierapolis and Colosse, all within 18 km of each other. The modern city of Denizli is about 8 km away.

Epaphras laboured in the Christian congregation of Laodicea, which was closely lined with the congregations of Hierapolis and Colossae (Colossians 4:12-16). Paul himself did not visit the congregation in Laodicea (Colossians 2:1).

Lunch

### Hierapolis (Cotton Castle)

- The Martyrium of Philip the Apostle. Remnants of an octagonal basilica built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century lie here.
- Temple of Apollo
- Well preserved and large Roman amphitheatre

Hierapolis is 19 km north of Laodicea and 19 km northwest of Colossae. It stands along the ancient roadway connecting Laodicea to Philadelphia and Sardis to the northwest. The city may have been reached by Paul's ministry impact from Ephesus (Acts 19:10), but more likely came under the evangelistic preaching of Epaphras. Epaphras, who was imprisoned with Paul had ministered to this city (Colossians 4:12-13). Hierapolis was also the city where Philip was martyred.

**Hierapolis (modern Pamukkale “Cotton Castle”)** is a natural wonder of mineral-rich waters cascading over travertine formed through the centuries and is set amid historic ruins. The hot springs have been used since Roman times for their therapeutic powers. The thermal pools as well as the ruins of the ancient city of Hierapolis are situated on a plateau. Pamukkale is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site.

(Overnight in Kusadasi. Meals: B/L/D)

## **DAY 04      20 NOV 14, THU      EPHESUS/SELUCK**

### **Ephesus**

- The amphitheatre, where craftsmen who made shrines of Artemis rioted against the Apostle Paul / Marble road.
- Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- The library of Celsius, The stadium
- The lecture hall of Tyrannus where St. Paul held daily discussions (Acts 19:9). For two years Paul taught here from eleven to four during the hottest hours of the day when the hall was empty
- The Agora

Ephesus (Efes) is the first of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 2-3 (Revelation 1:11, 2:1-7). Today Ephesus is a seaport in West Turkey near the Aegean Sea, about 5.5 km south of the Cayster river, opposite the island of Samos. Paul visited Ephesus on two different occasions. He passed through the city on his second missionary journey in A.D. 52 following his stay in Corinth (Acts 18:19-21), and returned on his third journey in A.D 54 (Acts 19:1-41). Paul suffered many trials and tribulations in Ephesus, leading finally to his imprisonment.

Luke describes a moving farewell scene between Paul and the Ephesian elders at the end of his third journey, when he stopped at nearby Miletus en route to Jerusalem (Acts 20:16-37). Extensive excavations have facilitated the restoration of old Ephesus, the most impressive archaeological site in

Lunch

### **Seluck**

- **St John’s Basilica** built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century on the site of the Tomb of the Apostle.
- The **house of Virgin Mary** on a hill top. Supposed to be the actual resting place of the virgin Mary.

(Overnight in Izmir. Meals: B/L/D)

## **DAY 05      21 NOV 14, FRI      SMYRNA/PERGAMUM/ASSOS**

### **Smyrna**

- **Church of St. Polycarp (subject to opening of church)** : the remains are of the oldest church in Smyrna. St Polycarp was martyred by the Romans in 155 A.D.

Smyrna, the second of the seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 2:8-11), is today called Izmir. In the first millennium B.C., Smyrna ranked as one of the most important cities of the Ionian Federation. Today, Izmir is Turkey’s third largest city and second most important port. It is about 80 km north of Ephesus. Its airport serves most of the Aegean holiday resorts.

Leave Izmir for **Pergamum (Bergama)**

Pergamum or Pegamos, the third of the seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 2:12-17), is 104 km to the north of Smyrna. The city was once a great center of culture. It is surrounded with beautiful groves of olives and figs. The ancient ruins of Pergamum are situated on top of a steep hill 1,000 feet above the plain, where the modern city of Bergama is located.

### **Pergamum**

- **The Red basilica**
- **Acropolis (via cable car, subject to weather condition)** which was built on a commanding hill above the modern city of Bergama.
- A steep and impressive theatre, which has almost perfect acoustics

Lunch

Travel to **Assos (Behramkale)**

### **Assos**

- Temple of Athena

(Overnight in Assos. Meals: B/L/D)

**DAY 06      22 NOV 14, SAT      TURKEY-GREECE (PHILIPPI/KAVALA)**

**Cross the border to Greece via Ipsala.**

\* Pass the Turkish/Greek borders with the Turkish motor coach.

Meet with Greek motor coach on Greek soil.

We will clear the border around 12.00 noon and then drive to nearby Alexandroupoli to have local lunch before driving to Philippi (which will take around 2hrs)

### **Philippi**

A city in eastern Macedonia situated in a fertile plain on the Roman military and commercial highway known as the Via Egnatia. Some of the city's prosperity came from gold in the mountains surrounding the city. Paul visited Philippi during his second missionary journey after crossing the Symbolon Mountains. Philippi is also the place where Paul and Silas were imprisoned, and were set free at night when the prison was shaken by an earthquake (Acts 16:25-40).

### **Kavala**

Originally named "Neopolis" ("new city"), Kavala is a major port of eastern Macedonia, where the apostle Paul had set foot on.

(Overnight in Kavala. Meals: B/L/D)

**DAY 07      23 NOV 14, THU      THESSALONIKI/KALAMBAKA**

Depart for Thessaloniki

### **Thessaloniki**

Panoramic view. A major city of Macedonia, Thessaloniki enjoyed prosperity and fame as the capital of the second Macedonian district and as the chief city of the Roman province of Macedonia. When Paul visited the city on his second missionary journey (Acts 17:1-10), Thessaloniki had a large and mixed population. The Jewish community strongly opposed Paul. Paul wrote two letters to them, and he may have visited the city again on his third missionary journey (Acts 20: 1-2).

We will go via Veria (St Paul Church) and then towards Kalambaka.

## **Kalambaka**

A small modern town near Meteora, with main building of interest. The most interesting feature of the town is the dramatic backdrop of the steep Meteora rocks that frame the northern part of the skyline.

(Overnight in Kalambaka. Meals: B/L/D)

## **DAY 08      24 NOV 14, FRI      METEORA/DELPHI**

### **Meteora**

After early breakfast, drive to and visit 2 of the Meteora monasteries. Standing amid striking scenery, perched on top of huge rocks, which seem to be suspended in mid air. Inside, see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art, manuscripts and jewelry.

Lunch

### **Delphi**

Head south to Delphi, the center of world for the ancient Greeks. Located at the navel of the world and personally blessed by Apollo, Delphi was the holiest site in the world for the ancient Greeks.

(Overnight in Delphi. Meals: B/L/D)

## **DAY 09      25 NOV 14, TUE      DELPHI/ATHENS**

### **Visit the Delphi Archaeological Site**

Some of the edifices on the sacred slopes of Delphi are the temple of Apollo, the ancient theater, the stadium, the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia with the Tholos, the Kastalia spring, and the various treasures that adorn the sacred way.

Lunch

### **Athens**

Athens is the capital city of the district of Attica in ancient times and the capital of modern Greece. It is said to be named after the patron goddess Athena. The New Testament epistles refer only once to Paul's stay in Athens. According to 1 Thessalonians 3:1, he was left alone in the capital, having sent his faithful companion Timothy to the Thessalonians, recent converts of his. The passage reveals Paul's emotional attachments to these Christians as he tried to proclaim Christ to cynics and mockers of the gospel.

Panoramic Tour: See Syntagma Square, (Constitution Square), the House of Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guarded by the Evzones in their traditional costume. See the Athens Academy and the University. See the Pan Athenaic Olympic stadium, (where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896). See the archaeological site of the Temple of the Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch.

### **Acropolis Museum**

The Acropolis Museum is an archaeological museum focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. The museum was built to house every artifact found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies on the archaeological site of Makrygianni and the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens.

### **Areopagos (Mars Hill)**

Areopagos or Mars Hill is a rocky height in the city of Athens, opposite the western end of the Acropolis to toward the west. This hill belonged to (Ares) Mars and was called Mar's hill. This is the location where Paul preached his famous sermon as recorded in Acts 17 as he was surrounded by the various Temple to the Gods and the Greek paganism at its height. (Acts 17:23). "For as I passed by and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore you ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." This is also where Dionysius the Areopagite, who was an Athenian, a member of the Areopagus, became one of Paul's first Greek disciples.

(Overnight in Athens. Meals: B/L/D)

**Property of Omega Tours & Travel Pte Ltd.** This content is not to be copied, distributed or shared without prior consent and approval from Omega Tours & Travel Pte. Ltd. The company does not make any claims to the information provided on the sites and places mentioned above. Itinerary is subject to change and availabilities.

**DAY 10      26 NOV 14, WED      ATHENS-ISTANBUL-SINGAPORE**

**Acropolis**

Visit the world famous site of the Acropolis and see the Propylaea and the Parthenon. Down from the Acropolis is Areopagos where, St. Paul preached the gospel to the Athenians.

We will head towards and drive by the Corinth Canal which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea.

**Corinth**

A city which Paul arrived at, after leaving Athens, discouraged (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). At **Corinth** he took his abode with Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3). When Silas and Timothy arrived, Paul vigorously resumed his missionary labors. However, because the Jews did not accept his message about the Messiah, Paul severed his relationship with them and turned to the Gentiles (Acts 18:5-6).

Drive on and visit the Ancient Town of Corinth where St. Paul lived and preached for two years. The remains of the City, which include Agora (market place) and Apollo's Temple (6th century B.C.) clearly show how rich and important Corinth was in Ancient Times.

Lunch

**Cenchreae (Kenchreai)**

A seaport about 10km east of Corinth, on the Saronic Gulf. It was at Cenchreae after his ministry at Corinth had come to an end that Paul had his hair cut in fulfillment of a Nazirite vow (Acts 18:18). Cenchrea was also mentioned in Romans 16:1 when Paul recommends Phoebe, a believer from the church in Cenchrea, to the Romans.

Drive back to Athens.

Free time for shopping in **Plaka area**.

After dinner, transfer (with escort) to Athens airport for flight check in and departure.

|         |         |                             |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| TK 1844 | ATH/IST | (26NOV) 2140 / 2305 (26NOV) |
| TK 66   | IST/SIN | (27NOV) 0040 / 1720 (27NOV) |

(Meals: B/L/D)

**DAY 11      27 NOV 14, THU      SINGAPORE**

Arrive back in Singapore in the evening with many wonderful memories, a deeper revelation of Jesus and a greater appreciation for the Bible.

\* *Note that the above itinerary is subject to change based on the pace of the group, availability and accessibility of sites due to unforeseen circumstances. Time and/or weather will also determine the coverage and visitation of the sites.*