



7 CHURCHES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

TURKEY

8 - 17 JUNE 2020

10D7N (8 TOURING DAYS)



@Armenian (Main Office): 7 Armenian Street, Bible House #04-02, Singapore 179932
@Orchard: 14 Scotts Road, Far East Plaza #01-83, Singapore 228213
Tel: +65 6304 3762 | Email: info@ibex.sg | Website: www.ibex.sg | TA(02822)

IBEX
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE EXPERIENCES

Pastor Marc Madrigal



Marc Madrigal is a Pastor and Board Member at the Istanbul Protestant Church Foundation. He graduated from Bosphorus University in Istanbul in 2006 having studied English Literature.

In 2009, he completed his Master's degree in Theological studies in Phoenix Seminary, U.S.A. He is married and is a father of three children.

Madrigal centres his research in the fields of Biblical Archaeology and early Church History. He works as a part-time, join-in expert in many Biblical tours. He is also a contributor in a Turkish Christian magazine and he publishes articles on his personal website (www.inciltarihi.com).

Currently he is in the process of publishing several books through the Turkish Bible Society.

HIGHLIGHTS

TURKEY

- Thyteria
- Pergamon
- Smyrna
- Ephesus
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea
- Hierapolis
- Pamukkale
(Cotton Castles)
- Cappadocia
- Goreme Open Air Museum
- Kaymakli Underground City
- Hagia Sophia
- Bosphorus Cruise



*Map not drawn to scale. For information only.

Day 1 – Mon, 8 Jun

SINGAPORE

Assemble at Changi Airport to begin your journey to Turkey.

Departure Flight: TK55 SIN-IST 2335-0525

Check-in starts from 8.30pm (Changi Airport, Terminal 1) *Meals on board the plane.*

Day 2 – Tue, 9 Jun

ISTANBUL / NICEA / PERGAMON

Upon arrival early in the morning in **Istanbul**, we drive to Iznik (formerly known as **Nicea**) where Constantine formed a council to unify the church and established the Nicene Creed. Next, stop by **Thyteria** (Rev 2:18-29) to see the remains of the church. This was one of the principal towns where Christianity spread quickly. Check-in to hotel in Pergamon. (L/D)

Day 3 – Wed, 10 Jun

PERGAMON / KUSADASI

(Check out in the morning)

In the morning, drive to the beautiful **Pergamon*** (Rev 2:12-17) that is located on the hill top. Among the impressive structures of this city dating from 399 B.C., we will see the Altar of Zeus, Temple of Dionysus and the 200,000 volume library which was surpassed only by that found in Alexandria at the time. Next, visit the **Church of Smyrna** (Rev 2:8-11), which had suffered persecution as written in the Bible. Check-in to the hotel in Kusadasi. (B/L/D)

Day 4 – Thu, 11 Jun

KUSADASI / EPHESUS / KUSADASI

(Check out in the morning)

After breakfast, drive to Selcuk town and visit a **leather factory outlet** where you have a chance to purchase some of Turkey's finest leather products. Next, we will visit the famous ancient city of **Ephesus** (Rev 2:1-7), one of the world's finest archaeological sites. Highlights include

the Library of Celcius, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan and the Theatre. Then visit the **Basilica of St John**. It is believed that the Apostle John came here with the Virgin Mary, and wrote his gospel account in Ephesus. Next, visit the **House of the Virgin Mary**, the place where she was believed to have spent her last years (on top of Mount Coressos). (B/L/D)

Day 5 – Fri, 12 Jun

KUSADASI / SARDIS / PAMUKKALE

(Check out in the morning)

In the morning, drive to **Sardis** (Rev 3:1-6), one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation. During the Byzantine times, it was the seat of a bishopric. Highlights are a synagogue, a gymnasium, a Byzantine Church and the Temple of Artemis. Next, visit **Philadelphia** (Rev 3:7-13) and **Laodicea*** (Rev 2:14-22) to learn about their history. Both were important Christian centres in the Byzantine period. Then visit **Hierapolis*** also known as a sacred city and explore **Pamukkale**, (the white "Cotton Castles"), where you will see the terraces of hot springs formed by calcium carbonate. Check-in to hotel. (B/L/D)

Day 6 – Sat, 13 Jun

PAMUKKALE / YALVAC / CAPPADOCIA

(Check out in the morning)

Drive to **Colossae*** and learn about the epistle that Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians before driving to Cappadocia. On the way, visit **Pisidian Antioch (Yalvac)*** where Apostle Paul preached in the city's synagogue (Acts 13:13-52). Check-in to hotel in Cappadocia. (B/L/D)

Day 7 – Sun, 14 Jun

CAPPADOCIA

Optional: Hot air balloon ride in the early morning (Additional cost of USD\$250-300)

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After breakfast, visit the Natural Fortress in **Uchisar**, the highest point of Cappadocia where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the landscape. Next, visit **Pasabagi***, where monks used to live in seclusion in the rock cut rooms. We will visit the **Valleys of Goreme**, a region created from erosion of volcanic rocks with the iconic "Fairy Chimney" and see the remains of the early churches and their frescoes. We will visit **Goreme Open Air Museum***, a compound of rock cut churches since 6th century. Lastly, explore the **Kaymakli Underground City***, a labyrinth of tunnels and rooms carved underground from soft rocks. (B/L/D)

Day 8 – Mon, 15 Jun

CAPPADOCIA / ISTANBUL (Check out in the morning)

Begin the day at **Avanos**, the pottery town where you will visit a famous local pottery and carpet shop. Next, transfer to **Kayseri Airport** for your domestic flight back to **Istanbul**.

Departure Flight: TK2027 ASR-IST 1120-1300



Upon arrival in Istanbul, explore the Sultanahmet area and visit the **Hagia Sophia** (also called the Ayasofya Museum), which was built by Constantine the Great. We will also visit a **local Christian ministry** to learn about their works in Turkey (TBC). Check-in to hotel in Istanbul. (B/L/D)

Day 9 – Tue, 16 Jun

ISTANBUL (Check out in the morning)

After breakfast, visit the **Istanbul Archaeological Museum** to see the historical artefacts related to the Roman and Ottoman periods. Next, experience the **Underground Basilica Cistern** and walk to the **Hippodrome** nearby. Enjoy a leisure cruise on the famous **Bosphorus River** that separates Asia and Europe continent and enjoy the city view of Istanbul. Lastly, stop by the aromatic **Spice Bazaar**. End your tour with a sumptuous farewell dinner before heading to the airport to catch your flight back to Singapore.

Day 10 – Wed, 17 Jun

ISTANBUL

Departure Flight: TK54 IST-SIN 0200-1750

Meals on board the plane

Arrive back in Singapore at 5.50pm.

**Indicates that the site has uneven or steep path(s) that may be challenging for elderly and people with walking difficulties. For such participants, you are advised to use a walking stick.*

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GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Tour Dates	8 - 17 Jun 2020, 10D7N (8 Touring Days)
Airline	Turkish Airlines
Tour Cost	≥15pax: SGD\$3,450 ^{1,2} , ≥25pax: SGD\$3,250 ^{1,2}
Accommodation	4 Star Hotels
Registration closes	1 Mar 2020

¹Includes airport and fuel taxes (Est of SGD\$550; as of 01 Dec 2019). However, if there is any increase in the taxes, the extra charges will be bore by the participants. ² Tour cost is based on ≥15pax and ≥25pax respectively. Package cost will increase should there be fewer participants.

TOUR COST

Tour cost includes

- Return economy class airfare (Group fare. No seat selection allowed)
- 7 nights twin-sharing accommodation
- Meals provided as per itinerary
- Professional and licenced English-speaking guide
- Air-conditioned tourist bus
- All group transfers from airport to hotel
- Entrance fees to sites
- All tips for hotels, restaurants, tour guides and bus drivers
- Airport tax & fuel surcharge of (est SGD\$550 as of 01 Jan 2019)

Tour cost does not include

- Any increase of airport and fuel surcharge
- Travel insurance
- All expenses of personal nature
- Meals and other expenses not stated in itinerary
- Single room supplement of SGD\$380 if applicable
- Passport and visa fees is applicable.

HOW CAN I REGISTER FOR THIS TOUR?

1. Register online at www.bible.org.sg/register/ibex and select the tour.
2. Before the closing date of the registration, a **deposit of SGD\$1000 (per pax)** is required to secure your place. (Please note the deposit is non-refundable once the tour group materialise).
3. Please note that a minimum group size of 15pax is required for a confirm departure.
4. Once the tour is confirm, the balance payment is required by **8 Mar 2020**.
5. For late registration (3 months before departure date), do note there will be a late booking fee that will be advised to late applicants.

Note: Itinerary and flight schedule are subject to change without prior notice in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Hotel confirmation will be given 2 weeks before departure.

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