



ITINERARY

(B = Breakfast | L = Lunch | D = Dinner)

Day 1, November 13, Wednesday: Arrive in Istanbul

- Today: Arrive at Istanbul International Airport, go through Customs, claim our luggage, and meet a Peter's Way tour manager/guide as we exit baggage claim. Board a private touring bus and we will be on our way to Istanbul for hotel check-in. (Subject to confirmation based on flight arrival time. Time permitting, we can include an orientation tour of Istanbul.)
Mass at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul (before dinner – subject to confirmation).
Check-in at Mukarnas Pera Hotel in Istanbul.
<https://www.mukarnaspera.com/>
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at Mukarnas Pera Hotel in Istanbul. (D)

Day 2, November 14, Thursday: Istanbul

- Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel. Begin our day with a tour of the city of Istanbul. Drive over Galata Bridge to the old town, which was once known as Constantinople. Continue to the Hippodrome, the center of activities during the Byzantine Empire and Ottoman Empire, and site of countless military and political dramas. See the Column of Constantine, once one of the most important monuments in Byzantine Constantinople. It is the only remaining trace of the city's founder, Constantine. See the Serpent Column, one of three remaining monuments of the Hippodrome of Constantinople. Then, walk to Hagia Sophia (**Second Council of Constantinople, 553**) built as a Christian in the 6th century under the direction of the Byzantine emperor Justinian. In subsequent centuries it became a mosque, museum, and serves again today as a mosque. The original church is said to have been ordered to be built by Constantine in 325 on the foundations of a pagan temple. Continue to Hagia Irene (**First Council of Constantinople, 381**), an ancient Christian church built at the beginning of the 4th century during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine (324-337). Continue to St. Anthony of Padua Church, one of the most important Catholic churches in Istanbul. **Celebrate Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church**. After Mass, we'll drive by the location of the **Third Council of Constantinople (680 – 1)**. The meetings were held in the Trullos, or the 'Domed Hall' of the Great Palace.
- Afternoon: This afternoon, enjoy a **cruise on the Bosphorus Strait**. You'll see both the European and Asian halves of Istanbul, enjoy views of many picturesque mosques and palaces, and learn more about Istanbul's centuries-long history.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Istanbul. (B,D)

Day 3, November 15, Friday: Istanbul to Bursa

- Morning: Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Today, we'll visit the Cathedral of Holy Spirit., alternatively known as the St. Esprit Cathedral. The Cathedral has been a destination of several papal visits to Turkey, including those of Pope Paul VI, Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis. **Celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit**. After Mass, we'll drive to the **location of the Council of Chalcedon (451)**, which met at the church of St. Euphemia. Continue to the sites of the **First Council of Nicaea (325) and the Second Council of Nicaea (787)**. The First Council was regarded as the First Ecumenical Council because of the large number of representatives who attended it. The meetings began at the imperial palace by lake Ascania (Iznik) on May 20, 325 with Constantine's opening address urging the bishops to achieve unity and peace. The Second Council of Nicaea was held at Hagia Sophia, whose restored ruins still survive. Independent lunch.
- Afternoon: Depart Istanbul and continue to Bursa (two-hour bus ride). Check-in at hotel upon arrival.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at hotel Ramada Bursa. (B,D)
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/tr-tr/ramada/bursa-turkey/ramada-bursa>

Day 4, November 16, Saturday: Pergamum and Izmir

- Morning: Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Today we'll drive to **Pergamum**, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (*Rev. 1:11; 2:12*). Explore the impressive Acropolis, the theatre, the Asklepieion, a famous medical center of classical times, Altar of Zeus which is mentioned as the 'Throne of Satan' in the Book of Revelation, the marble columns of the Temple of Trajan and the Library. We will also visit the Red Basilica. During the Byzantine Empire, the Temple was transformed into a church with a three-nave basilica in the 5th century by adding two rows of columns to the main building. The building was dedicated to the Apostle John and became one of the 7 churches of Revelation. After our visit we'll continue to Izmir, Biblical **Smyrna**. **Celebrate Mass at St. John's Cathedral or St. Mary's Church in Izmir**. Check-in at Izmir Hilton Garden Inn.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at the Izmir Hilton Garden Inn. (B,D)
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/izmgigi-hilton-garden-inn-izmir>.

Day 5, November 17, Sunday: Pergamum; Izmir; Ephesus

- Morning: Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Today we'll drive to Kusadasi. Here you will visit the ancient city of **Ephesus (Council of Ephesus, 431)** including the ruins of the **Basilica of St. John**, constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century. St. Paul the Apostle preached to the Ephesians and lived here for three years. This church also received an Epistle from him. Explore the spectacular ruins where excavations still continue in this once great and important city, which was founded in the 10th century BC. Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, and the Theatre. The Temple of Diana in Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was built in this city. **Celebrate Sunday Mass at the House of the Virgin Mary**. Return to Izmir.
- Evening: Dinner and overnight at the Izmir Hilton Garden Inn. (B,D)
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/izmgigi-hilton-garden-inn-izmir>.

Day 6, November 18, Monday: Return from Izmir

- Morning: Buffet breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we'll be transferred to Izmir Airport for our return flight to Rome. (B)