



Serving the traveling public since 1975

**Consolidated Tours Organization, Inc.
1675 Virginia Avenue
Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30337**

**Phone: 1-800-554-4556
Local: 404-767-2727
Fax: 404-766-4520**

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR

DAY 01: NORTH AMERICA / ZURICH Depart North America Airport via jet service to Zurich. Meals will be served in flight.

DAY 02: ZURICH / IZMIR Connecting flight out of Zurich to Izmir (*Smyrna*) on the Aegean coast, Turkey's third largest city. We will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Izmir.

DAY 03: IZMIR This morning drive to Bergama, *Pergamum*, where Satan's Throne was. Visit the Asclepium, the ancient healing center. Stroll at the Pergamum acropolis and visit the Archaeological Museum. Continue to *Thyatira* which was the smallest of the Seven Churches. Lydia, the seller of purple cloth in Philippi was originally from Thyatira. Visit the remains of the Basilica, cited in Revelations as the Church that tolerated the works of Jezebel. Return to Izmir.

DAY 04: IZMIR / HIERAPOLIS Morning departure for *Sardes*, the Dying Church and the capital of Lydian Kingdom. Alexander the Great camped here before he headed east. Drive through the valley of the Hermus River to Alasehir, Philadelphia, the church that "kept the faith". The walls of the ancient city are still standing. Continue to Hierapolis for overnight.

DAY 05: HIERAPOLIS Morning visit to the ruins of Hierapolis and St. Philip's martyrdom, drive to *Laodicea*. The church at Laodicea was an extension of the church in Ephesus as were the churches of Hierapolis and Colossea. Continue to *Ephesus*, the most evocative ancient port city. The impressive Church of the Virgin Mary, site of the Council of Ephesus can still be visited. Here at the great Amphitheater the rioters against St. Paul cried "Great is the Diana of Ephesians". After strolling in Ephesus, return to Izmir.

DAY 06: IZMIR / ISTANBUL Morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival in Istanbul we will be met and transferred to our hotel. See Haggia Sophia, the oldest Christian basilica, fourth largest church building in the world, and the seat of the Ecumenical Councils. Visit the Circus Maximus of Constantinople, the Hippodrome. After absorbing the magnificent beauty of the Blue Mosque, visit Topkapi Palace, home of sultans with its incredible collection of jewels and china. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 07: ISTANBUL Morning visit of the Church in Chora, outstanding for its mosaics and frescoes of Biblical scenes. Cruise by boat along the Bosphorus. Proceed to the world famous Grand Bazaar. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 08: ISTANBUL / NORTH AMERICA Morning transfer to the airport for your return flight home. Arrival in the afternoon local time.