

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION AND THE PELOPONNESE

Sep. 16 - Oct. 01, 2024 - Denver, CO (DEN) - \$5890



Tour Leaders:
Pastor Steve and Kim
Easterday-McPadden

Package Price Includes:

- * Roundtrip Airfare from Denver, CO (DEN)
- * 14 nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- * Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- * 15 days sightseeing in modern air conditioned private bus
- * English speaking government licensed tour guide on duty
- * Entrance fees and excursions
- * And much more!

First United Methodist Church GJ

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Good Shepherd Travel

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The Seven Churches of Revelation and the Peloponnese

Itinerary Sep. 16 - Oct. 01, 2024

Sample day-by-day Itinerary

DAY 01 // DEPARTURE –

Depart US for your overnight flight to Turkey. Meals will be served on board the flight.

“B”, “L”, and “D” in parentheses indicate Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner provided.

DAY 02 // ARRIVAL – ISTANBUL (D)

Arrival at Istanbul airport, meet members of the group and Tour host, assist transfer to the hotel for check-in – (hotel located at Sultanahmet – old City). Balance of the day at leisure.

Enjoy a Welcome dinner at a restaurant within walking distance from the hotel (with English Speaking Escort).

Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 03 // ISTANBUL – Walking Tour (8-9 hrs) (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Full-day walking tour of Istanbul, visit numerous monuments from the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires that reflect the rich history and cultural heritage of the city.

Hagia Sophia, a great architectural achievement of the Byzantine Empire, was completed in AD 537, adorned with beautiful mosaics and frescoes.

Blue Mosque known also as Sultan Ahmet Mosque, famous for its six minarets and its blue interior tiles.

Roman Hippodrome, a stadium built in the 3rd century AD for chariot racing and other events.

Basilica Cistern is a remarkable site, built in the 6th century with a capacity of 80,000 cubic meters of water supported by 336 marble columns each 9m high. One of the most striking features of the Basilica Cistern is the two Medusa heads that are used as column bases.

Topkapi Palace, was the primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans for almost 400 years, from the 15th century until the 19th century. Is known for its beautiful architecture, intricate tile work, and stunning views of the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara. The palace contains numerous buildings and rooms, including the Imperial Treasury, which houses an impressive collection of Ottoman jewels, precious stones, and gold objects.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Dinner at our hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 04 // ISTANBUL – Walking & Coach Tour (8-9 hrs) (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. We start our day with a short walk and visit to the Grand & Spice Bazaars Grand Bazar, is one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world, with over 60 streets and 4,000 shops.

Spice Bazaar – Egyptian Bazaar built in the 17th century, is a popular place to buy spices, dried fruits, nuts, and Turkish delights.

Süleymaniye Mosque is located on the Third Hill of Istanbul, overlooking the Golden Horn. It is situated within the complex that includes a madrasa (theological school), a hospital, a soup kitchen, a hammam (bath), and a caravanserai (an inn for travelers).

Drive over the famous Galata Bridge and stop for a walk to Galata Tower, Istiklal Street, and Taksim Square. Free time for exploring and shopping as desired and as time allows.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, enjoy a Bosphorus cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, the natural waterway that connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara dividing Istanbul into its European and Asian sides. You will have the opportunity to see the Dolmabahce Palace, Ortakoy Mosque, Rumeli Fortress, Bosphorus Bridge. After the cruise, transfer to a traditional local restaurant for dinner.

Overnight in Istanbul.

DAY 05 // ISTANBUL – TROY – CANAKKALE (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure by bus to the legendary city of Troy / UNESCO Monument is considered one of the most important archaeological sites in the world, and a popular destination for history buffs and lovers of ancient mythology. It is known from Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*, which describes the Trojan War between the Greeks and the Trojans.

Explore the archaeological site, which includes the remains of the ancient city walls, palaces, houses, and temples. The most famous feature of the site is the Trojan Horse, a large wooden horse that was used by the Greeks to sneak into the city and win the war. You will visit also the Troy Museum, which displays many of the artifacts and treasures uncovered during excavations of the site.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue to our hotel in Canakkale for dinner and overnight.

DAY 06 // CANAKKALE – PERGAMUM – THYATIRA – IZMIR (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure from Canakkale to begin our land tour of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Today, we explore three of the cities that received the letters of John:

1. Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17), now called Bergama, was the rival city of Alexandria in the arts and letters. On a visit to this city, we will see its Greco-Roman Theatre, the Temple of Trajan, and the altar of Zeus. The Pergamum church characterizes the church from the time of Constantine (AD 313-600). At that time Christianity became the official religion of the Roman state. In this way, the church began to spread around the world.
2. Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29), which was an important trade center in ancient times, is now called Akrisar meaning White Castle. A letter to this Church was the longest of all the letters of the Apocalypse and the message it delivers is also among the toughest. We will have lunch at a local restaurant and continue on to Izmir (formerly Smyrna).
3. Izmir (Revelation 2: 8-11), at the time it was called Smyrna, which means bitter. The origin of the word Smyrna derives from “myrrh”, which was one of the components used to embalm the dead (John 19:39). We will enjoy a panoramic view of this city and then visit the church of St. Polycarp.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Izmir.

DAY 07 // IZMIR – SARDIS – PHILADELPHIA – PAMUKKALE (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Set off for the city of Sardis (Revelation 3: 1-6), whose ruins are near the present village of Philadelphia (Revelation 3: 7-13). There, we will visit their respective churches. Philadelphia lies in a valley at the foot of a mountain plateau. The location of the city is now occupied by a small Turkish village name Shehr Allah, meaning “city of God”.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Pamukkale is one of the most breathtaking places in the world, stunning for its white waterfalls and natural swimming pools, where we will indulge in its beauty.

Dinner at our hotel and overnight in Pamukkale.

DAY 08 // PAMUKKALE – HIERAPOLIS – LAODICEA – KUSADASI (B/L/D)

Breakfast at our hotel. Visit to the ancient city of Hierapolis. The hot springs of Hierapolis, mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Colossians (Col 4:13), meaning “Holy City”, a UNESCO world heritage site, so classified for its hot springs and the ruins of the ancient capital of Phrygia, where Saint Philip is buried and Colossae (now known as the village of Honaz), whose church was mentioned in the Epistle to the Colossians. The hot springs of Hierapolis helped in the treatment of health problems, while the cold waters of Colossi were good to drink.

We will continue to Laodicea (Revelation 3: 14-22) which was located at the site of the modern city of Denizli, where we will visit one of the seven churches.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Then we will travel to Kusadasi where we will enjoy dinner at our hotel and spend the night.

DAY 09 // KUSADASI – EPHESUS – IZMIR (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Travel to Ephesus. Ancient Ephesus was the Roman capital of Asia Minor and an important center for Christianity from AD 50s. During AD 52-54 Saint Paul lived here working with the congregation and organizing his missionary activity and teaching the Word of God (Acts 20:31). This is where he wrote the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Additionally this was one of the seven cities found in the Book of Revelation (Acts 2:1-7), indicating a strong church.

We will visit the house of Virgin Mary where she lived with John, on the hill behind the city.

After this amazing experience, we will have lunch at a local restaurant and then visit the Basilica of St. John as well as the ruins of the famous Diana’s temple with the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Odeon, the Arch of Hercules, the Temple of Hadrian, the Agora and the Greco-Roman theater.

The day will conclude with dinner at our hotel in Kusadasi where we will spend the night.

DAY 10 // KUSADASI – IZMIR – ATHENS – NAFPLIO/PELOPONNESE (B/D)

Flight: Izmir – Istanbul – Athens.

Breakfast and transfer to Izmir airport for a morning flight to Istanbul and on to Athens.

Lunch at the Istanbul airport (on our own).

Arrival at Athens airport, meet your guide, depart by bus to Nafplio.

Driving along the coast leads to the majestic Corinth Canal, a 19th century engineering triumph completed in 1893, a short stop for pictures.

Arrive in Nafplio and enjoy a walking tour of the city, as time allows. Nafplio is a charming old town with narrow streets filled with beautiful buildings, cafes, and features Syntagma Square, the central square of the city.

Dinner at our hotel and overnight in Nafplio.

DAY 11 // NAFPLIO – MYCENAE – EPIDAVRUS – WINE TASTING (B/L/D)

Breakfast at our hotel followed by departure to Ancient Epidavrus Theater, UNESCO MONUMENT, built in the 4th century BC, famous for its acoustics. You will also see the Sanctuary of Asclepius, the ancient Greek god of healing.

Next stop is Mycenae, one of the most thriving towns of ancient Greece. It was the most important city of the Mycenaean civilization between 1600 and 1100 BC. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is best known for being the former home of King Agamemnon.

Discover the Treasury of Atreus or Tomb of Agamemnon, the large “tholos” tomb, a marvelous 14th century BC structure, and stroll through the Lion Gate, standing strong against the withering of time.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, return to Nafplio. Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner at our hotel and overnight in Nafplio.

DAY 12 // NAFPLIO – MONEMVASIA – GYTHEIO (B/L/D)

Breakfast at our hotel followed by departure to Monemvasia. Monemvasia is a small, fortified town dating back to the 6th century CE. Over the centuries, Monemvasia was inhabited by Byzantines, Franks, Venetians & Ottomans, resulting in a rich historical & cultural Heritage. Monemvasia is famous for its medieval architecture, characterized by narrow cobbled streets some buildings Byzantine churches, and ruins of medieval fortifications.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, depart to Gytheio.

Dinner at our hotel. Overnight Gytheio.

DAY 13 // GYTHEIO – DIROS CAVES – AREOPOLI – LIMENI – SPARTI (B/L/D)

After breakfast at our hotel, we will explore the Mani Peninsula.

Visiting Mani allows you to immerse yourself in the unique history, architecture, and culture of this rugged and beautiful region.

Mani is characterized by its rugged and mountainous landscape, with deep gorges, rocky cliffs, and a coastline dotted with picturesque coves and beaches. You will see the “tower houses” made of local stone, and visit the beautiful, small village of Areopoli, along with Limeni a picturesque coastal village nestled in a sheltered cove with crystal-clear turquoise waters.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue to Diros Caves, a unique natural wonder that combines stunning geological formations with archaeological significance. The boat tour through Vlychada Cave offers an unforgettable experience, allowing you to marvel at the beauty of nature's artwork deep beneath the surface of the Earth.

Departure to Sparti. Dinner at our hotel or a local restaurant. Overnight in Sparti.

DAY 14 // SPARTI – MYSTRAS – KALAMATA (B/L/D)

Breakfast at our hotel, then explore Sparti, one of the most powerful city-states in ancient Greece known for its militaristic society, with strong emphasis on discipline, endurance, and military training. It is the birth place of King Leonidas, who led the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue to Mystras UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded in the 13th-century, capital of the Byzantine Despotate of the Morea. You will see well-preserved Byzantine churches: the church of Agios Dimitrios, the Pantanassa Monastery, and palaces – the Palace of Despots, fortifications, and residential buildings.

In the afternoon, depart to Kalamata.

Dinner at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight Kalamata.

DAY 15 // KALAMATA – TRIPOLI – ATHENS (B/L/D)

Breakfast at our hotel. Then visit Kalamata, a vibrant city with a mix of modern amenities and historical attractions. Depart for Athens – on the way, stop at Agia Fotini of Mantineias. Believed to have ancient roots, it combines a variety of architectural styles and cultures, unlike that of any other Christian church.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Driving north from Agia Fotini, you will pass through Mantinea, a “Protected Designation of Origin” wine-producing area, which makes some of the best wines of Greece including Moschofilero. You will have the opportunity for wine tasting in one of the most famous wineries of the area.

Arrive in Athens; check in at our hotel.

Farewell dinner and overnight in Athens.

DAY 16 // ATHENS – DEPARTURE (B)

Breakfast at our hotel followed by transport to Athens airport in accordance with flight schedules.

Note: While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$1000.00 per person is due by March 16, 2024. The final payment is due no less than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour (June 16, 2024). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments will be accepted but will incur a 4% Surcharge at the time of booking. Reservations received after June 16, 2024 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: If a passenger cancels his/her tour membership there will be no cancellation fee until 121 days before departure. For cancellations 120-91 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. 90-61 days before departure the cancellation fee will be 50% of the Cost per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 60 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to Goodshepherd Travel in writing. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

FARE INCLUSIVE: Roundtrip air transportation from Denver, CO (DEN) International as indicated on the registration form. 14 nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four star hotels by (local standards). 3 nights. All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Local breakfasts (B) at the hotel and Lunch. Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motor coaches, utilizing the services of a Government licensed, local English speaking tour guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motor coach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Foreign Country departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motor coach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are Not included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Goodshepherd Travel constantly strives to adhere to the specifics shown in the itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes. Such circumstances may require changes without advance notice during the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to change the itinerary if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control force a change. Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances.

TOUR CANCELLATION: Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by Goodshepherd Travel, the sole and exclusive responsibility of Goodshepherd Travel is to refund all monies recovered.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport costs, visa fees (if any), and health documentation costs (when required); food and beverages (including coffee and tea) not usually included with the table d'hote meals; optional sightseeing tours and excursions; accident and baggage insurance; transporting and handling excess luggage; tips to persons rendering special personal services; items of a purely personal nature such as laundry, telephone, and cable expenses, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

AIR ROUTINGS: The brochure price includes IATA jet economy class transportation from the international departure city applicable on all IATA and ARC carriers, based on the 6/45-day Apex fare to the Europe. Goodshepherd Travel. Reserves the right to choose the air carrier, routing, and departure time for each passenger. Airfares used are based on contracted group fares and are highly restrictive. Payments for and restrictions on airline tickets are governed by the applicable fare. Cancellation fees levied by the airlines are applicable if you cancel or change your air ticket for any reason after purchase of air ticket. Ticketing must be completed 45 days prior to departure. Group fares do not permit deviations; passengers who wish to deviate may arrange their own airfare. An airline credit of \$1250.00 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify Goodshepherd Travel. in writing on or before June 16, 2024. Seat numbers will be assigned by the airline at check-in; specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Passengers are responsible for providing frequent flyer information upon check-in.

HOTELS: Tour prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room in Deluxe hotels. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$950.00 (tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge).

BAGGAGE: You may check no more than one (1) piece of luggage whose overall dimensions does not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. Checking a second bag will cost up to \$100.00.

Each passenger may also bring one (1) piece of carry-on luggage. Tips to hotel porters are included for one normal sized piece of luggage, excluding carry-on bags which must remain in your possession at all times. These regulations may change without notice so please read the monthly correspondence you will receive from Goodshepherd Travel for the most current information. Garment bags cannot be carried. Under no circumstances may dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances be contained in any baggage. Medications, valuables, passports, and a change of clothing should be packed in your carry-on bag.

DISABILITIES: Due to the difficult terrain at sites we visit, persons requiring oxygen or oxygen therapy will not be permitted on the tour. For reasons of passenger safety and well-being, persons with impaired mobility, vision, or mental capacity will not be permitted on the tour. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to refuse passage to someone who is in such physical or mental condition as to be unfit for travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which the tour guide and tour host can provide. The tour requires a substantial amount of walking and the sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

INSURANCE: Acting only as agents for suppliers, Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accident, illness and/or death as a result of any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, or theft. For your protection, it is important that you have adequate travel insurance to cover these possibilities. Additional information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied to you prior to departure.

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required and must be obtained in person by each tour member. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office.

PRICE CHANGES: Tour conditions and air fares are subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC, and airline regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. All rates are quoted in US dollars and are based on tariffs and costs in effect in August 2023, and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges of \$687.00 are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to pass along additional fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

DISCLAIMER: Goodshepherd Travel acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation, sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of Goodshepherd Travel. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By utilizing the services of the suppliers, you agree that Goodshepherd Travel shall not be liable for any accident, loss, injury, death, or damage of any kind to you or to those traveling with you. This includes, but is not limited to, conditions beyond its control, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules. At the time of printing a TRAVEL WARNING as issued by the United States Department of State was in effect for parts of Greece. Remember also that all travel documents as well as compliance with customs regulations are your responsibility. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing, signed by an authorized officer of Goodshepherd Travel. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passenger contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between it and you. By virtue of my signature on the registration form below I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with this trip and I agree that Goodshepherd Travel assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against Goodshepherd Travel., or Rev. Pastor Steve and Kim Easterday-McPadden and First United Methodist Church GJ.

Registration Form

Trip date:
Sep. 16 - Oct. 01, 2024

Package Price: \$5890
Single supplement is \$950.00 (Private Room)

Package price includes the following:

- Round trip airline tickets from Denver, CO (DEN)
- Meet & Assist at Airports upon arrivals and departures.
- Fourteen overnights in Turkey and Greece with breakfast
- Air-conditioned motor coach throughout for all tours and transfers
- Services of English-speaking professional, licensed guide for all sites and museums as per itinerary
- Dinners during tours includes one soft drink or glass of wine per person
- Welcome dinner includes house wine
- Farewell dinner with one soft drink or glass of wine per person
- Transfers from and to airports
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Road tolls and all applicable taxes
- Lunches
- Flights Izmir to Athens

Package price does not include the following:

- Soft drinks.
- Tips for Guide, Driver .
- All Personal Expenses.
- Travel Insurance.
- Anything that's not mentioned in the list of included items, at left.

I agree to the conditions as stated above

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTES:

• Rates are per person in US dollar in twin/double and include port and service charges (\$ 136.00 per person) and are All-Inclusive • Single Supplement + 50% except categories XF,SJ,SB, SG which are + 100% from given rates. Shore Excursions Package Deal (includes tour to Ephesus, Patmos and Rhodes) \$ 168.00 per person and is compulsory (Included) All

RESERVATION APPLICATION

First United Methodist Church GJ
Pastor Steve and Kim Easterday-McPadden

Pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece

(Sep. 16 - Oct. 01, 2024)

Group Reference Number: **TG091624**



PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please complete one application per person)

Full Name (as printed on your passport):			
First Name:	Middle Name:	Last Name:	
Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge):		Date of birth:	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address:	Street:	Mobile phone:	Home phone:
City:	State:	Zip code:	Work phone:
Email address:			

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Country of citizenship:	Passport number:
Passport date of issue:	Passport date of expiration:
Frequent flyer number:	Known traveler number:

ROOM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Please check one: Double occupancy <input type="checkbox"/> Single occupancy (Private Room) \$950.00 additional <input type="checkbox"/>
If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate if known at the time of booking:
If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please list the name, relationship, and phone number for a family member/close friend who is <u>NOT</u> traveling with you:
--

I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this tour contract and Registration form:
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of current passport, registration form and a deposit of **\$500.00 per person** made payable to

Goodshepherd Travel
9021 Washington Lane
Lantana, Texas 76226

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