

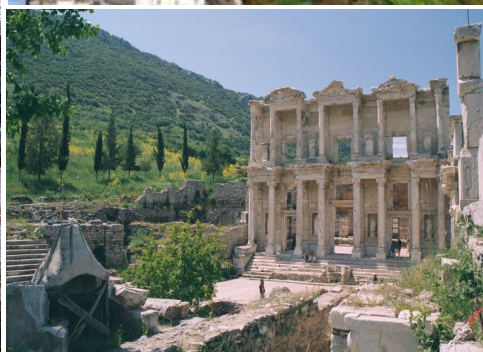
ISTANBUL AND THE 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA

with Canon Tony Fensome

23rd April - 3rd May 2009



An eleven-day journey visiting the Seven Churches of the Revelation
complemented with three nights in Istanbul



McCabe Pilgrimages



ISTANBUL AND THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

with Canon Tony Fensome

23rd April - 3rd May 2009

Our eleven-day journey takes us to the ancient land of Turkey which lies at the heart of the New Testament church. The origins of Christianity lie in the ruins of the churches, which generated the growth of our faith westwards from Asia into Europe. Our understanding of the early Christian communities is deepened at places such as Ephesus, Miletus and Laodicea and the lives of St Paul and St John become interwoven. The people, the sites and the geography give us an insight into the world of the first century church.



Our holiday has three distinct parts. We begin with three days in Istanbul, one of the great cities of the world, with a culture and geography that looks both east and west. We then have some long drives in the countryside visiting the ruins of the seven churches of Revelation. Our final three days are based at a resort hotel by the Aegean Sea, a comfortable and relaxing end to our odyssey.

This is the original McCabe Pauline journey through Turkey, refined and improved upon through the years. A programme recommended as the ideal first pilgrimage to New Testament Turkey including the "essential" elements of Istanbul and the Seven Churches of Asia.



TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this tour is £1,265 and is guaranteed against further surcharge. We will stay in four hotels all of which are locally graded four stars. Three nights in Istanbul at the Seres Hotel are followed by two nights at the Anemon Hotel in Izmir and an overnight at the Richmond Hotel in Pamukkale. The final four nights are at a large resort style hotel, on the coast, with pool, near Kusadasi. Breakfast and dinner at each hotel are included daily in the tour price **plus seven lunches** at various restaurants en route as we follow our programme of visits. Some days (particularly in the middle of the tour) are long and it is good to have a pre-arranged lunch built in to the programme. We will be accompanied on our journey by a local tour guide who will pay all entrance fees on our behalf. We fly on scheduled flights of Turkish Airlines from Heathrow Airport to Istanbul and then from Istanbul to Izmir for the second part of our holiday. We return from Izmir to London Heathrow via Istanbul. All flights, airport and security taxes are included in the tour cost.

The only extra that will be added to your invoice is the insurance premium of £29 (if required). We also recommend an amount of £40 for gratuities, to be collected by your tour leader on arrival in Turkey. There is a visa fee of £10 (cash), payable on arrival at Istanbul airport.

Some single rooms are available and the charge is £195. Please, however, see the note 'Travelling Alone' printed overleaf. Any special requests should be printed on the booking form. A deposit is payable now with the balance payable 8 weeks prior to departure. Full flight and accommodation details will be sent out with your travel wallets 2 weeks before departure.

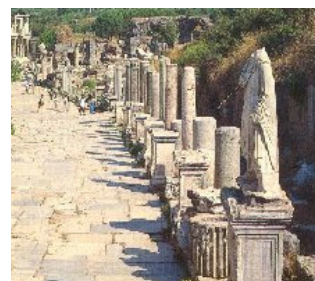
TO MAKE A RESERVATION



To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed booking form and send it, with a deposit of £100 per person plus the insurance premium of £29 (if required), to your tour leader. Please make cheques payable to McCabe Pilgrimages.

Canon Tony Fensome,
42, Francis Crescent, Tiverton,
Devon, EX16 4EP

Tel: (01884) 256611 Email: tonyfens@aol.com





DAILY PROGRAMME

Thursday 23rd April TO TURKEY

We fly from London Heathrow to Istanbul. Our Turkish Airlines flight TK 1980 departs Heathrow at 1125 hours and arrives into Istanbul at 1710 hours. **On arrival we transfer to the Seres Hotel for a three-night stay.**

Friday CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM



We begin in the Hippodrome area of central Istanbul. Visiting the architecturally magnificent Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. Once a Basilica, then a mosque and now a museum, the 'Divine Wisdom' has a

history dating back to the fourth century. We visit the nearby underground Justinian Cisterns. The afternoon is spent exploring Topkapi Palace – residence of the Sultans for almost three centuries. For those interested, a visit to the nearby Archaeological Museum can be arranged. Lunch in the Topkapi Palace Restaurant.

Saturday BOSPHORUS CRUISE

We begin our day in the Egyptian Spice Market. We then drive to the Byzantine Church (now a museum) of St Saviour in Chora with its stunning mosaics and frescoes. We continue to the harbour of Tarabaya where we lunch in the Mer fish restaurant. We then sail on the Bosphorus, which is the ideal way to appreciate the grandeur and beauty of this historic city. In the late afternoon we explore the colourful labyrinth of the Grand Bazaar, the oldest covered market in the world.

Sunday FLY TO IZMIR

In the morning we worship at the Anglican Christ Church (Crimea Memorial Church) in Istanbul. In the afternoon we fly south to Izmir. Flight TK 326 departs at 1445 and arrives Izmir at 1545. **Two night stay at the Anemon Hotel in Izmir.** Lunch not included today.

Monday PERGAMUM & THYATIRA

This morning we drive north to the modern-day town of Bergama. Here we visit the great Hellenistic city of Pergamum which has a spectacular acropolis situated 1,000 feet above the town. We tour the site and visit the grand theatre with seating for nearly 10,000 people, a library restored to its former glory and the medical centre (the Asclepion). Lunch is included at the Caravan Restaurant. Our return journey takes us through the site of ancient Thyatira. We return to Izmir where we call at the Church of St Polycarp and, time permitting, Mount Pagos.

Tuesday SARDIS & PAMUKKALE

We continue our visits to the Seven Churches driving on to Sardis where we see the Temple of Artemis, a Roman gymnasium and elaborate mosaics in the synagogue. We lunch at the Alkent Restaurant near Sardis before continuing to Philadelphia and Pamukkale - with its unique white terraces and warm calcium pools. **Overnight in the Richmond Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale.**

Wednesday LAODICEA & APHRODISIAS

We visit the extensive necropolis at Hierapolis, then drive to Laodicea, a remote spot in beautiful countryside. Our principal visit today is to the Roman City of Aphrodisias, where the stadium is one of



the finest still standing. We lunch close to the site of Aphrodisias at the Anatolia Restaurant and then continue to the Aegean coast **and the Richmond Ephesus Resort Hotel, our base for four nights.**

Thursday PRIENE, DIDYMA & MILETUS

A circular tour of three ancient cities. Priene overlooks the rich farmlands of the Maeander Valley. Today's highlight is a visit to the ancient oracle in the Temple of Apollo at Didyma. After lunch in the Kamaci Restaurant we visit the Port of Miletus where much remains intact including the Lion harbour and theatre. Here we remember Paul's emotional farewell to the elders of Ephesus.

Friday EPHESUS

Today we complete our visits to the Seven Churches, visiting Ephesus. St Paul lived here for some years and it is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the world. Much has been reconstructed and it



is easy to visualise the riot of the silversmiths in the vast amphitheatre. Lunch in the Kalehan Hotel in Selcuk. In the afternoon, we visit the church and burial chamber of St John in Selcuk, and the traditional House of the Virgin Mary.

Saturday A DAY AT LEISURE

A day at leisure. Enjoy the beach and pool or your guide will suggest an excursion into the surrounding countryside, perhaps to the pretty hill-side town of Siringe. The nearby resort town of Kusadasi has an interesting harbour overlooked by a fortress with many shops selling carpets and other local handicrafts. Lunch not included today.

Sunday 3rd May RETURN JOURNEY

An early start as we drive to the airport for Turkish Airlines flight TK 317 which departs Izmir at 1100 hours arriving in Istanbul at 1200 hours. Our international flight TK 1991 then departs Istanbul at 1315 hours arriving into Heathrow at 1515 hours.

**Provision will be made for worship.
Further information will be provided prior to departure.**



TRAVEL TO TURKEY

McCABE PILGRIMAGES

Our pilgrimage is being organised in association with McCabe Pilgrimages. A company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, McCabes have been responsible for organising hundreds of parish pilgrimages to the Bible Lands.

TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive single room supplements. McCabe Pilgrimages will accept individual bookings on a 'guaranteed share' basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation. If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if available, the normal supplement will be payable.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Check that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond the duration of this tour. If you need a new passport apply NOW as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. Visas are required for Turkey for British passport holders, and obtained on arrival at a cost of £10. If you are holding a non-British passport, or require further advice, please consult the McCabe office. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

McCabe will arrange comprehensive travel insurance cover for each passenger unless otherwise indicated on the booking form. We have negotiated the premium (see 'Tour Information' section inside for rate) which as well as offering full medical and baggage cover also gives cover against loss of deposits. Cover is arranged by Preferential Insurance Services Ltd and is underwritten by Optimum Underwriting Limited as underwriting agents for Groupama Insurance Company Limited – each aforementioned organisation is authorised and regulated by The Financial Services Authority (FSA). The policy wording sets out full details of cover and will be sent to you with your confirmation invoice. This document also acts as your insurance certificate so that your booking reference number is also your insurance policy number.

A special feature of the McCabe insurance is that there is no age limit. Please, however, note it is a requirement that all insured persons must adhere to the Medical Health Requirements section on page 5 of the Policy wording document (which we will send you with your confirmation invoice). If you answer yes to any of the questions asked within this section you must contact the [HELPLINE 0871 527 1282](tel:08715271282). This is a confidential service that will decide whether or not this insurance is appropriate for you. If they decline to offer cover, or if you are unhappy with any aspect of the cover, you can return the policy within 14 days of issue and receive a full refund. In cases of difficulty, we have specialist insurers we can introduce you to.

AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.



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