



McCabe Pilgrimages

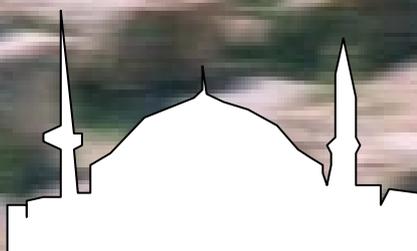
ISTANBUL AND THE AEGEAN COAST



**with the Anglican and Eastern
Churches Association**

2—10 October 2013

An autumn journey visiting some of the Seven Churches of Revelation complemented with three nights in Istanbul and a visit to Gallipoli and Troy



ISTANBUL AND THE AEGEAN COAST

with the Right Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover

2—10 October 2013

Our nine day journey takes us to the ancient land of Turkey, 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 pilgrimage 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 look both east and west. We are also planning an audience with the Eucumenical Patriarch whilst we are in Istanbul. We then have some long drives down the Aegean coast, visiting Gallipoli and Troy before turning inland through the countryside visiting the ruins of some of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Our final two days are based at a resort hotel by the Aegean Sea, a comfortable and relaxing end to our odyssey.

Our journey from Constantinople to Ephesus takes us through some of the most powerful and influential city states of ancient history as well as along beautiful parts of the Aegean coastline, once the meeting place of two great civilisations:



TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this nine day tour is £1,475 per person sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We will stay in four hotels which are locally graded four stars. Three nights in Istanbul at the Seres Hotel are followed by overnights at the Tusan Hotel in Canakkale and the Richmond Hotel in Pamukkale. The final three nights are at a large resort hotel, on the coast, with pool, near Kusadasi. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included daily in the tour price, except for lunch on the last day. The lunches will be taken at various restaurants en route as we follow our programme of visits. Some days are long and so it's 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 with Turkish Airlines scheduled flights from London Heathrow to Istanbul and return from Izmir via Istanbul to Heathrow. All flights, airport and security taxes are included in the tour cost.

The only extras that will be added to your invoice are the insurance premium of £34 (if required); £45 for gratuities (to be collected by your tour leader on arrival) and a visa fee of £10 (payable in cash on arrival at Istanbul airport).

Some single rooms are available and the charge is £240. 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 eight weeks prior to departure. Full flight and accommodation details will be sent to you two 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 £34 (if required), to your tour leader, whose contact details are shown below. Please make cheques payable to McCabe Pilgrimages.

The Revd Andrei Petrine
52 Epping Road
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Tel: (01992) 524421 Email: pater@me.com



DAILY PROGRAMME

Wednesday 2 October TRAVEL TO TURKEY

We fly from London Heathrow Terminal 3 to Istanbul. Our Turkish Airlines flight TK1980 departs Heathrow at 11.25 and arrives into Istanbul at 17.10. [On arrival we transfer to the Istanbul Seres Hotel \(or similar\) for three nights. Dinner on arrival at the hotel.](#)

Thursday CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM



A full day city tour concentrating on the splendours of Istanbul. We visit Hagia Sophia: this basilica dedicated to Divine Wisdom has a history dating back to the 4th century. We then go

underground to explore the Justinian Cisterns. There may also be an (optional) opportunity to briefly view the Archaeological Museum. See the architecturally superb Blue Mosque and have lunch at the Pudding Shop. We visit Topkapi Palace. Spend time in this home of the priceless treasures of the Ottoman Empire; a classic mix of ornamental gates, courtyards and pavilions.

Friday 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. Continue to the harbour of Tarabaya where we have lunch in the Mer fish restaurant. We then sail on the Bosphorus, an 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.

Saturday GALLIPOLI

We leave Istanbul early to drive west along the European north shore of the Sea of Marmara to the Gallipoli peninsula, commanding the Dardanelles straits, a strategic waterway giving access to the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Black Sea. Lunch at a local restaurant by the sea. Gallipoli was the scene of one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War I, in which more than 500,000 Allied and Turkish soldiers laid down their lives. We then catch the ferry to Canakkale for an [overnight stay at the Tusan Hotel.](#)

Sunday TROY & PERGAMUM



This morning we drive south to the remains of Troy where nine different strata have revealed a history of nearly 5000 years. On 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 ascend by cable car). Tour the site and visit the grand theatre with seating for nearly 10,000 people, remains of the library and the medical centre (the Asclepion). Lunch at the Kardesler Restaurant before continuing to Pamukkale with its unique white terraces and warm calcium pools. [Overnight in the Richmond Thermal Hotel in Pamukkale.](#)

Monday HIERAPOLIS, LAODICEA & APHRODISIAS

After spending the night at Pamukkale, we visit the ruins of Hierapolis including the impressive necropolis. We drive on to nearby Laodicea, its ancient remains set amidst beautiful countryside. Buried for centuries by a series of earthquakes, the Roman City of Aphrodisias is one of the best-preserved sites in Turkey and the stadium is one of the finest Greco-Roman structures in the world. Lunch is at the Anatolia Restaurant. In the late afternoon, we arrive at the [Ephesus Richmond Resort in Pamucak, overlooking the Aegean Sea, where we stay for three nights.](#)

Tuesday THE EARLY CHURCH

Today we visit Ephesus, the first of the Seven Churches of Asia. This was the home of St Paul and is one of the most **i m p r e s s i v e** archaeological sites in the world. Much has been reconstructed and it is easy to visualise the riot of the silversmiths in the vast amphitheatre. After lunch at the Kalehan Hotel in Selcuk, we visit the church and burial chamber of St John and the traditional House of the Virgin Mary, where we celebrate the Eucharist and renew our baptismal vows.



Wednesday PRIENE, DIDYMA AND MILETUS

A circular tour of three ancient cities: Priene, a wonderful example of Greek town planning, is in a peaceful, sheltered spot and once home to a substantial Christian community connected to Miletus. Didyma, today's highlight, houses the ancient oracle in the Temple of Apollo. 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. Return to the hotel late afternoon.



Thursday 10 October HOMEWARD BOUND

A free morning to relax (lunch is not included today). We leave for the airport at around 12.00. TK2325 departs Izmir at 15.00 and arrives in Istanbul at 16.05. We then connect on to flight TK1983 departing at 19.00 arriving back at Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 at 21.00.

Whilst we are in Istanbul we plan to join the congregation at Christ Church, the Anglican church for evening prayer. We hear about the life of Christians in Turkey.

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 almost 30 years in the business, McCabe Pilgrimages has 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 0843 208 1461](tel:08432081461). 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 to whom we can introduce you.

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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