

# JOURNEY TO TURKEY



Escorted by the Reverend Dr Robert McFarlane **Mon 9th – Fri 27th April 2012**

I've been to lots of countries, but when I first went to Turkey I thought, "Why didn't I come here sooner?" Turkey is incredibly rich in Biblical tradition, such as Paul's journeys and the letters to the seven churches in John's Revelation. It's also incredibly rich in classical, Byzantine and Islamic history, with stunning ancient cities and statues as well as later cathedrals and mosques with intricate painting, tiles and gilded mosaics. And it's equally rich religiously today, with forms of Islam which challenge simple stereotypes. So, for history, Biblical studies, spirituality and interfaith issues Turkey is also a "Holy Land".

"Wow factor" highlights of our trip include Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, experiencing the Whirling Dervishes, the "fairy-castle" landscape and underground cities of Cappadocia, ancient cities where Paul worked such as the well-preserved ruins of the cities of Ephesus & Antioch, and meeting a local Muslim cleric. Not to mention Gallipoli, thermal baths, the food and shopping!

Your learning will be enriched with a booklet of background information for each day and the trip as a whole. Indeed, if people want to take this experience even deeper our time together in Turkey can be taken as the input for courses for academic credit with Charles Sturt University's School of Theology.

**Rob McFarlane**

## DAY 1: Monday 9 April

### Depart Sydney

Depart from Sydney on the 9th of April on Emirates Flight EK 0413 at 21.10 (9.10 pm). Arrive into Dubai at 0545 (5.45 am) on the 10th of April. Depart Dubai at 11.20 am on the 10th of April. Meals on plane (except refreshments during Dubai connection).

## DAY 2: Tuesday 10 April

### Arrival Istanbul

Arrive into Istanbul at 1500 (3.00 pm) on the 10th of April. We will be met by our guide at the airport. Transfer to hotel for check-in. Lunch on plane. Dinner at hotel.

## DAY 3: Wednesday 11 April

### Istanbul

Today and tomorrow we will visit Dolme Bahce Palace, Topkapi Palace (including Harem), Istanbul Archaeological Museum, Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts, Basilica Cistern, Aya Sophia, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Chora Church and the Grand Bazaar.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner at hotel in Istanbul.

## DAY 4: Thursday 12 April

### Istanbul

More sightseeing (see above).

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner at hotel in Istanbul.

## DAY 5: Friday 13 April

Drive to Bursa via Iznik (Nicaea) to visit the senate chamber where the First Council of Nicaea met and agreed to the Nicene Creed, as well as the old city gates and an Iznik tile workshop, then on to Bursa for the night.

Opportunity for a traditional steam bath at a historic hamam in the evening.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner at hotel in Bursa.

## DAY 6: Saturday 14 April

Morning: visiting the Green Mosque, Mausoleum of Mehmet I, Great Mosque and the Silk Bazaar.

Afternoon: Drive to Canakkale through the countryside of ancient Bythinia.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Canakkale on the shores of the Dardanelles.

## DAY 7: Sunday 15 April

Morning in Troy, the ancient city of Homer's Trojan War, also illustrating the features of ancient city of the OT era. Afternoon in Gallipoli, including the major sites of ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, the Nek and others reflecting the interests of the group. Worship & reflection time at Gallipoli.

Lunch at group restaurant. Return to Canakkale for dinner and overnight

## DAY 8: Monday 16 April

We visit the scenic remains of Assos and Troas (both important in Paul's journeys) on the way to Bergama (Pergamom) hilltop city, including the Asclepion

(temple of healing) nearby Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Bergama.

## DAY 9: Tuesday 17 April

Travel via ancient Smyrna (Izmir) & Thyatira, churches of the Book of Revelation, to Ephesus, a centre of both Paul's ministry and also a recipient of a letter in Revelation, including the theatre (scene of the riot in Acts 19), library of Celsus and well-preserved floor mosaics, as well as the later Byzantine Church of St John. Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Kusadasi.

## DAY 10: Wednesday 18 April

Boat trip to the Island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation originated, visiting the beautiful icons in the cave of the revelation and the monastery of St John the Theologian (or free day in Kusadasi). In the event that rough weather prevents us visiting Patmos, we will visit Miletus (where Paul met the Ephesian elders), Didyma (impressive Temple of Apollo) and the quaint hilltop village of Sirince ("Pretty") with its Ottoman-era Greek style houses.

Lunch at group restaurant on Patmos. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Kusadasi.

## DAY 11: Thursday 19 April

Drive from Kusadasi to Pamukkale. Visit Philadelphia and Sardis, both of whose churches received letters in Revelation. Sardis in particular has stunning ancient synagogue floor mosaics.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Pamukkale.

## DAY 12: Friday 20 April

Visit Laodicea & Hierapolis. Drive from Pamukkale to Antalya.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Antalya.

## DAY 13: Sat 21 April

Visit Perge, Aspendos & one of Turkey's finest archaeological museums, the Antalya Museum (especially the "Hall of the Gods"), which contains statues from the sites visited. Afternoon walking tour of Kaleici, the old Ottoman centre of Antalya, with optional free time to return to the hotel or explore independently.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Antalya.

## DAY 14: Sun 22 April

Drive to Konya (Iconium) today via Yalvac (ancient Pisidian Antioch),



major and dramatic ruins of a pivotal city in Paul's ministry. Worship & reflection time, reflecting on Paul's world & ministry.

We will also visit the Mevlana museum, the "Lodge" of the Sufic Dervish order, founded by Rumi.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Konya.

#### DAY 15: Monday 23 April

Drive to Cappadocia through stunning scenery.

On one of the evenings in Cappadocia we will visit a historical Caravanserai for the famous Whirling Dervishes.

Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in the region of Nevsehir/Kayseri.

#### DAY 16: Tuesday 24 April

Today and tomorrow we will visit an underground city (Kaymakli or Ozkonak), Goreme Valley of Churches, Uchisar, Pashabag for Fairy Chimneys, the church of the 3 graces, Derbent Valley providing stops for carpet weaving, tiles & pottery and souvenir/inexpensive jewellery. Lunch at group restaurant. Dinner at the hotel in Nevsehir/Kayseri.

#### DAY 17: Wednesday 25 April

More Cappadocia sightseeing (See above). Lunch in an underground restaurant.

Afternoon: fly Turkish Airlines from Nevsehir (Cappadocia) to Istanbul.

Dinner and overnight in Istanbul hotel.

#### DAY 18: Thursday 26 April

Visit the Spice Bazaar, take in the aromas of the different stalls and stock up on Turkish delight and apple tea. Enjoy a 10:35am ferry cruise on the Bosphorus this morning. Enjoy a final festive farewell lunch together before your transfer to the Airport. Depart Istanbul on EK flight 0122 at 19.25 to Dubai, or to a range of European & Asian extensions & stopovers.

#### DAY 19: Friday 27 April

For those flying directly home, depart Dubai at 02.15 on EK 0414. Arrive back to Sydney this evening at 22.10 with wonderful memories of your trip. Meals on plane.

### TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE TO TURKEY:

**AUD \$ 5590.00\*** per person (twin sharing) Single supplement: **AUD\$750.00**

\* Price is based on minimum of 25 full paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply.

#### Hotels to be used

Istanbul: Vicenza Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Bursa: Kervansaray Thermal Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Canakkale: Tusan Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Bergama: Berksoy Hotel or similar hotels (local deluxe 3 star)

Kusadasi: Marina Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Pamukkale: Richmond Pamukkale Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Antalya: Best Western Khan Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Konya: Ozkaymak Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

Cappadocia: Dinler Nevsehir Hotel or similar hotels (local 4 star)

#### PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Airport & departure taxes
- Turkish visa (US\$20 – payable on arrival)
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

#### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class fares from Sydney – Dubai - Istanbul with Emirates
- One way economy class flight from Nevsehir - Istanbul with Turkish Airlines
- 16 nights' hotel accommodation including daily buffet breakfasts, lunches & dinners throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as outlined in the itinerary with the services of local professional English speaking guide throughout the tour
- Day tour to Patmos including ferry charter
- Airport transfers and transportation throughout in a luxury 45 seated air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to museums and all sights as mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips & gratuities throughout



#### WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Rob McFarlane or Steven Green at ETM Travel
2. Attend a pre-booking information evening (with no obligation) from 7:00pm - 8.30pm Friday 9 September, 2011  
Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta NSW  
RSVP to Rob McFarlane by Friday 26 August
3. To secure your place on the tour, a non refundable deposit of \$350 per person is required by 02 October 2011
4. Full payment is required by 15 February 2012

For people who book for this tour we will organise optional orientation experiences, including speakers from the Turkish Muslim community in Sydney and a visit to the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University to gain an understanding of ancient life, including travel and letter writing.



#### WHO TO CONTACT:

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