



IZMIR

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Virgin Mary

The Gospel mentions Mary when narrating the birth and childhood of Christ and, 'en passant,' only once during the public life. John himself, in the Gospel, mentions Mary twice: in the Cana wedding account and in that of the passion, telling us how Christ addressed his Mother from the cross entrusting to her the disciple he loved and entrusting to John his Mother. According to a very old local tradition, during the first persecution

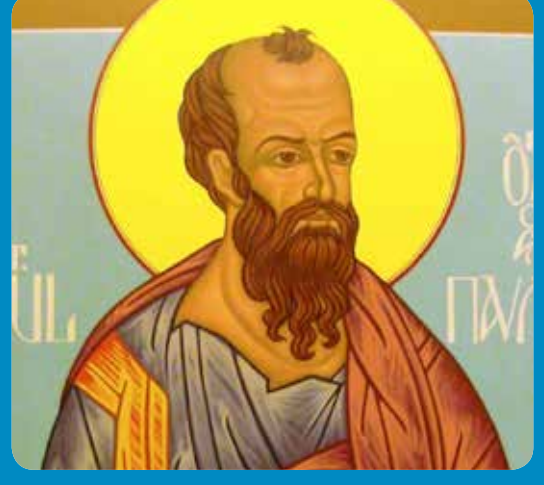
of the Christians in Jerusalem, in the year 49 A.D., the Apostles thought to put the Mother of the Lord in safety, and John, to whom the Lord had entrusted his Mother, accompanied Mary to Ephesus, where she might have lived, if not until she died, at least for some years, until the situation in Jerusalem changed. The House of Mother Mary is the Shrine, partly reconstructed, of the small house where the Blessed Virgin lived during her stay on the mountain overlooking Ephesus.



Virgin Mary House

Biblical References to Places in Turkey

Adramyttium	Acts 27:2	Iconium.....	Acts 13:51; 14:1-21; 16:2, II Tim. 3:11
Antioch	Acts 11:19-27; 13:1; 14:26, 15:22-35,	Laodicea.....	Col 2:1; 4:13-16, Rev. 1:11; 3:14
.....	Gal. 2:11, II Tim. 3:11	Lystra	Acts 14:6-21; 16:1-2, II Tim. 3:11
Assos	Acts 20:13, 14	Miletus.....	Acts 20:15-17, II Tim. 4:20
Attalia.....	Acts 14:25	Mt. Ararat.....	Gen 8:4, II Kings 19:37, Isa 37:38
Bithniya Province (Nicaea)	Acts 16:7, I Pet 1:1	Myra.....	Acts 27:5-6
Cappadocia Province	Acts 2:9, I Pet 1:1	Patara	Acts 21:1-2
Carchemish	II Chro. 35:20, Isa 10:9, Jer 46:2	Perge.....	Acts 13:13-14; 14:25
Cnidus.....	Acts 27:7	Pergamum	Rev. 1:11; 2:12
Colossae	Col. 1:2	Philadelphia.....	Rev. 1:11; 3:7
Derbe	Acts 14:6 - 20;4	Pisidian Antioch	Acts 13:14; 14:19-21, I Tim. 3:11
Ephesus	Acts 18:19-24; 19:1-35; 20:16-17; 21:29,	Sardis.....	Rev. 1:11; 3:1-4
.....	I Cor. 15:32; 16:8, I Tim. 1:3 II Tim. 1:18;	Seleucia	Acts 13:4
.....	4:12, Rev. 1:11, 2:1	Smyrna	Rev. 1:11; 2:8
Euphrates River	Gen. 2:14, Jer. 13:4, 6, Rev. 9:4; 16:2	Tarsus.....	Acts 9:11; 9:30; 11:25; 21:39; 22:3
Galatia Province ...	Acts 16:6; 18:23, I Cor. 16:1, Gal 1:2; 3:1,	Thyatira.....	Acts 16:14, Rev. 1:11; 2:18-24
.....	II Tim 4:10, I Pet 1:1	Tigris River	Gen. 2:14, Daniel 10:4
Harran.....	II Kings 19:12, Isa. 37:12, Ezek. 27:23, Acts 7:2-4	Troas	Acts 16:8-11; 20:5, 6, II Tim. 4:13 II Cor. 2:12
Hierapolis.....	Col 4:13	Troy	Acts 16:8-11; 20:5, 6, II Tim. 4:13 II Cor. 2:12



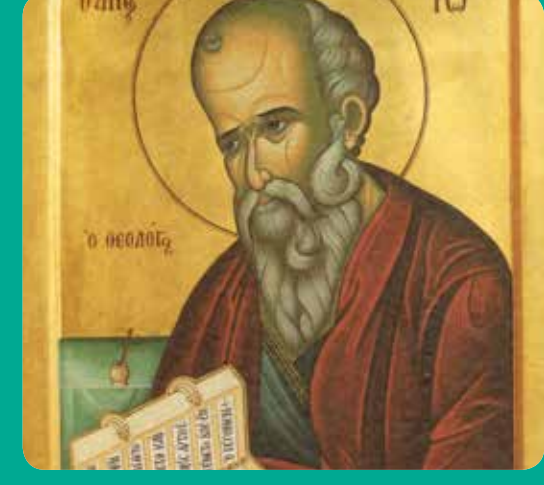
St. Paul

Paul was born in Tarsus, southern part of Turkey in ancient Cilicia. His date of birth is placed by the scholars between 1 AD and 6th AD. He came from a rich and powerful Jewish family.

During the early years, he took action against Christians and took part in their persecutions. His name spread all over the Roman world and created fear. His life totally changed after his vision when Christ appeared to him on the way to Damascus. Christ appeared to him and said: "Paul, why you persecute me"

Paul who got blind after his vision, he was healed with the help of one of the disciples. He left Jerusalem and returned Tarsus during the Christ's ministry and he didn't return to Jerusalem till Jesus' death.

Saint Paul made three great successive journeys which covered big part of Anatolia and Greece. Finally, after his third missionary trip, he was arrested in Jerusalem.



St. John

John the Apostle was the son of Zebedee, and the brother of James. One tradition gives his mother's name as Salome. They originally were fishermen. He was first a disciple of John the Baptist and later one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. He is revered as a saint by most of Christianity.

John is traditionally held to be the author of five books of the New Testament, including the Gospel of John. However, almost all higher critical scholars place the writing of the final edition of John at some time in the late first or early second century. Catholic/Orthodox tradition says that he and the Virgin Mary moved to Ephesus, where both eventually died or there is another support for the idea that John did go to Ephesus and from there wrote the three epistles tradition attributed to him. John was allegedly banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek island of Patmos, where some believe that he wrote the Book of Revelation. According to Tertullian (in The Prescription of Heretics) John was banished (presumably to Patmos) after being plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffering nothing from it. Some believe his tomb is located at Selcuk, a small town in the vicinity of Ephesus.

When John was old he trained Polycarp, later Bishop of Smyrna. This was important because Polycarp was able to carry John's message to another age. In art, John as the presumed author of the Gospel is often depicted with an eagle, which symbolizes the height he rose to in the first chapter of his gospel.



Virgin Mary House

Seven Church of Revelation



During St. Paul's ministry in Ephesus many churches were established in Asia.

Hence these seven churches seem to represent many other churches that were in Asia at the time (e.g., Miletos, Troas, Assos, Cyzicus, Magnesia, Tralles, Metropolis, etc.). The style of the seven messages is similar, with the heart of each focused on commendation and correction concluding with a promise of victory. The historical and spiritual situation of each church aids in interpreting the details of its message.

"...I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'"

Church tradition indicates that the St. John moved to Ephesus with many Palestinian Christians around A.D. 65 before the fall of Jerusalem in 70. During Nero's persecution against Christians in Rome at that time, both St. Peter and St. Paul were martyred in Rome. As the leader of the Asian church St. John was targeted by Roman authorities and exiled to Patmos (Rev. 1:9). While on the island St. John received his apocalyptic vision about the spiritual situation of seven churches in Asian as well as about the future of the church and the world (1:10-11, 19). The order of the seven churches-Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea-follows a route that a messenger would naturally follow in visiting the cities.



Why Turkey is an important destination?

Turkey is one of a few countries where all three religions have co-existed peacefully for centuries. Turkey has been vital in the history of the three major religions; Christianity, Judaism and Islam. There are many important sites in Turkey of interest to people of all faiths.

Many important events had taken place, many important people had lived on the lands of Turkey. The book of Revelation concerns God's judgements and Christians' finalities Paul, John, Polycarp, Basil (who have been in Turkey) and all the rest were trying to prevent the disintegration of Christianity by clarifying and sharpening the alternatives facing Christians.

More and more people are discovering the important role Asia Minor (Turkey) played in the history of Christianity. Travelers can discover many magnificent churches, some nearly as old as Christianity itself and can retrace the footsteps of Saints Peter and Paul

from the Biblical city of Antioch to the underground churches of Cappadocia. Many of the most important events in Christian history occurred in Turkey. Born in Tarsus, the Apostle Paul spread the word of Jesus Christ across Asia Minor, expanding Christianity's reach from a predominantly Jewish base to Gentile communities.

Their ancient names - Ephesus (Efes), Smyrna (Izmir), Thyatira (Akhisar), Sardis (Sart), Philadelphia (Alasehir), Laodicia (Eskihisar) and Pergamum (Bergama) are familiar from the New Testament's Book of Revelation.

Ephesus, perhaps the most prominent of the Seven Churches, is where St. Paul wrote his letters to the Ephesians and where St. John the Evangelist brought the Virgin Mary to spend her last years. The Vatican recognizes the Virgin Mary's house, located in the hills near Ephesus, as a shrine. Just outside Ephesus, in Selcuk, is the Basilica of St. John where he preached and is believed to be buried.



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SEVEN CHURCHES TOUR FROM IZMIR

10 days

3 nights Izmir
1 night Kuşadası
1 night Pamukkale
1 night Bursa
1 night Çanakkale
2 nights Istanbul



Day 01 Arrive Izmir Airport-Smyrna (Ancient Agora)

Arrive Izmir. Meet and transfer to the hotel. Check in rooms and visit to Roman Agora, which was used as a square shaped market place during the Roman rule of the city. Overnight in Izmir. (D)

Day 02 Pergamon-Izmir

Depart to Pergamon(Rev. 1:11; 2:12), visit the Asclepion, the ancient hospital, the Acropolis, the Church at the site of ancient Serapium and the Red Court dedicated to St. John. Then visit Akhisar, the site of ancient Thyatira(Acts 16:14, Rev. 1:11; 2:18-24). Dinner and overnight in Izmir. (B,L,D)

Day 03 Sardis-Philadelphia-Izmir

Visit Sardis, the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia, visit the Church built on the foundations of the Temple of Artemis. Continue to Alasehir, ancient Philadelphia. Dinner and overnight in Izmir.(B,L,D)

Day 04 Ephesus-Kusadasi

Drive to Ephesus (Acts 18:19-24; 19:1-35; 20:16-17; 21:29, 1 Cor. 15:32; 16:8, I Tim. 1:3 II Tim. 1:18; 4:12, Rev. 1:11, 2:1) where St. Paul stayed a while, visit the ancient city, House of the Virgin Mary, the Basilica of St. John. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.(B,L,D)

Day 05 Aphrodisias-Laodicea-Pamukkale

We visit city of Love Goddess Aphrodit. Visit Temple of

Aphrodisias(Col 2:1; 4:13-16, Rev. 1:11; 3:14), Theatre Hadrian Baths, Tiberius Portikos, Agora Door, Tetratoon Odeon, Tatrpylon Sebasteion .Then see the ruins of Laodicea (Col 2:1; 4:13-16, Rev. 1:11; 3:14) and Hierapolis (Col 4:13), Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,L,D)

Day 06 Iznik (Nicaea)-Bursa

Drive to Iznik (Nicaea), the site of the First and Seventh Ecumenical Councils. Dinner and overnight in Bursa (B,L,D)

Day 07 Alexander Troas-Assos -Troy-Çanakkale

Visit Alexander Troas (Acts 16:8-11; 20:5, 6, II Tim. 4:13 II Cor. 2:12) to see only few stones covered by water today. Then visit Assos. Continue to Troy to see the ruins of the legendary city and the replica of the wooden horse. Dinner and overnight in Çanakkale. (B,L,D)

Day 08 Çanakkale-Dardanelles-Istanbul

Then take the car ferry to cross the Dardanelles strait. Drive to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 09 Istanbul

Full day Istanbul tour; the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, St. Sophia Church, built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the worlds greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site, Topkapi Palace, the Imperial Residential Palace of the Ottoman sultans between



Sardis

the 16th and 19th centuries and the oldest and largest of the remaining palaces in the world. Its displays include priceless world-class collections of jewelry, porcelain and costumes of the sultans. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 10 Departure Day.

Transfer to Istanbul Airport for departure. End of our services.(B)



St. Polikarp (Polycarp Of Smyrna)



Shalom Synagogue

For more information: www.cbctravel.com.tr

ST. PAUL'S HOLY TRAIL FROM IZMIR

14 days

1 night Izmir
2 nights Kusadasi
1 night Pamukkale
2 nights Antalya
1 night Konya
2 nights Cappadocia
2 nights Antakya
2 nights Istanbul



Day 01 Arrive Izmir Airport-Smyrna (Ancient Agora)

Arrive Izmir. Meet and transfer to the hotel. Check in rooms and visit to Roman Agora, which was used as a square shaped market place during the Roman rule of the city. Overnight in Izmir. (D)

Day 02 Pergamum(Pergamon)-Sardis-Kusadasi

Drive to Bergama (Pargamum Rev. 1:11; 2:12) visiting three of the Seven Churches-Thyatira, Sardis(Rev. 1:11; 3:1-4), and Philadelphia-from the Book of Revelation. Sardis, where the first coins were minted, was the capital of the Lydian Empire and the city of King Croesos. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi. (B,L,D)

Day 03 Ephesus-Kusadasi

Drive to Ephesus (Acts 18:19-24; 19:1-35; 20:16-17; 21:29, 1 Cor. 15:32; 16:8, I Tim. 1:3 II Tim. 1:18; 4:12, Rev. 1:11, 2:1) where St. Paul stayed a while, visit the ancient city, House of the Virgin Mary, the Basilica of St. John. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.(B,L,D)

Day 04 Kusadasi-Pamukkale (Hierapolis)

Drive to Pamukkale to see Hierapolis (Col 4:13),modern Pamukkale, where the martyrrium of St. Philip the Apostle can be seen behind the Aphrodisias Tetrpylon theatre.Its hot springs have been used since used Roman times for their therapeutic powers.The build-up over thousands of years of mineral deposits has created fantastic formations of white

stalactite,cataracts, and basins.Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.(B,L,D)

Day 05 Pamukkale (Hierapolis)-Antalya

Continue to Antalya and sightseeing in the city (Free time for strolling through the old harbor in Antalya in the afternoon), Turkey's principal holiday resort, is an attractive city with shady, palm-lined boulevards and a prize winning marina. Since its founding in the 2nd.C.BC by Attatos II, a king of Pergamon, who named the city Attaleia after himself. It was the chief port of Pamphylia, from which Paul and Barnabas sailed at the end of the first journey (Acts 14:26). Dinner and overnight in Antalya.(B,L,D)

Day 06 Perge-Aspendos-Antalya

Perge colonnaded street Visits to Perge(Acts 13:13-14; 14:25) and Aspendos. In Perge, the apostles Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey in Asia Minor. Its most notable remains include a theater, a stadium, two basilicas and an agora. It was renowned for its schools of sculpture during the Roman period. The ancient Pamphylian city of Aspendos is noted for its Roman ruins, including an aqueduct and a Roman theater, possibly the finest in the world, which is carved out of the northeast flank of a hill. Free time for strolling through the old harbor in Antalya in the afternoon. Dinner in town and overnight in Antalya. (B,L,D)

Day 07 Antalya-Pisidian Antioch

Drive to Yalvac and visit Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:14; 14:19-21, I Tim. 3:11)where St. Paul addressed the congregation in a synagogue on the Sabbath, the first recorded sermon. The Synagogue was later converted into a basilica dedicated to St. Paul. Continue to Konya see the Mevlana Museum, which was the cloister of Mevlana, a great mystical philosopher of the 13th century, and Mevlevi, the Whirling Dervishes. Dinner and overnight in Konya. (B,L,D)

Day 08 Konya-Cappadocia

Visit Ihlara Valley where there were more than one hundred churches once upon a time.Drive to Konya, ancient Iconium (Acts 13:51; 14:1-21; 16:2, II Tim. 3:11). Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia. (B,L,D)

Day 09 Cappadocia

Full-day tour of Cappadocia(Acts 2:9, I Pet 1:1). Visits to the Goreme Open Air Museum, Avanos, and Uchisar. A land of eerie beauty, the region was a Roman province and the refuge of persecuted Christians during the early days of the Roman Empire. Cappadocia is well known for its rock churches that date to the period of the persecution and for its underground cities, amazingly intricate systems of tunnels cut into mountains of rock. Dinner in town and overnight in Cappadocia. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Nigde-Tarsus-Antakya

Drive to Nigde and visit Eskigumus Monastery, one of the best preserved monastery complexes with an intact fresco of Mary depicted smiling with her infant Jesus. Then on to Derinkuyu, the deepest underground city with eight layers. Continue to Tarsus (Acts 9:11; 9:30; 11:25; 21:39; 22:3) , the birthplace of St. Paul. Visit the new St. Paul Church and Paul's Well. Dinner and overnight in Antakya. (B,L,D)

Day 11 Antioch

Full Day Tour to Antioch (Acts 11:19-27; 13:1; 14:26, 15:22-35, Gal. 2:11, II Tim. 3:11) . Visit St. Peter's Church and the Mosaic Museum. Dinner and overnight in Antioch (Antakya). (B,L,D)

Day 12 Antakya(Antioch)

Airport-Fly to Istanbul Airport Fly to Istanbul Airport. Meet and transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight.(B,D)

Day 13 Istanbul

Full day Istanbul tour; the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, St. Sophia Church, built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the worlds greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site, Topkapi Palace, the Imperial Residential Palace of the Ottoman sultans between the 16th and 19th centuries and the oldest and largest of the remaining palaces in the world. Its displays include priceless world-class collections of jewelry, porcelain and costumes of the sultans. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Day 14 Departure Day.

Transfer to Istanbul Airport for departure. End of our services.(B)



Philadelphia

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HIGHLIGHTS OF TURKEY TOUR FROM IZMIR

8 days

1 night Izmir
2 nights Kusadasi
1 night Pamukkale
1 night Bursa
2 nights Istanbul



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Drive to Pamukkale to see Hierapolis (Col 4:13),modern Pamukkale, where the martyrrium of St. Philip the Apostle can be seen behind the Aphrodisias Tetrpylon theatre.Its hot springs have been used since used Roman times for their therapeutic powers.The build-up over thousands of years of mineral deposits has created fantastic formations of white stalactite,cataracts, and basins.Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.(B,L,D)

Day 05 Philadelphia-Sardis-Bursa

Drive to Alasehir, ancient Philadelphia. Continue to Sardis, the capital city of the ancient Kingdom of Lydia, visit the Church built on the foundations of the Temple of Artemis. Bursa, dinner and overnight in Bursa. (B,L,D)



Nicaea

Day 06 Iznik (Nicaea)-Istanbul

Drive to Iznik (Nicaea), the site of the First and Seventh Ecumenical Councils. Drive to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 07 Istanbul

Full day Istanbul tour; the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, St. Sophia Church, built by Constantine the Great and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, one of the worlds greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site, Topkapi Palace, the Imperial Residential Palace of the Ottoman sultans between the 16th and 19th centuries and the oldest and largest of the remaining palaces in the world. Its displays include priceless world-class collections of jewelry, porcelain and costumes of the sultans. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

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Ephesus



Izmir