

# TURKEY

THE FIRST 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR AND IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES  
PRESENTED BY THE GRAFENWOEHR CHAPEL

NOVEMBER 24 THROUGH 29, 2009



JOIN YOUR HOSTS CHAPLAIN WOODSON, CAREY PERKS AND KATIE MEYER ON A COMPREHENSIVE VISIT TO THE FIRST 7 CHURCHES BUILT OUTSIDE THE HOLYLAND. YOU WILL ALSO VISIT THE FIRST SYNAGOGUE AT SARDIS. GRECO ROMAN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES INCLUDED ARE THE EPHEBUS, PERGAMON, HEIROPOLIS, ASCLEPION. OUR ACCOMMODATIONS IN IZMIR WILL BE AT THE FABULOUS 5 STAR HILTON HOTEL. YOU WILL ENJOY AN INCREDIBLE HILTON BREAKFAST EACH MORNING. AS A GUEST AT THE HILTON YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE HEALTH CLUB WITH A BEAUTIFUL INDOOR POOL, STEAM ROOM AND SAUNA. THERE WILL BE TIME FOR SHOPPING AND DINING.

TOUR WILL BE ESCORTED BY CHAPLAIN GLENN WOODSON FROM GRAFENWOEHR GERMANY, CAREY PERKS AND KATIE MEYER. KATIE HOLDS AN M.A. ART HISTORY AND HAS 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE LEADING ART HISTORY, ARCHITECTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TOURS TO TURKEY. KATIE'S EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION WILL PRESENT A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE OF TURKEY. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT:

**KATIE MEYER 1-916-786-3708**  
**E-MAIL [meyerfr@juno.com](mailto:meyerfr@juno.com)**

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DEPOSIT OF \$300 IS DUE NO LATER 1 OCTOBER 2009. TOUR IS BASED ON 20 PARTICIPANTS. ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. BALANCE DUE 15 OCTOBER 2009. PLEASE FILL OUT THE SIGNED "BOOKING REQUEST FORM" ON THE WEBSITE [WWW.MEYERTRAVELGROUP.COM](http://WWW.MEYERTRAVELGROUP.COM) SEND THE BOOKING REQUEST FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT CHECK TO "MEYER TRAVEL GROUP", 1005 CROATIA COURT, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95661. BOOKING REQUEST FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR DEPOSIT.

Tour organizer and/or its agents act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, sightseeing tours and transportation or any other service in connection with the itineraries of the individual tour members who by acceptance thereof, acknowledge that the sponsoring organization and/or its agents and suppliers shall not be liable for injury, loss, damage or irregularity, liability or expense to person or property due to act of default by any hotel, carrier or other company or person providing or rendering services included on the tours. These terms are accepted at time of booking.

**CANCELLATION FEES:**

**45 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE 75%/ 30 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE/100%/NO SHOWS 100%**

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR AND IMPORTANT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

24/29 NOVEMBER 2009

## 24 NOV TUESDAY IZMIR

Departure for Izmir Turkey. Welcome on arrival and transfer to the 5 Star Izmir Hilton Hotel. Included, as a guest is the health club, indoor pool, sauna and steam room. Massage can be booked at additional charge. Dinner is suggested in one of Izmir's fabulous restaurants.

## 25 NOV WEDNESDAY IZMIR

**Breakfast.** A visit is planned to **St Polycarp Church**. This church was challenged, "Be faithful, even to the point of death" (Rev.2: 8-11). Morning visit to a carpet shop for a lecture on handmade Turkish and Oriental Carpets. Origin, history and fabrication will be discussed. Lecture will be given by Serdar Demirci an expert on oriental carpets from Turkey and Persia. Afternoon walking tour of the Konak Bazaar, plenty of time for shopping is planned. Evening Turkish Wine Tasting hosted by Borg Jewelers in the Hilton Shopping Mall at 7:30PM.

## 26 NOV THURSDAY IZMIR / EPHESUS / LAODICEA / HIERAPOLIS (PAMUKKALE)

**Breakfast** ( a special treat at the Hilton). Departure for **Ephesus** one of the prime Biblical sites and dominant city of Antiquity. It is one of the highlights of any visit to Turkey. Ephesus was the wealthiest and most populated city in the Asian province of the Roman Empire. References to Ephesus in the Bible outnumber any other site; Paul spent more than two years, John lived from 40 AD onwards in this city. "House of Mary and the Church of Mary where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Council met are among the many important sites of Christian history. The city is the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the House of Virgin Mary where she is believed to have spent her last days, the Library of Celsus, the Baths of Scholastica, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of the Emperor Trajan, the Greater Theatre where Paul once preached to a crowd of 24,000, St. John's Cathedral, a 6th.C cathedral built on the burial site of St. John on a overlooking the site of the Temple of Artemis. Departure for Pamukkale and on the way we will visit another Biblical site **Laodicea** where the good quality of raven black wool was spun, Laodicea was once a wealthy city declined when the emperors' financial help after the earthquakes in first century AD. This church was described as "lukewarm, naked, blind and in abject poverty. "It was a cultic center of Hierapolis, and both cities are mentioned in Paul's letter (Col. 2:1&4:15). Continue to **Pamukkale**, ancient **Hierapolis** with the presence of hot springs and the spectacular white calcium deposits from its water spilling over the near by hillside; Hierapolis was a favorite spa in the Roman world. Paul greeted this city in his letter to Colossians (Col. 4:13). Traditionally St. Philip is connected with the early church in Hierapolis, and a martyrium dedicated to him is identified in the site. Dinner. After dinner enjoy the hot spring pool at your hotel.

## 27 NOV FRIDAY PAMUKKALE / PHLEDALPHIA / SARDIS / THYATIRA / IZMIR

**Breakfast.** Morning departure for **Philadelphia**, city of brotherly-love, the Apocalypse church was center of the city. Departure for **Sardis**, the magnificent capital of Lydian's and their mythological King Croesus, it was a city of major importance during Persian and Roman periods. The church was described as having a great reputation for being alive, though it was dead (Rev.3: 1-6). Excavations and reconstruction works still continue in this site, which is identified by many as the Old Testament site "Sephara" mentioned in (Obadiah 20-21). Group will visit the Gymnasium, the ancient Synagogue (first Synagogue in the Ancient World), the Temple of Artemis and the early Byzantine Church. Then on to visit **Thyatira**, well known for its Thyrian Purple Cloth that later became known as "Cardinal Purple". This hometown of Lydia (Acts 16:14) was originally a small industrial town and military outpost during early Christian Times. The church was chastened because of the influence of a local "Jezebel". Return to Izmir, ancient Smyrna founded by the Amazons first, later became the center of trade in antiquity, the city of Homer and St. Polycarp.

## 28 NOVEMBER SATURDAY IZMIR / PERGAMON / IZMIR

**Breakfast.** Morning departure to **Pergamon**, one of the most spectacular cities of Asia Minor, it was the most favored of the Apocalypse churches, mentioned as the "Throne of Satan" in the Revelation (Rev. 1:12-17). **The "Red Basilica"** originally built for the Egyptian Goddess Serapis, however it was used by Jewish and Christians alike. You will also visit the Greco Roman ruins of the ancient city of Pergamon, the theatre, Temple of Trajan, the library, and ancient healing center of **Asclepion**. Afternoon return to Izmir.

## 29 NOV SUNDAY

**Breakfast.** Departure for morning return flight to Germany.

### TOUR INCLUDES

- ROUNDTRIP AIR
- 4 NTS IZMIR HILTON 5 STAR HOTEL
- 1 NIGHT 4 STAR HOTEL PAMUKALE
- ALL BREAKFASTS ONE DINNER
- LAND TRANSPORTATION BY PRIVATE MOTORCOACH
- GUIDED TOURS AND ENTRANCE FEES TO ALL SITES
- LISCENSED TURKISH GUIDE AND ESCORT

### SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS

- LUNCHES AND DINNERS NOT MENTIONED IN ITINERARY
- PERSONAL EXPENSES AND CUSTOMARY TIPS TO DRIVERS AND GUIDES
- \$20 VISA US CITIZENS OBTAINED AT ARRIVAL IN TURKEY

### DOCUMENTS

US PASSPORT

## MEYER TRAVEL GROUP STRONGLY SUGGESTS ADAC TRAVEL INSURANCE

**COST: \$1250** (MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED \$500, COST WILL BE **\$750** (including flight) FOR THIS CHAPEL SPONSORED TOUR) **SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT \$220.00**

**THIS TOUR IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!!!!**