

P T S T R A V E L E R T O U R

TURKEY 2020

19 DAYS - AUGUST 17 TO SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?



Can you picture what it must have been like walking in Jesus' footsteps and along the path of those who took his teachings out into the world? You can bring that experience to life traveling the Holy Lands with our Traveler, John Morton. The focus during these pilgrimages is on the One Accord and the peace that surpasses understanding, amplified as you tread on sacred soil.

"In the one accord of peace, we have to put aside righteousness, indignation, accusations, problems, inadequacies and insecurities. Wrap them up, put them aside and say, 'Today I am not participating in those. I only have this one thing to do – and that is to participate in peace.'"

– John-Roger, DSS



"On our scouting trip in Turkey, crossing a 2nd century Roman bridge, young girls surrounded me with such joy, practicing broken English...."Where are you from?" "California," and yells of excitement and hugging, holding my hand and photos photos, their eyes and my eyes embracing in pure happiness as if a re-union again from forever ago. They were with their Turkish English teacher and our communion immediately expanded. We shared why we were in Turkey and that we would be bringing more people next year on a tour....that we loved Turkey. Innocence and joy and hearts connecting. Nothing is better!!"

—Leigh



MON, AUG 17, DAY 1: **ISTANBUL**

Leisure Day for Travelers from Israel/Arrival Day for the Rest. For those who arrived from Israel, breakfast is included and the balance of the day is free for exploring on your own. For those arriving in Istanbul under your own flight arrangements, you will be getting to our hotel in Istanbul on your own. We will all gather for our 6:00pm orientation meeting at the hotel followed by dinner at the hotel.

TUE, AUG 18, DAY 2: **ISTANBUL** *Dolmabahce, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque & Grand Bazaar*

On our first full day we visit legendary edifices of the Old City of Istanbul. Our first call is Dolmabahce Palace which was built in the 19th century to showcase the metamorphosis of the Ottoman Empire from an Oriental state entity to an Occidental one. Dolmabahce Palace still maintains its original décor with Hereke rugs, crystal chandeliers, and elegant French furniture.

We continue to Hippodrome Square, the center of politics in the ancient Roman days. Featured are the obelisks and pillars of the ancient Hippodrome. We also tour the Blue Mosque famed for its Turquoise colored Iznik tiles. We continue with a visit to the Basilica of Saint Sophia, dating back to the 6th century.

Prepare for a sumptuous lunch at Matbah Restaurant famed for its selection of Ottoman cuisine. Following that, we visit the Grand Bazaar, built in the 15th century after Ottoman Turks conquered Istanbul. In the evening we enjoy a cruise on the Bosphorus.





WED, AUG 19, DAY 3: **ISTANBUL**
Spice Market, Topkapi Palace & City Tour

After breakfast, we visit the Spice Market that has been a center of spice trade for centuries. We continue on to Topkapi Palace, built after the Ottomans took over the city and announced it as their new capital. Featured activities include visiting the Harem, where Sultans lived with their family members, and the Treasury, where famed jewels such as the Spoonmaker's Diamond and the Topkapi Dagger are displayed.

For lunch, we enjoy the ambience of the Garden of Eden, with blossoming roses and carnations, at Green House Restaurant. Then we visit Nakkas, one of the premier centers for handwoven Turkish rugs, situated on the unique Byzantine cistern. In addition to seeing displays of the incredible weaving, we are treated to a presentation on the heritage of weaving arts from nomadic tents to modern day.



THU, AUG 20, DAY 4:
ISTANBUL/FLIGHT TO SANLIURFA

Göbekli Tepe & Harran

Leaving Istanbul we fly to Sanliurfa, then drive to Göbekli Tepe, one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 21st century, dating back some 12,000 years. (In other words, it's approximately 8,000 years older than the pyramids and 7,000 years older than Stonehenge.) Challenging the widely held view, it testifies to the existence of religious beliefs prior to the establishment of the first cities.

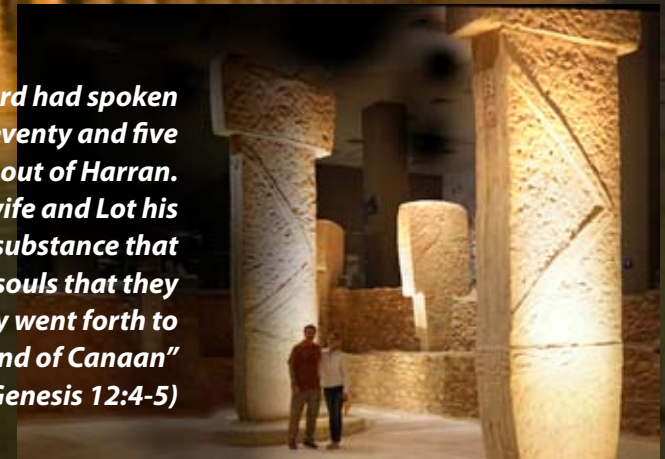
Göbekli Tepe indicates a religious class existed even in these very early times. It implies that division of society into social classes took place well before the widely assumed dates, and perhaps the first agricultural activity may have been conducted in the region. The site is also remarkable for indications of the first patriarchal thought, the first terrazzo flooring, and the first statues and reliefs of the Neolithic Age. In 2018 Göbekli Tepe became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We also visit Harran, known for its unique "beehive" dwellings with cone-shaped roofs on square bases made of clay without wood. According to the Old Testament, Harran was also the place where Terah and his son Abraham, his grandson Lot, and Abraham's wife Sarah went after leaving Ur, when God had told him to move on.

In the afternoon we make our way to the city center of Sanliurfa to visit the archaeological museum and see artifacts unearthed from Göbekli Tepe and other surrounding sites.

Our day concludes with a stroll through the Old City which takes us alongside the pond of Abraham, perhaps spending time at the cafes beside the pond – a favorite activity of the locals. Legend says King Nimrud threw Abraham from the very peak of Edessa onto a blazing fire. But the miracle of God, showing mercy to His beloved prophet, turned the burning woods into carps and the fire into a pond. To this day, people of Sanliurfa and Turkey believe in this legend of faith and show their respect by visiting Halil İbrahim Mosque built on top of the cave where it is believed Abraham was born. Nearby we may stroll through the streets and markets of the Old City.

"So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him, and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Harran. And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Harran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan"
(Genesis 12:4-5)





"John and I visiting traditional beehive houses in Harran, still lived in today but in history their design and presence is thousands of years old. We are in Harran on the border with Syria. According to the Old Testament, Harran was also the place where Terah and his son Abraham, his grandson Lot, and Abraham's wife Sarah went after leaving Ur, when God had told him to move on. Considered the first city built after the Great Flood."
—Leigh



FRI, AUG 21, DAY 5: **SANLIURFA (EXCURSION TO KAHTA & MT. NEMRUT)**

We travel to Mt. Nemrut via Kahta. In Kahta we change to minivans to make our climb up the mountain. The peak of the mountain contains the mausoleum of Antiochus I (69–34 B.C.) and five giant seated limestone statues identified by their inscriptions as deities, facing outwards. These statues are flanked by a pair of guardian animal statues – a lion and an eagle. The heads of the statues have fallen to the lower level, which accommodates two rows of sandstone stelae,

mounted on pedestals with an altar in front of each stele. We enjoy a picnic lunch on the peak with stunning views below.

On our return, we stop at Candere Bridge, built in honor of the Roman Emperor Lucius Septimius

Severus (193–211), his second wife, and their sons. We return to Sanliurfa for dinner at our hotel. Our ride back to Sanliurfa takes us through the region of the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which is also considered to be part of Eden.



SAT, AUG 22, DAY 6:
SANLIURFA/ANTIOCH
Cave Church of St. Peter

We travel to Antakya (Ancient Antioch) where we visit the cave Church of St. Peter. Some believe this cave was used by the very first Christians. St. Peter and St. Paul did preach in Antioch and a church was established by 40 AD. It was the citizens of Antioch that first called the followers of Jesus "Christians" (Acts 11:26). We also visit the world famous Mosaic Museum of Antioch.



SUN, AUG 23, DAY 7:
**ANTIOCH/TARSUS/
CAPPADOCIA**

We journey over the Cilician Gates toward Cappadocia. We visit Tarsus where a Roman road and so-called House of St. Paul remain. We enjoy lunch on the banks of the Seyhan River with the sound of water creating an especially tranquil ambience. We proceed on to the region of Cappadocia, famed for its naturally hewn rock formations created over eons by wind and water



"Fresh squeezed pomegranate juice! Turkish restaurants take pride in everything coming straight from the farm. The yogurt is truly remarkable. Those who serve light up with our delight. Grace greeting us everywhere. Allah HU Akbar God is Great."

—Leigh





“A joyful meeting on the road near the ruins of Pisidian Antioch, where Paul preached when it was a booming city in first century. Paul could travel to such big Roman cities freely as he was a Roman citizen from Tarsus and he could conduct the family business, which was tent making. An excellent ‘cover’ to give him access all through these lands to preach and speak of Jesus Christ. His first preaching to include Gentiles occurred in Pisidian Antioch.”

—Leigh

MON, AUG 24, DAY 8:
CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast, we enjoy a pleasant hike from Kizilcukur to Cavusin, surrounded by the songs of Cappadocian birds and taking in amazing views. Boarding our motor coach, we visit Goreme Monastic Center, one of the earliest monastic centers of Christianity, founded by St. Basil of Constantinople. Here we see the cave churches that served as classrooms for pupils of monasticism. Later we visit Pasabag Valley, where hermits lived in the rock-hewn pillars. Then it's on to Avanos, a home of potters' wheels and pottery craftsmanship since the Hittite civilization of the Old Testament, and check into our hotel.



"One of the greatest Turkish potters...Galip. Utterly delightful and looks like Einstein's twin. He is 5th generation, and usually the skill is passed from father to son, but he is passing the ancient Hittite skill to women—his daughters." —Leigh



TUE, AUG 25, DAY 9:
**CAPPADOCIA/
CATALHOYUK/KONYA**

In the morning, we drive through the open fields of Anatolia to Konya. En route, we enjoy a break at Sultanhan, a 13th century caravan for Silk Road merchants. We end up in Konya (Biblical Iconium) one of the major cities of the Roman province of Galatia which was visited by Paul during all three of his missionary journeys.



WED, AUG 26, DAY 10:
KONYA

We visit the Mevlâna Museum, the mausoleum of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi, Traveler and Sufi mystic also known as Mevlâna. The Museum formerly served as the dervish lodge of the Mevlevi Order, better known as the Whirling Dervishes. Next is a visit to the Tomb Chamber of Shems Tebrizi and the Mesjid, which was built in the 16th century.

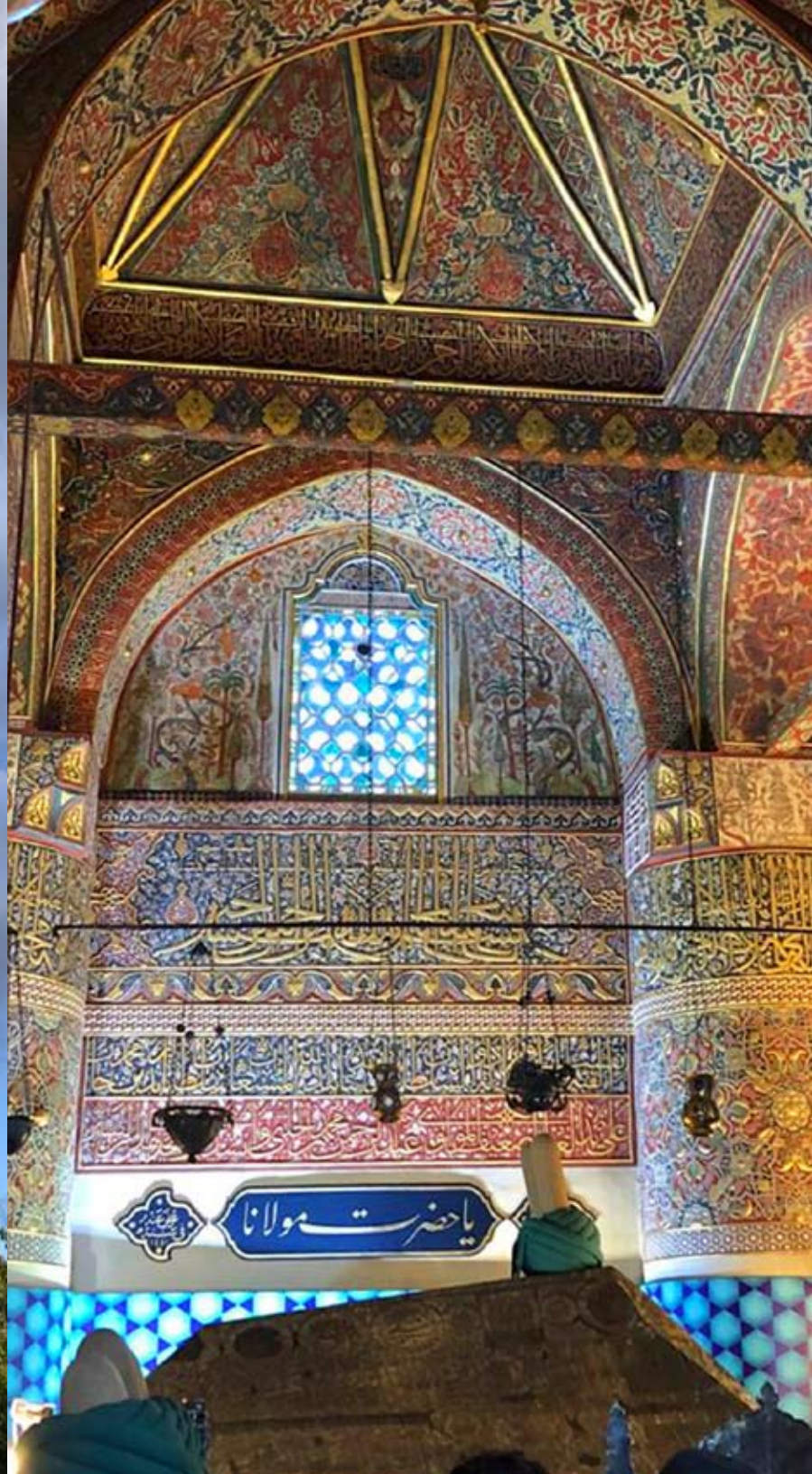
After lunch, we visit Karatay Medrese, a tile museum that still displays its turquoise-colored murals of Kufic calligraphy. We then visit the Alâeddin Mosque, the principal monument on the citadel. The building served as the "Mosque of the Throne" for the Seljug Sultans of Rum and contains the dynastic mausoleum. It was constructed in stages between the mid-12th and mid-13th centuries.



Rumi (right) and his teacher, Shams of Tabriz

"Arriving at Rumi's place of burial,
I began skipping, feeling a giddy
joy ...so happy. The sweet Pres-
ence was so strong. I was in
Rumi's field and I could feel the
welcome and embrace like a
wafting fragrance."

—Leigh





THU, AUG 27, DAY 11:
KONYA/PERGE/ANTALYA

We depart Konya for Antalya, stopping at the ancient city of Perge, taking in its colossal stadium, Roman Gates, Agora, and the public baths. Perge, founded by Attalos II, King of Pergamon, was known as Attalia and was an important port city on the Mediterranean shores of the kingdom. During Roman times, due to earthquakes and silting of ports, the ancient city of Perge became the center of trade in the region and was visited by St. Paul during his journeys through Asia Minor. We continue on to our hotel located on the Mediterranean shore for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

FRI, AUG 28, DAY 12:
ANTALYA

Archaeological Museum & Leisure

After breakfast, we visit the Archaeological Museum to view works of art unearthed from Perge and other ancient sites of the region, as well as the remains of bones of St. Nicholas (yes, Santa Claus), who lived and died nearby in ancient Myra. The balance of the day is leisure.



SAT, AUG 29. DAY 13:
**ANTALYA/MYRA/CRUISE TO
UCAGIZ/SARIGERME**

We start with travel to Demre (ancient Myra). St. Paul is known to have visited the city, and, in the 4th century, St. Nicholas was its bishop. Here we visit what remains of the church of St. Nicholas containing his empty tomb and several fine mosaics and murals. The church is used for religious services only one day a year, December 6, the Feast of St. Nicholas. Later, we cruise on wooden boats toward Ucagiz village, where we have the opportunity to snorkel through the ancient sunken city, Simena, from the 2nd century. Docking at Ucagiz, we enjoy a light lunch featuring the local cuisine.





SUN, AUG 30, DAY 14:
**SARIGERME/LAODICEA/
PAMUKKALE (ANCIENT
HIERAPOLIS)/DENIZLI**

We travel first to Laodicea and the church there to which one of the famous letters from Paul was sent. Laodicea was also one of the seven churches mentioned in Rev 1:11. Some suggest that the reference to “neither hot nor cold” (Rev 3:15) may allude to the warm springs we see later today at Pamukkale -- springs that may have been channeled to Laodicea.

We continue on to Pamukkale (ancient Hierapolis) where we visit the octagonal Martyrium of Philip the Apostle, built on the site where it is believed Philip was martyred. The arches of the eight individual chapels here are marked with crosses. We also visit the Roman theatre, built in the 2nd century and which could hold 15,000 people. The area contains thermal spring waters laden with calcium oxide, reputed to have certain curative capabilities. These spring waters, falling over a plateau edge, have created a cascade of dazzling white petrified basins.





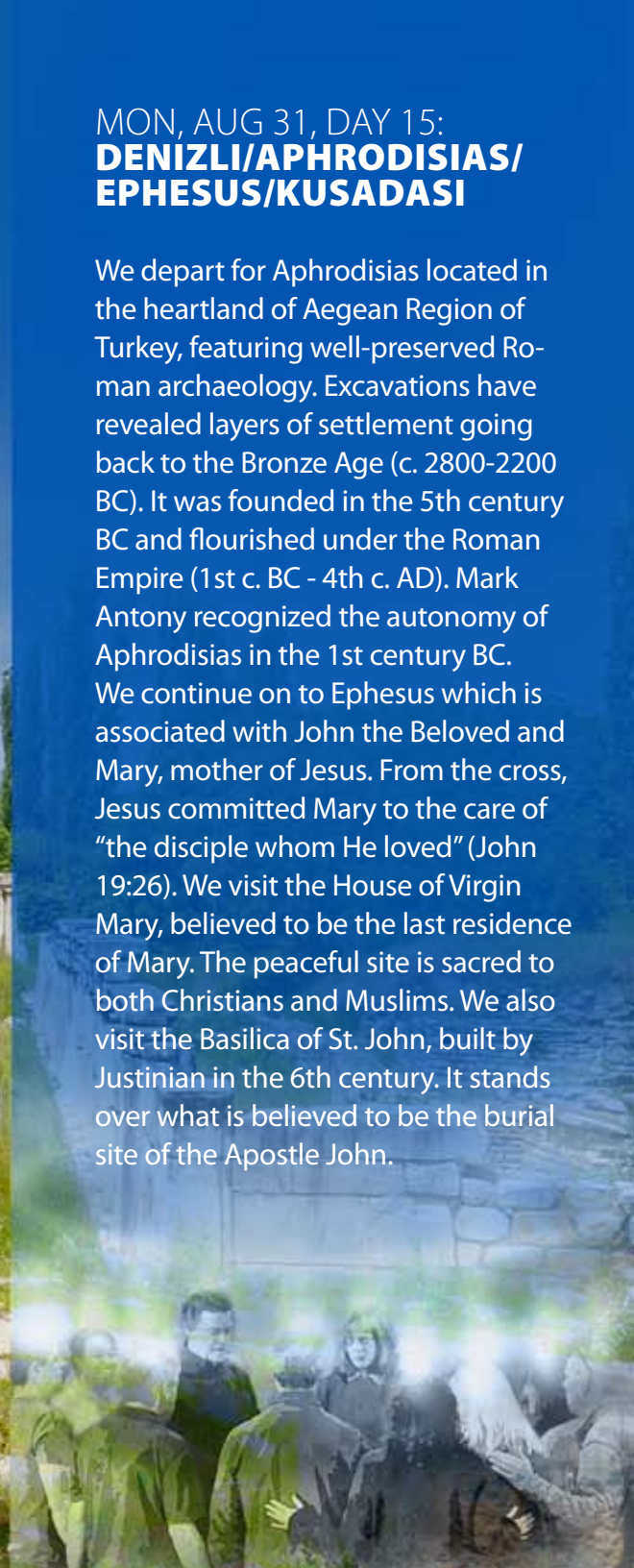
"Aphrodisias is absolutely gorgeous. One of the most stunning sites we've seen. Red Poppies everywhere. Many earthquakes over time have felled these cities—more often than wars. And now it is very peaceful with fields of poppies, caressing fresh breezes and birds singing. It housed one of the most valuable sculpting schools in the Hellenistic, then Roman times. On the right is the outdoor school...a vast area with abundant pools of fresh water to cool the sculpting tools. Gardens and beauty all around. A truly creative oasis for sculpting masters for over 5 centuries: 2 BC to 400 AD. Some of the Great sculptures were made here and then shipped to Rome."



—Leigh

MON, AUG 31, DAY 15:
**DENIZLI/APHRODISIAS/
EPHESUS/KUSADASI**

We depart for Aphrodisias located in the heartland of Aegean Region of Turkey, featuring well-preserved Roman archaeology. Excavations have revealed layers of settlement going back to the Bronze Age (c. 2800-2200 BC). It was founded in the 5th century BC and flourished under the Roman Empire (1st c. BC - 4th c. AD). Mark Antony recognized the autonomy of Aphrodisias in the 1st century BC. We continue on to Ephesus which is associated with John the Beloved and Mary, mother of Jesus. From the cross, Jesus committed Mary to the care of "the disciple whom He loved" (John 19:26). We visit the House of Virgin Mary, believed to be the last residence of Mary. The peaceful site is sacred to both Christians and Muslims. We also visit the Basilica of St. John, built by Justinian in the 6th century. It stands over what is believed to be the burial site of the Apostle John.



TUE, SEPT 1, DAY 16:

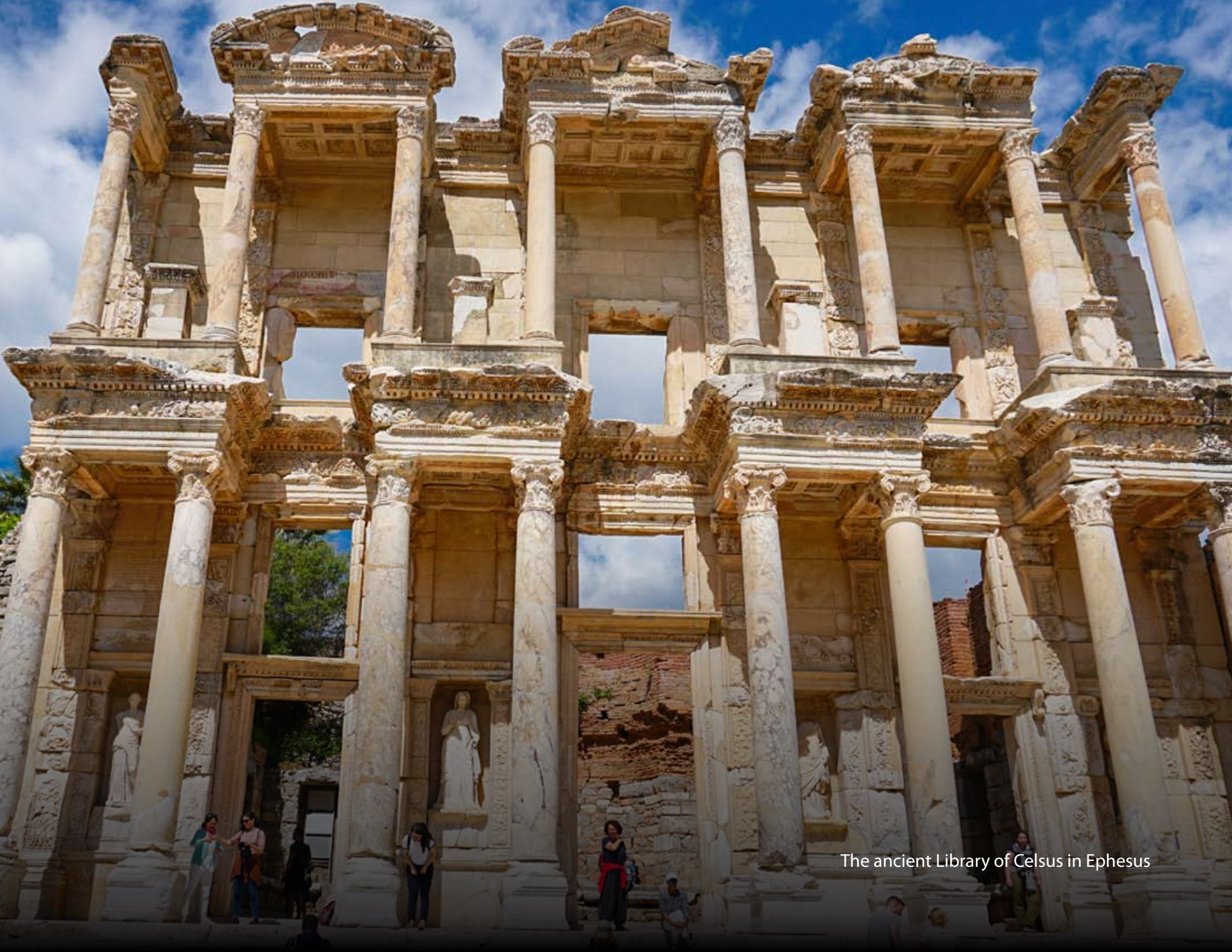
KUSADASI

Excursion to Ephesus

In ancient times Ephesus was the largest city and major harbor on the western coast. Silt in the harbor has today placed the shoreline more than four miles west of where the harbor was in Roman times. Paul founded the Church in Ephesus 53-56 AD. From here, he wrote letters to Galatia, Philippi, and Corinth.

We walk the Marble Road that runs through the city, featuring various structures including the Temple of Hadrian, a unique beauty with its articulated facade, the Library of Celsus which reflects the grandeur of the Roman Period, and the Terrace Houses, the ancient and flamboyant residential section of Ephesus. The Great Theater was the scene of an uprising (Acts 19) set by a merchant named Demetrius against St. Paul, who spent two years preaching the Word of God at Ephesus.





The ancient Library of Celsus in Ephesus



"Ephesus and environs. Inset: In front of Mary the Mother of Christ's home in mountains outside of Ephesus. It is a re-build on the original foundation. The Presence is profound. For me a very high energy—above any projection upon the place itself. Peaceful soul energy. Palpable and divine. Easy to consider infinite protection from Spirit here."

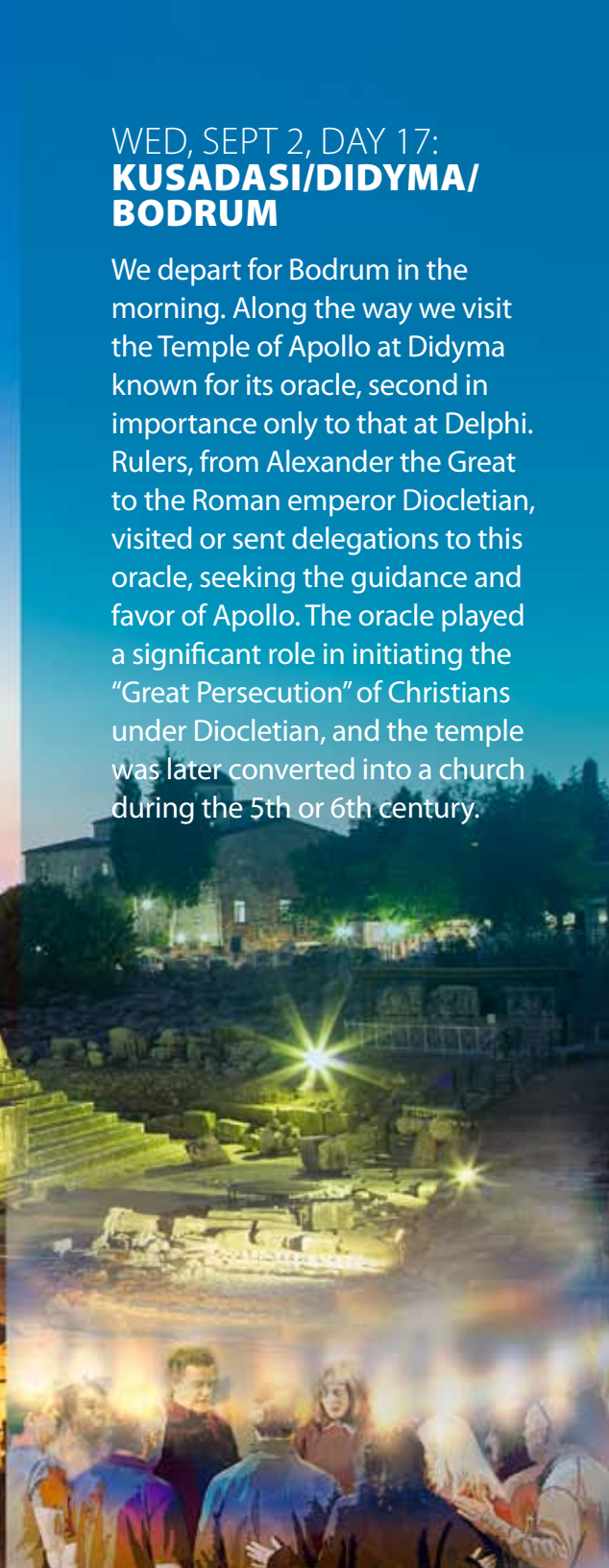
—Leigh





WED, SEPT 2, DAY 17:
**KUSADASI/DIDYMA/
BODRUM**

We depart for Bodrum in the morning. Along the way we visit the Temple of Apollo at Didyma known for its oracle, second in importance only to that at Delphi. Rulers, from Alexander the Great to the Roman emperor Diocletian, visited or sent delegations to this oracle, seeking the guidance and favor of Apollo. The oracle played a significant role in initiating the "Great Persecution" of Christians under Diocletian, and the temple was later converted into a church during the 5th or 6th century.

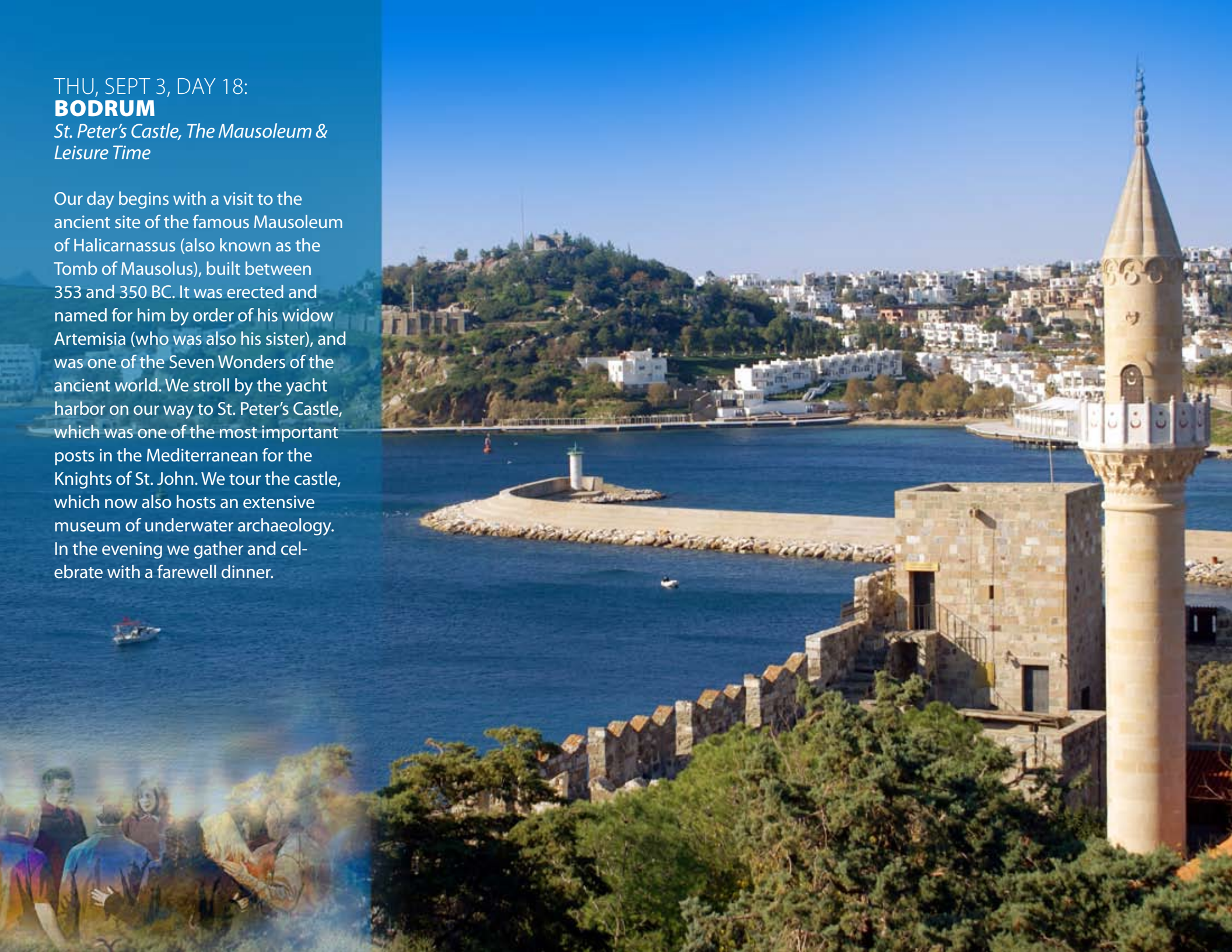


THU, SEPT 3, DAY 18:

BODRUM

St. Peter's Castle, The Mausoleum & Leisure Time

Our day begins with a visit to the ancient site of the famous Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (also known as the Tomb of Mausolus), built between 353 and 350 BC. It was erected and named for him by order of his widow Artemisia (who was also his sister), and was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. We stroll by the yacht harbor on our way to St. Peter's Castle, which was one of the most important posts in the Mediterranean for the Knights of St. John. We tour the castle, which now also hosts an extensive museum of underwater archaeology. In the evening we gather and celebrate with a farewell dinner.



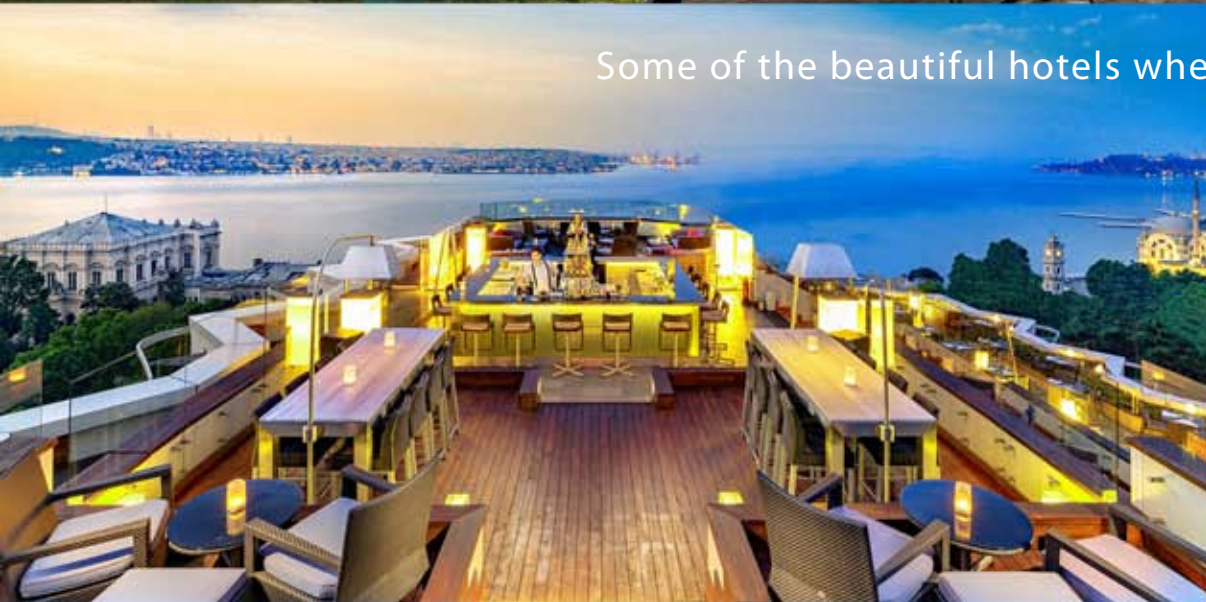
FRI, SEP 4, DAY 19:
BODRUM

Relaxation, recovery from the farewell dinner, and breakfast at the gorgeous Kempinski Hotel Barbaros Bay, Bodrum...and our PTS Traveler Tour is complete.





Some of the beautiful hotels where we'll be staying...



Please join us!

PTS TRAVELER TOUR IN TURKEY

19 Days: August 17 to September 4, 2020

Cost: USD \$11,000 (Airfare not included)

Payment timeline: \$5500 due by November 30
assures your reservation

Questions?

Email PTSTravelerTour@pts.org

HOTEL PROPERTIES LIST

Dates / City / Name of Hotel / # of Nights

17-20 August, Istanbul - **Swissôtel Bosphorus** – 3 nights

20-22 August, Sanliurfa - **El Ruha Hotel** – 2 nights

22-23 August, Antakya - **Grand Boğaziçi Hotel** – 1 night

23-25 August, Cappadocia - **Argos Hotel** – 2 nights

25-27 August, Konya - **Dedeman Hotael** – 2 nights

27-29 August, Antalya - **Kempinski The Dome** – 2 nights

29-30 August, Dalaman - **Hilton Sarigerme Hotel** – 1 night

30-31 August, Denizli - **Dedeman Hotel** – 1 night

31 August -2 September, Kusadasi - **Charisma Hotel** – 2 nights

2-4 September, Bodrum - **Kempinski Barbaros Bay** – 2 nights