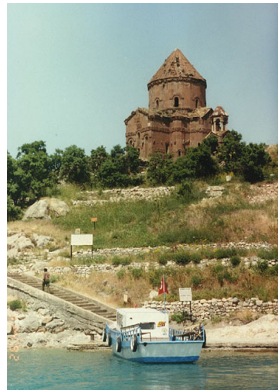




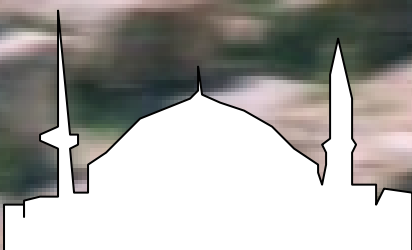
McCabe Pilgrimages

EASTERN TURKEY & ISTANBUL



**With the Very Revd Geoffrey Marshall
Dean of Brecon Cathedral**

25th September - 7th October 2012



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Turkey is the cradle of Christianity – visited by Saints Peter, Paul, John and Barnabas and the venue for most of the early church councils. We start with a day in Istanbul, once named Byzantium and later Constantinople, a major Christian centre until the 15th century, now a huge city in two continents. For many years it was very difficult to visit south-eastern Turkey because it borders Syria, Iraq and Iran. Now we can drive through this beautiful and unspoilt part of the biblical world. This exciting tour is full of variety and leads us beside three of the great rivers of antiquity – the Tigris, Euphrates and Orontes. We will explore a wide range of sites associated with Noah, Abraham, the Uratians, Romans, and lots of early Christians – from the Apostles to centuries of Byzantine, Greek, Armenian and Syrian Orthodox churches. After Istanbul the highlights of our pilgrimage will include a sail on Lake Van, the world's largest soda lake, the 'beehive' houses of Sanliurfa, the mysterious statues of Nemrut Dag and the New Testament cities of Antioch (where Jesus' followers were first called 'Christians') and Tarsus, Paul's home city.

Geoffrey Marshall

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this 13-day tour is £2,225 per person sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities. We will stay in 3-star and 4-star hotels (local grading) of a very acceptable standard. The Kervansaray hotel in Diyarbakir is a real treat to stay in and our other hotels are chosen for location and comfort. Breakfast and dinner at each hotel are included daily in the tour price **plus lunches** at various restaurants en route as we follow our programme of visits. Some days (particularly in the middle of the tour) are long and it is 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 on scheduled flights of Turkish Airlines from London Heathrow Airport to Istanbul and then from Istanbul to Van. We return from Adana to Heathrow via Istanbul. All flights, airport and security taxes are included in the tour cost.



The only extra that will be added to your invoice is the insurance premium of £39 (if required). There is a visa fee of £10 (cash), payable on arrival at Istanbul airport. You will also require an amount (of £45) for gratuities and donations, to be disbursed by your tour leader as you travel through Turkey.

Some single rooms are available and the charge is £290. 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 8 weeks prior to departure. Full flight and accommodation details will be sent out with your travel wallets 2 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 £39 (if required), to your tour leader. Please make cheques payable to McCabe Pilgrimages.

**The Very Revd Geoffrey Marshall,
The Deanery, Cathedral Close, Brecon, LD3 9DP
Tel: (01874) 623344 Email: admin@breconcathedral.org.uk**

DAILY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 25th September TO TURKEY

We fly from London Heathrow Airport to Istanbul. Our Turkish Airlines flight TK1980 departs at 1145 hours and arrives into Istanbul at 1730 hours. **On arrival we transfer for a two night stay at the Seres Hotel (or similiar).**

Wednesday ISTANBUL



This morning we enjoy exploring the area around the Hippodrome. Visits include the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Justinian cistern. We then visit the Ottoman Topkapi Palace where we lunch at the

Konyali Restaurant. We end the afternoon with a visit to the Grand Bazaar.

Thursday VAN

An early morning flight to Van (TK806 0745/0945) in the south east of Turkey where we spend two nights. We drive around Lake Van, the largest soda lake in the world and board our ferry to take us across to the Island of Akhtamar. Here we visit the 10th century Armenian church of the Holy Cross with its extraordinary stone carvings on the outside and remains of unusual frescoes inside. The island was once the residence of the Armenian patriarch. **We stay for two nights at the Merit Sahmaran Hotel.**

Friday VAN

A second day in Van. We visit the Rock of Van (Van Kalesi) and see some of the remains of the old city, including those of the Urartian era. We drive to Hosap to see the spectacular Kurdish castle and call at the Urartian site of Cavustepe. Time also to enjoy the lake of Van.

Saturday TO DIYARBAKIR

We journey to Diyarbakir through picturesque mountain scenery. We return to the lakeside in Tatvan then continue via the town of Bitlis (calling at the medrese, now a tourist office!) and the 12th C single-arched bridge at Malabadi. Lunch break en route. **We have an overnight stay in Diyarbakir at the Kervansaray Hotel, a converted 17th Century caravanserai.**

Sunday DIYARBAKIR

A day to explore Diyarbakir, situated in the middle of a rock-strewn plain. We spend time in this ancient walled city, a maze of narrow, twisting alleyways. Diyarbakir's Christian heritage is still evident and we visit the Church of the Virgin Mary, a very old building still in use by Syrian Orthodox Christians, the Armenian Surp Giragos Kilesesi, Ulu Cami (an 11th century Selcuk mosque), Safa Mosque and the Hasan Pasa Hani. We also call at the Cahit Sitki Taranca Cultural Museum. **We then drive on to Mardin for a two-night stay at the Buyuk Mardin Hotel.**

Monday MARDIN AND SURROUNDS

We spend some time in the attractive hillside town of Mardin, overlooking the Syrian plains. We visit the Sultan Isa Madrasa and Ulu Cami and admire the exquisite Arab architecture. We then drive out to the nearby Monastery of Deir al-Zafaran and continue to Midyat and the Monastery of St Gabriel. This region is of enormous significance for the Syrian Orthodox Christians who have inhabited the area since the 5th C. During the Middle Ages there were four bishoprics and eighty monasteries here. We return to Mardin for a second night.

Tuesday HARRAN & URFA

We detour to visit Harran, the traditional home of Abraham where we see distinctive 'beehive' houses, continuing to Sanliurfa, a city more than 3,500 years old with a great bazaar, beautiful mosques including the Ulu Cami, the Halil Ar-Rahman Mosque with its Pool of Abraham and a cave said to be the birthplace of Abraham. **Two-night stay in Sanliurfa at the Harran Hotel.**



Wednesday NEMRUT DAG

We drive to the mountain of Nemrut Dag (2,150m). On this remote summit a pre-Roman king cut two ledges in the rock and filled them with gigantic statues of himself and Roman deities. Despite earthquake damage over the centuries, there is still a very impressive collection of standing torsos, watched over from the ground by their two metre-high heads! Time permitting, we also call at Arsameia. (Note: There is a 20-30 minute walk to the summit and gloves and hats may be necessary and a warm coat).

Thursday ON TO ANTAKYA (ANTIOCH)

We leave Sanliurfa and drive to Antakya (via Gaziantep), at one time an important Christian missionary centre associated with St Peter, St Paul and St Barnabas. We break for lunch en route. **We stay overnight in Antakya at the Buyuk Antakya Hotel.**

Friday ANTAKYA

We visit the Antakya Museum which houses a large number of Roman and Byzantine mosaics and the Church Cave of St Peter (where it is said that St Peter once preached). We stop for lunch in Antakya. In the afternoon we leave this area and drive on to Silifke via Tarsus (the home of St Paul). **We spend two nights in Silifke at the Altinorfoz Hotel.**

Saturday SILIFKE

Today we visit the magnificent site of Uzuncaburc (Diocaesarea) and the remains of ancient temples as well as a Byzantine church. Also we make visits to the nearby caves of so called Heaven and Hell which have been gouged out of limestone rock - a church was built by the Byzantines at the mouth of the cave of Heaven.

Sunday 7th October HOMEWARD BOUND

We fly from Adana to Istanbul on flight TK2461 which departs at 1340 hours and arrives at 1515 hours. We connect with flight TK1983 to Heathrow Airport. The flight leaves at 1900 hours and arrives back at 2100 hours in London.



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 its 28th anniversary, McCabes have 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**. 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 we can introduce you to.

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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