

PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS ~ PART 3 ~

MSMC Ecclesia Series
Fr. Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D.
<http://catholic-resources.org>

THURS, MAY 23, DAY 11:

- ⦿ **KUSADASI to SMYRNA to PERGAMUM to AYVALIK:**
- ⦿ **Izmir** (ancient Smyrna), one of the oldest cities of the Mediterranean basin (5000 years old).
 - Smyrna was a center of 1st cent. Christianity, and is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11; 2:8-11).
 - Church of St. Polycarp, a 2nd century bishop of Smyrna, who was burned at the stake in Smyrna's stadium around 156 AD.
- ⦿ **Pergamum**, another of the 7 Churches of Revelation (2:12-17).
 - Pergamum held four of the most important Greco-Roman cults of the day: Zeus, Athene, Dionysios, and Asklepios (aka "Savior").
 - Because of worship of Asklepios, a god of healing, Pergamum became a center of medicine.
 - We visit the ruins of the ancient Asklepion, the Altar of Zeus, the Temples of Athena, Trajan, and Dionysus, and a 10,000-seat theatre.
- ⦿ We continue to the seaside resort town of **Ayvalik**.
 - Dinner at our hotel.

IZMIR/SMYRNA

- ◎ <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/turkey/izmir.htm>
- ◎ Izmir Agora
 - The ancient market of Smyrna lies in the center of modern Izmir. Originally constructed under Alexander the Great, it was rebuilt under the Romans in the 2nd century.
- ◎ Izmir Archaeological Museum
 - An impressive collection of ancient and Roman artifacts recovered from area excavations, including Bergama, Iasos, Bayrakli (Izmir's original settlement), and Izmir's Agora.
- ◎ St. Polycarp Church
 - Although reconstructed in 1620, this church is the oldest in Izmir. It honors St. Polycarp, who was bishop of Smyrna and was martyred on a nearby hill in 155 AD.

SMYRNA / IZMIR



SMYRNA: Agora & View to Citadel



SMYRNA: Under- ground Agora



SMYRNA: Citadel Cisterns, Spring, Nymphaeum



IZMIR: Arch. Museum: Artemis, Poseidon, Demeter



PERGAMUM

- <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/turkey/pergamum>
- **Asklepion**
 - A famed 2nd cent. temple and medical center dedicated to Asklepius, the god of healing. Some treatments used a sacred water source that was later discovered to have radioactive properties.
- **Zeus Altar**
 - Constructed by Eumenes II (d.159 BC) as a memorial of his victory against the Galatians. The altar is now in Berlin's Pergamon Museum, but the original site gives a sense of its size and spectacular location.
- **Temples of Athena, Trajan, and Dionysus**
- **10,000-seat theatre**
- **[Pergamum Archaeological Museum]**
 - Several interesting artifacts from ancient Pergamum help bring the ruins to life. There is even a faithful replica of the Zeus Altar.
- **[Red Basilica / Temple of Serapis]**
 - This huge brick edifice was built in the 2nd century as a Roman temple to the god Serapis and later converted into a Byzantine church.

PERGAMUM



PERGAMUM: Asklepion



PERGAMUM: Zeus Altar



PERGAMUM: Temples to Athena, Dionysius, Trajan, etc.



PERGAMUM: Acropolis Theater



PERGAMUM: Red Basilica



PERGAMUM

- ◎ <http://www.holylandphotos.org/>
- ◎ [http://www.sacred-destinations.com/
turkey/pergamum](http://www.sacred-destinations.com/turkey/pergamum)

AYVALIK



FRI, MAY 24, DAY 12:

- **AYVALIK to BURSA: ULU CAMI MOSQUE & SILK BAZAAR:**
- We travel to the town of Bursa and visit the Ulu Cami Mosque
 - Built between 1396 and 1400 AD, this mosque has one of the world's greatest examples of Islamic calligraphy from the Ottoman period.
- Some time to shop at the Silk Bazaar before going to our hotel for dinner and the evening.

BURSA: ULU CAMI MOSQUE



BURSA: ULU CAMI MOSQUE



BURSA: SILK BAZAAR



SAT, MAY 25, DAY 13:

- ◎ **From BURSA to IZNIK/NICAEA to ISTANBUL:**
- ◎ We head to Iznik, ancient **Nicaea**.
 - The First Council of Nicaea was held in 325 AD, during the reign of Emperor Constantine. It defined more clearly the concept of the Trinity and drew up the Nicene Creed. In 787 AD, Empress Irene also convened the 7th Ecumenical Council in Iznik
 - We see the massive medieval walls and the ruins of Iznik's Hagia Sophia Church, scene of the 7th Council, and visit the museum.
- ◎ Then, we board a ferry boat to go to **Istanbul** (ancient Constantinople) for an orientation tour of the city often called "Earth's Pearl."

Iznik, ancient Nicaea



Iznik/Nicaea: Hagia Sophia Ruins



Iznik/Nicaea: Hagia Sophia rebuilt?



<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/turkey/nicea-iznik.htm>

SUN, MAY 26, DAY 14: Istanbul

- ◎ **ROMAN HIPPODROME, HAGIA SOPHIA, BLUE MOSQUE, BASILICA CISTERNS, TOPKAPI PALACE:**
 - Constantinople (Istanbul) became the capital of the Roman Empire under Constantine in 330 AD, and it remained as capital of the Byzantine Empire until 1453, when the Ottoman army under Sultan Mehmet II conquered it. We begin today by visiting the site of the **Roman Hippodrome**, built by the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus in 203 AD. The hippodrome stadium served as a meeting place for politicians, chariot races, wrestling, boxing, and other athletic activities.
 - We then visit the magnificent **Hagia Sophia** of Istanbul, first a basilica, then a mosque, now a museum. Built in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, this extraordinary masterpiece of Byzantine architecture is still covered in splendid mosaics from the 11th and 12th centuries.
 - We also visit the nearby Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, known as the **Blue Mosque** for its marvelous interior decoration of turquoise tiles.
 - Next, we visit the **Basilica Cistern**, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city.
 - Our day concludes at the **Topkapi Palace Museum**, site of the residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly four centuries. We celebrate Mass at St. Antonie Church. Tonight we enjoy a special dinner at a Hamdi restaurant, famous for its Turkish kitchen. (B, D)

ISTANBUL: ROMAN HIPPODROME



ISTANBUL: ROMAN HIPPO- DROME



ISTANBUL: ROMAN HIPPODROME



ISTANBUL: HAGIA SOPHIA



ISTANBUL: BLUE MOSQUE



ISTANBUL: BASILICA CISTERNS



ISTANBUL: TOPKAPI PALACE



MON, MAY 27, DAY 15: Istanbul

- ⦿ **BOSPHORUS CRUISE, ST. SAVIOUR IN CHORA, MOSQUE OF SULEIMAN, GRAND BAZAAR, SPICE MARKET:**
- ⦿ **Mass** at the Church of Santa Maria Draperis.
- ⦿ **Cruise** on the **Bosphorus Strait**, which divides Europe and Asia, to better appreciate the position of this beautiful and historic city along the passage to the Black Sea.
- ⦿ **Church of St. Saviour in Chora**, also known as the Kariye Museum, famous for its early mosaics.
- ⦿ **Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent**, known as the climax of Ottoman architecture, reflecting the Golden Age of the Ottoman Empire at the height of its political and military power.
- ⦿ The rest of the afternoon is open.
- ⦿ This evening we have our final dinner at a local restaurant.

ISTANBUL: BOSPHORUS CRUISE



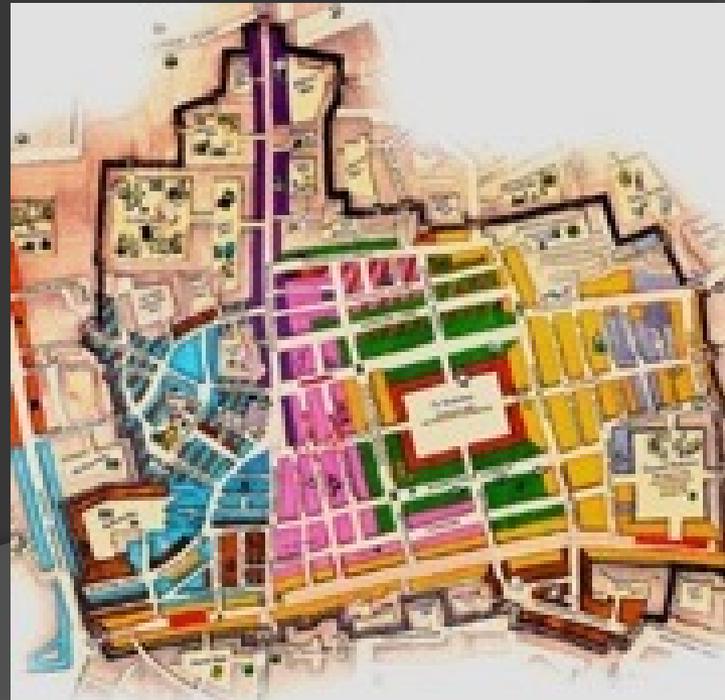
ISTANBUL: ST. SAVIOUR IN CHORA



Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent



ISTANBUL: Grand Bazaar & Spice Market



TUES, MAY 28, DAY 16:

◎ RETURN TO THE USA:

- After breakfast, depart for Istanbul Airport
- 12:45 p.m. – depart on Turkish Airlines #9
- 4:30 p.m. (CA time) – arrive in Los Angeles

◎ Hurray, we made it!

- Time to sort the photos and story the memories!
- And... When and where is the next Pilgrimage?

Image Sources / Credits

- ◎ <http://www.holylandphotos.org/>
 - Includes most biblical cities and towns

- ◎ <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/turkey/>
 - Antioch, Aphrosisias, Ephesus, Konya, Pergamum, Istanbul, etc.