

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL TURKEY

THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2010
(10 DAYS)

LECTURER: CHARLES FREEMAN

£2375

- **Superb city sites in breathtaking scenery**
- **A wealth of ancient sculpture now well displayed on site or in local museums.**
- **In the steps of Paul, weaving in the apostle's early missions.**
- **Wonderfully preserved individual buildings, theatres, stadiums, libraries and temples**



Ephesus, The Library of Celsus

OVERVIEW

In the ancient world the peoples of the Aegean shared a common culture and the boundary that is modern Turkey would have meant nothing. The Greeks and later the Romans made this their own sea. This exciting tour explores the Greek and Roman world on the eastern shores of the Aegean Sea, introducing you to some of the most important sites of antiquity.

The Greeks settled the coast as early as the eleventh century BC but it was not until the third century, after Alexander's conquests, that cities such as Priene and Ephesus became absorbed in the commercial bustle of the eastern Mediterranean. Then in the second and first centuries BC came the Roman conquest. Following the shock of defeat, there was an enormous expansion of city life. Much of what we see comes from the opulent second century AD when city life was at its height and no self-respecting city would be without its agora, fine temples and theatres.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1: Thursday 28 October – We will fly from London Gatwick at lunchtime arriving in Antalya, on the southern coast of Turkey, in the early evening. After a very short journey we will check into the 4* Hotel Divan – Talya where we spend the first three nights. We will have our first group dinner in the hotel.

Day 2: Friday 29 October - We will visit the nearby cities of Perge and Aspendos. Between them they have the main features of second century city life and so we will be able to explore the different building types - the baths, gateways and agora of Perge and the stunning theatre of Aspendos. The apostle Paul came to Perge on his travels inland to Galatia and we cross his footsteps again in Ephesus. We will have lunch in a local restaurant near and dinner in Antalya old town, a few minutes walk from our hotel.

Day 3: Saturday 30 October – The morning will be spent visiting the museum at Antalya, with its marvellous collection of sculptures and sarcophagi from Perge and other cities. Time will also be available for a tour of the old town in Antalya, one of the best preserved in Turkey. You will be free for dinner in the evening.

Day 4: Sunday 31 October - After checking out of our hotel we travel to Sagalassos with its magnificent position in the mountains. The city is being excavated by a Belgian team and they have cleared the main agora and begun to re-erect some of the buildings, including the city's beautifully carved fountain. We visit the finds from the site in the museum at Burdur where we have lunch before continuing to Pamukkale for two nights.

Day 5: Monday 1 November - The next day we spend visiting the site of Hieropolis which is perched on the side of the hot springs and mineral deposits which run down the hillside. The city has the largest necropolis in existence, its tombs of many types and styles lining the northern road into the city. We enter through the ancient gate by one of the surviving streets and welcoming latrines (!) and then see the theatre which is being restored by an Italian team. Sculpture from the theatre and other parts of the city are to be found in the excellent small museum.

Day 6: Tuesday 2 November - We leave Pamukkale for Aphrodisias, an important cultural centre and home to a cult of the goddess of love, Aphrodite. The city has been well excavated and the tetrapylon, a four-sided gate, has been beautifully restored. Among the wonders of Aphrodisias is the best preserved stadium in the ancient world and the sculptures of the Sebasteion, a monumental building in honour of the Roman emperors. They are now on display in a fine new museum on site. There is a good local restaurant for lunch before driving on to Kusadasi for the night and checking into the Hotel Kismet. Dinner will be in the hotel overlooking the harbour.

Day 7: Wednesday 3 November - The next day we visit two important sites. Priene was laid out on a grid plan in the fourth century BC and is in an excellent state of preservation as the city went into decline as the coastline silted up and it was never built over. After lunch in a restaurant overlooking the Aegean Sea we continue to Didyma which was one of the great oracle sites of the eastern Mediterranean. The temple here was conceived on such a vast scale that it was still not finished after seven hundred years and the size of its columns continues to overwhelm the visitor. We return to Kusadasi for a free evening.

Day 8: Thursday 4 November - Today we visit the extraordinary site of Ephesus. While it is often crowded out with cruise ships during the Summer, we hope to have it more to ourselves in November. The Library of Celsus, the theatre and the many fountains and smaller buildings make it an absorbing visit. The remarkable terraced houses excavated by the Austrians provided a vivid picture of upper-class Roman life in the second century AD. We will explore the church that was the site for the important Councils of Ephesus, 431 and 449. We continue to Seljuk to see the museum.

Day 9: Friday 5 November – We travel to wealthy Sardis, the ancient city of Croesus and known for its deposits of gold. It has one of the most impressive synagogues in the Mediterranean, allowing us to explore another religious community of the ancient Mediterranean. Its temple to Artemis is one of the largest in Asia Minor. Free Lunch. Our final group dinner will be in a local restaurant.

Day 10: Saturday 6 November – There will be some free time before leaving for Izmir where we will have lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards we continue to Izmir Airport for the BA flight to London Gatwick arriving in the evening.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £2375

Deposit £195

Single Supplement £175 (Double for Sole Use)

Hotel 9 nights accommodation with breakfast: 3 nights in the Hotel Divan-Talya in Antalya; 2 nights in the 5* Colossae in Pamukkale; 4 nights in the 5* Kismet Hotel in Kusadasi.

Flights British Airways

Outward: **BA2686** Depart London Gatwick (North Terminal) **1000** arrive Antalya **1615**

Return: **BA2671** Depart Izmir **1745** arrive London Gatwick (North Terminal) **2000**

Price includes 6 dinners & 8 lunches with water, wine & coffee, all local transfers, entry fees & gratuities

Not included Travel to & from Gatwick, 3 Dinners & 1 Lunch

CICERONI TRAVEL

2 The Square, Aynho, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 3BL

Telephone **+44 (0) 1869 811167** Fax **+44 (0) 1869 811188**

Email **info@ciceroni.co.uk** Website **www.ciceroni.co.uk**

