

The Cities of Paul and John

April 9-20, 2012

with Dr. Michael J. Gorman ♦ St. Mary's Seminary & University

Deposit deadline: November 1, 2011

This program to the cities of Paul and John—places like Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and Laodicea—is for anyone who wants to see the letters of Paul, the book of Revelation, and the Acts of the Apostles with fresh eyes. In fact, the trip may revolutionize your understanding of the New Testament and even your own faith! Names of people and places will leave the realm of “book knowledge” forever and will become your personal acquaintances. The words of the Bible will take on new life and new meaning as you hear them explained by New Testament scholar Dr. Michael J. Gorman *on-site*, and as the history of each site is explained by expert local guides.



You will also make new and deep friendships as you share this experience with other Christians. Any participant may go on this trip just for personal enrichment. Current St. Mary's Seminary and Ecumenical Institute of Theology students, students in good standing at other seminaries, and those eligible for enrollment at the Ecumenical Institute may also register for the trip as a graduate course that awards three credits in biblical studies or history. (The course may be used to fulfill the requirement for a course

on Paul or as an elective.) Three undergraduate credits are also available to students in good standing at colleges and universities. Current St. Mary's students are welcome to invite friends, spouses, and fellow church members.

This year, we have a very special part of the trip: an excursion to Cappadocia. This is an important region of history for early Christianity and is one of the most enchanting and exotic regions of Turkey. The area of Cappadocia includes extensive underground chapels and cities built into the unique landscape. There are great examples here of early Christian art, particularly frescos in these underground areas.

Dr. Michael J. Gorman is Professor of Sacred Scripture and Dean of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University. He teaches courses on both Paul's letters and Revelation, and his books include *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters*; *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*; *Reading Paul*; and *Reading Revelation Responsibly*. This is his sixth trip to the cities of Paul and John and the third trip for assistant leader Patty Rath (M.A. '99).

Once again, our educational and spiritual travel partner is Illume. For more details about the program (no. 12.10090), visit www.travelillume.com/trc/tmg; start with “Event Specifics” (right column).

The 2012 Itinerary

Monday, April 9

We depart for Athens on an overnight flight from Baltimore (exact flight schedule is to be determined.) Dinner and breakfast will be served on the flights.

Tuesday, April 10 (Athens)

We arrive in Athens and meet our tour manager at the airport. We will transfer via private deluxe motorcoach to our hotel. Depending upon flight arrival schedule, we may have an orientation tour of the city via the motorcoach followed by a welcome dinner at a restaurant in Plaka. Overnight in Athens.

Free time (travel schedule permitting), dinner and overnight in Athens.

Wednesday, April 11 (Corinth)

Breakfast. Today we have a full-day excursion to Corinth and vicinity. We return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

After visiting the ruins of ancient Corinth, we will share in an ecumenical prayer service before ascending the Acrocorinth. Afterward, we will drive by Cenchreae, Corinth's eastern port and the home of Phoebe (Romans 16:1-3). We will also stop briefly at Isthmia, site of Olympic-like games and opportunities for tentmaking.

Corinth



Thursday, April 12 (Athens)

Breakfast. This morning we will visit the Agora, Acropolis, and Areopagus (Mars Hill; see Acts 17). We will transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Turkey. Dinner and overnight in Izmir.

Friday, April 13 (Ephesus)

After breakfast we will embark on a full-day visit to the various sites of Ephesus (see Acts 19; Rev 2:1-7; Ephesians), perhaps the best-preserved ancient city, including the main archaeological site (including the terraced sloping Roman villas), the grotto of St. Paul (authorities permitting), the area around the Basilica of St. John, the Museum in Selcuk, and the House of Mary site.

Thanks to extensive excavation, the magnificence of Ephesus is easily experienced by modern visitors. The main archaeological site boasts extensive excavations of Roman temples, baths, theaters, government buildings, the impressive library of Celsus, and newly excavated Roman villas. It is very easy to imagine daily life in this ancient city and to consider the cultural context within which early Christians lived and forged a new faith.

We return to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, April 14 (Smyrna, Pergamum, Sardis)

Breakfast. This morning we will visit Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11), and then travel to Pergamum (or Pergamon), visiting the Asklepion and the Acropolis (Rev. 3:12-17). We continue on to Sardis (Rev 3:1-6), visiting the two main sites there. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

Sunday, April 15 (Hierapolis, Laodicea, Colossae, Aphrodisias)

Breakfast. Today we will visit Hierapolis (Col 4:13), Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22: Col. 2:1; 4:12-16), the unexcavated Colossae (Colossians), and Aphrodisias (including in Aphrodisias the museum and main archaeological site). We will also have an ecumenical worship service. Overnight/dinner Pamukkale.

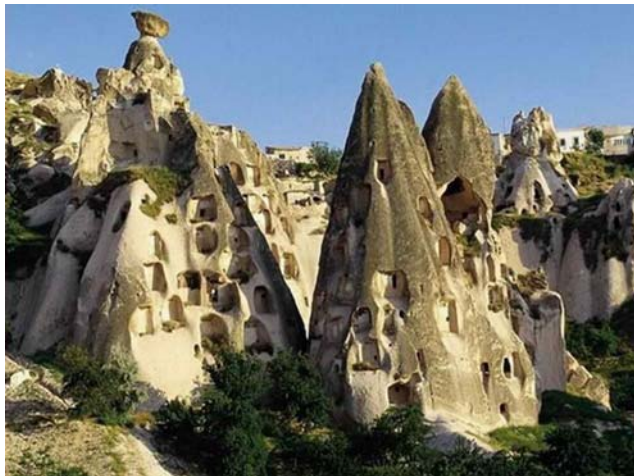
Monday, April 16 (Pisidian Antioch)

Breakfast. We leave early for a motorcoach trip to Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13). After we visit the site, we then embark for a long journey to Cappadocia via Konya (Iconium; see Acts 14). Dinner and overnight in Urgup.

Tuesday, April 17 (Cappadocia)

Breakfast. The unique region of Cappadocia in central Anatolia was formed by the erosion of volcanic tufa soil. Vast panoramas of what look like carved figures and fairy tale castles spread for miles. Large complexes of underground cities and buildings have been created over the centuries. Many of these include historic Christian chapels richly decorated with frescos.

Cappadocia



We will spend the full day in Cappadocia – seeing the Goreme Valley monasteries and churches, Urgup Town, Ortahisar settlement, Zive valley and Avanos Town. Dinner and overnight Urgup.

Wednesday, April 18 (Cappadocia)

Breakfast. This morning we will visit the Derinkuyu Underground City and the Soganli Valley churches. This afternoon we will see the Uchisar natural highrise and valleys. In the afternoon we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Thursday, April 19 (Istanbul/ Constantinople)

Breakfast. Istanbul is a wonderful encounter with the history and culture of Turkey, and an important ecumenical and interfaith experience. We begin this day visiting the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church, famous for its frescoes and mosaics. The afternoon is free to visit the Grand Bazaar (or perhaps some may want to visit the Archaeological Museum or the Topkapi Palace). Farewell dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Friday, April 20

After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our return flight to Baltimore.

Inclusive Features

- Air transportation via regularly scheduled flights between the following cities:
 - Baltimore ~ Athens (possibly via JFK)
 - Athens ~ Izmir
 - Kayseri ~ Istanbul
 - Istanbul ~ Baltimore or Dulles (possibly via JFK)
- Hotel accommodations in twin-bedded rooms with private baths as follows:
 - Athens ~ 3 star ~ 2 nights
 - Izmir ~ 4 star ~ 2 nights
 - Pamukkale ~ 4 star ~ 2 nights
 - Urgup ~ 4 star ~ 2 nights
 - Istanbul ~ 4 star ~ 2 nights
- Continental buffet breakfast served daily in the hotels.
- One dinner at a local restaurant in Plaka, Greece.
- All subsequent dinners (unless we are en route on the motorcoach) are included and served in the hotels.
- Services of an English - speaking professional tour manager/guide in Turkey and Greece.
- Transportation via private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with English - speaking assistance
- Privately guided sightseeing including entrance fees to the archaeological sites and museums as per the itinerary.
- Luggage, portorage, road and local taxes.

Ephesus



Program Prices

\$4399.00 per person based on double occupancy

Note: the price is subject to minor adjustments if airline taxes, airport fees, security fees, and/or fuel surcharges increase.

\$100.00 recommended for tips

\$500.00 supplement for single room occupancy

Please note: Single rooms for single use are limited to 10% of the total number of rooms reserved. Thereafter, double rooms for single use will be secured at a supplemental cost of approximately 150%. Alternatively, if you have selected double occupancy but no roommate is available due to uneven numbers or if your roommate should cancel, you will be in a single room and responsible for the single room supplement.

Land Only Program Prices

Excludes all air transportation and airport transfers. Land Only participants must independently reserve and purchase tickets for all flights. It is mandatory that these flights be the same flights within Turkey and Greece that will be utilized by the group.

- \$2825.00 per person based on double occupancy
- \$500.00 supplement for single room occupancy

All prices listed are discounted for payment by check. When paying with a credit card you will be charged the standard base price which is 5% higher.

Travel Insurance Premiums

- \$180.00 Deluxe Group Travel Insurance Plan
- \$275.00 Deluxe Plan with Cancel for Any Reason

The Group Deluxe Insurance plan is optional. If you wish to purchase the plan, the premium must be paid with your initial deposit. The policy can be found on the Travel Resource Center for your program under the "Group Deluxe Insurance Plan" link.

Illume recommends that you purchase travel insurance to cover the cost of the investment you will make. Travel insurance provides peace of mind and protection against the unexpected. Please read the Illume Conditions and Clauses attached to the Program Registration Application to review the charges that will apply in the event that you cancel your program participation. Illume offers several options to travel insurance. To learn more click on the Travel Insurance link provided on the Travel Resource Center for your program: www.travelillume.com/trc/tmg

The prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect August 22, 2011 and on 2011 land and air tariffs and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

The program prices will be reviewed before the invoices for the final payment are mailed, and will reflect the prices current in 2012.

Program Registration

Complete the Registration Application (found online: www.travelillum.com/trc/tmg). Forward it with your \$800.00 deposit per person (and insurance premium if applicable), *in a check made out to Illume, no later than November 1, 2011* to:

Dr. Michael J. Gorman
The Ecumenical Institute of Theology
St. Mary's Seminary & University
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210
(410) 864-4200

Mgorman@stmarys.edu

Checks can be made payable to Illume.

Balance of payment due not later than: January 9, 2012

Note: Any changes to the program will be outlined in the final documents which you will receive one month prior to departure. If changes are made that affect the program price, you will receive an invoice or a credit accordingly. Please contact Dr. Gorman with any questions.

*For more details, visit www.travelillum.com/trc/tmg;
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Program No. 12.10090

Athens

