

Sacred Sites Journeys

A Division of Heartlight Fellowship

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TURKEY

Sacred Journey through Myth & History

Karen Tate and Dr. James Rietveld Group

May 26 – June 10, 2013



Anatolia, the Nourishing Mother, as Turkey was called in the ancient past, has not yet been fully explored by mainstream tourists.

A diamond in the rough, Turkey is a melting pot of cultures and spiritualities.

You will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in this layer cake of histories, from ancient Anatolia; Asia Minor of the Greeks, the Romans and Early Christians; and Turkey of the Seljuks and Ottomans.

We will investigate together the religious diversity of this historic crossroads between Europe and Asia, emphasizing ideas related to the Sacred Feminine within various times and cultures throughout history, from Cybele and Isis to Hekate and Aphrodite--and even the Virgin Mary.

We will especially focus upon the goddess Artemis of the Ephesians, sharing secrets concerning her worship that have up until now not been fully revealed.

Themes related to the history of Christianity will also be emphasized, from the journeys of the Apostle Paul and the forgotten history of the Apostle John to the Council of Nicaea and the real story behind St. Nickolas.

This adventure will bring together history and religion as related to archaeology, for this tour will provide how we know what we know from evidence found directly in the material culture.

In this sense, we will all become 'archaeologists' digging deep into the soil of this rich and beautiful country, layer by layer uncovering these mysteries together!

TOUR PERSONNEL

Featured Speaker: Dr. James D. Rietveld



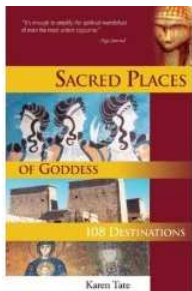
Dr. James D. Rietveld received his degree his **PhD** from Claremont Graduate University School, in **Religious Studies** in 2006, combining this discipline with **History and Archaeology**. His specialties include the History of Christianity in the Early, Medieval, and Byzantine periods, New Testament Studies and Greco-Roman religions. Also at Claremont, Rietveld minored in Islam and Hinduism, focusing upon Hindu goddess traditions in the latter field of concentration. Rietveld received both his Bachelor of Arts and his Masters of Arts in History at California State University Fullerton in 1991 and 1998. Rietveld is currently teaching at Cal State Fullerton in both the Comparative Religion and the History department.

Every Wednesday night, he can be heard on his **radio show** entitled “**Myth & Legend History & Religion**” on Passionate Voices radio.

Dr. Rietveld has a passion for studies revolving around Asia Minor and his **forthcoming book will focus on Artemis of the Ephesians**.

Featured Speaker: Karen Tate

Karen Tate, a leader in the **academic and Goddess Spirituality communities** has been organizing sacred travel, leading pilgrimages and traveling to sacred places of the Divine Feminine across the globe for twenty years. In fact, her travels have taken her across five continents as she's chased down sacred sites dedicated to the Sacred Feminine. As an independent scholar, Karen brings to the tour her wealth of knowledge about Goddess



across continents and cultures, which she shares so passionately in her book, **Sacred Places of Goddess: 108 Destinations**, and generously imparts to those on each sacred tour. As a practitioner, who has written the award winning book, **Walking An Ancient Path: Rebirthing Goddess on Planet Earth**, she can help facilitate your spiritual journey through experiential activities planned during the trip. An experienced speaker, priestess, and scholar, combining the right and left brain approach to travel, there are few better equipped to embark upon such a journey.



Read here what others who have traveled with Karen have said:

<http://www.karentate.com/Tate/tours.html>

For more information about Karen's classes, radio show and media interviews, you may visit her website: www.karentate.com or check out her extended bio at

http://www.karentate.com/Tate/karen_tate_bio.html



Why Karen Thinks Sacred Travel Is So Important:

Sacred or purposeful travel, the contemporary version of ancient pilgrimage, is undertaken for many of the same reasons as in times past. Humans still yearn to connect with ancestral roots, curry favor with their deity, or participate in meaningful activities that uplift their spirit or nourish their soul. Travelers may be called to seek healing for their body and mind or broaden their horizons about cultures and peoples in other places, ultimately feeling more a part of the global family.

Often times these sacred pilgrims are seeking to validate their cultural or spiritual heritage, and recognize these transformative journeys as a unique rite of passage, an act very much in short supply in our contemporary world. Rites of passage are almost completely missing from modern society and constitute one of the most important reasons for the pervasive sense of disconnection people feel between themselves and others, their communities and even Mother Earth. These rites of passage help us reconnect and feel a sense of belonging, kinship and empowerment. On these pilgrimages we travel to sacred places where Divine and mortal meet, experiencing secular time and sacred time, ordinary reality and the extraordinary.



According to Karen, *"The energetics of these places coupled with the preparation we make for each journey helps us connect with the deeper realms of body, soul, heart and mind, often providing needed guidance and direction in our lives. We often hear those we travel with say time and place mysteriously seems to dim, as pilgrims immersed in the cycle of past, present and future see history through a surreal lens."*

So, if you are hearing the call, if your Divine Self is urging you to immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, rituals, prayer and magical revelation of a sacred journey, you might want to heed the wisdom of your intuition and God/dess Self. As Karen says, *"Often there is little comparison to reading about a place versus actually experiencing the energy of a sacred locale. Sometimes the place, the people, objects just speak to you. It's like the difference between reading a recipe or tasting a delicious stew."*

Check out this lovely video Karen has prepared about this exciting tour to TURKEY!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twbcx8licxl>

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, May 26. Arrive Istanbul (D)

Arrive on your own in Istanbul. Turkish Airlines has two departures from New York City's JFK Airport on Saturday, May 25th, arriving in Istanbul on Sunday, May 26th. (Once you have registered for the trip Sacred Sites Journeys will be happy to assist you to book one of these flights.)

Clear immigration, claim your luggage and exit through customs. SSJ's local travel representative will meet the group(s) in the Arrival Hall. Transfer to the hotel. (Details to be provided in the final itinerary to be sent to the group 2 weeks to 10 days before the tour begins.)

Or if you do not arrive on one of the two Turkish Airlines flights, SSJ can arrange a private transfer for you after you register; price is additional to the tour package pricing.

Check in at the hotel. Time for rest and relaxation.

Welcome dinner at the hotel. Overnight Istanbul.

Day 2: Monday, May 27. Istanbul: Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia, Basilica Cistern; Free Time (B/D)

This is a day to explore the ancient heart of the old city Constantinople. Sites you will visit are:

1) The **Hippodrome**, a circus that was the sporting and social center of ancient Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire. Today it's a square named Sultanahmet Meydanı (Sultan Ahmet Square), with a few fragments of the original structure surviving. The word hippodrome comes from the Greek hippos (horse) and dromos (path or way). Horse racing and chariot racing were popular pastimes in the ancient world and hippodromes were common features of Greek cities in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eras.

2) The **Blue Mosque** with its mighty dome is the only mosque in Istanbul with minarets. It was built on the site of the Great Palace of Byzantium, in the early 17th century. Today it's still a **working mosque** and is therefore closed to non-worshippers during the five daily prayers. The interior, with its beautiful blue tiles, lightness, spatial effect and color, is one of the finest creations of Turkish architecture.



3) The **St. Sophia Museum**, built by Constantine the Great, reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century and formerly known as the **Hagia Sophia** (Holy Wisdom), a former Greek Orthodox church, it was converted to a mosque in 1453 by the Ottoman Empire and today is a museum. The supreme achievement of Byzantine architecture, it's one of the world's greatest architectural marvels and a designated World Heritage site. Large number of columns were brought to Constantinople from temples in Asia Minor, Lebanon, Greece and Italy. One of the marble pillars is from the Temple of Artemis Diana in Ephesus.

4) The **Basilica Cistern** is the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city of Istanbul. The cistern, located 500 feet southwest of the Hagia Sophia on the historical peninsula of Sarayburnu, was built in the 6th century during the reign of Byzantine Emperor Justinian I.

The afternoon is free for lunch on your own, with some time for shopping. Group dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Istanbul.

Day 3: Tuesday, May 28. Istanbul to Iznik; Nicaea; to Bursa (B/D)

After an early breakfast, depart for Iznik located in the province of Bursa, on the southeastern edge of Lake Iznik, ancient Lake Ascania. Upon your arrival, drive along the Roman walls that surround the city. Then continue on to see the 4th-century **St. Sophia Cathedral**, the site of the **Second Council of Nicaea** located in the town center, and the ancient theater up hill overlooking the lake.



Lunch on your own with the group. Continue to Bursa and check into the hotel.

Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Bursa.**

Day 4: Wednesday, May 29. To Ankara; Museum of Anatolian Civilizations (B/D)



Check out of the hotel after breakfast and depart to Ankara. Upon arrival visit the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**, located on the south side of Ankara Castle in the Atpazari area. The museum has a number of exhibits of Anatolian archaeology. There is an extensive collection of artifacts from the excavations such as Catal Hoyuk, Hacilar, Alacahoyuk, Hattusa, and Gordion.

Lunch on your own with the group. Check into the hotel.

Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Ankara.**

Day 5: Thursday, May 30. To Cappadocia: Fairy Chimneys (B/D)

Depart Ankara this morning for to Cappadocia, land of unique landscapes. Lunch on your own with the group. On arrival visit the **unusual rock formations** called “Fairy Chimneys”. Early inhabitants carved the soft volcanic rock to create underground dwellings that eventually grew to become entire cities where as many as six thousand Christians hid to escape persecution.



Continue to the hotel. Check in. Group dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Cappadocia.

Day 6: Friday, May 31. Cappadocia: Underground City, Goreme Open Air Museum, Zelve Valley, Turkish Bath, Whirling Dervish Show, (B/D)



Today is further sightseeing of Cappadocia:

1) The **Derinkuyu Underground City** was possibly first built in the soft volcanic rock by the Phrygians in the 8th–7th centuries BCE according to the Turkish Department of Culture, and may have been enlarged in the Byzantine era. During the Persian Achaemenid empire the city was used as a refugee settlement. With its five floors extending to a depth of approximately 200 ft, it was large enough to shelter approximately 20,000 people together with their livestock and food stores. It is the largest excavated underground city in Turkey. The city could be closed from the inside with large stone doors. The complex has a total of 13 floors. Each floor could be closed off separately. There are references to underground refugee settlements built by the Persian king Yima in the second chapter of the Zoroastrian book Vendidad. Therefore many scholars believe that the city may have been built by the Persians. The city was connected with other underground cities through miles of tunnels.

2) The **Goreme open-air museum**, a complex of medieval painted cave churches carved out by Orthodox monks. In the 4th century, Cappadocia became known as the "Land of the Three Saints" because of three remarkable theologians who are still collectively known as The Cappadocians: St. Basil the Great, his brother St. Gregory of Nyssa, and St. Gregory of Nazianzus contributed a great deal to Christian doctrine in general and Eastern Orthodox thought in particular. St. Basil was instrumental in developing Christian monasticism, of which these cave churches in his homeland are a product. The monastic complex at Göreme was carved out and decorated between 900 and 1200. Many of these lavishly decorated frescoes remain.



3) The **Zelve Valley** to visit rock churches and cave houses. The Zelve Valley, now known as the Zelve Open Air Museum, is among the earliest-settled and last-abandoned monastic valleys in Cappadocia. Its churches are not as many or as impressive as those at the more famous Göreme Open Air Museum, but Zelve (ZEHL-veh) has its own attractions: the topography is even more dramatic, with crags and pinnacles and steep valleys, and there's more freedom to climb around and look at all the caves, nooks and crannies.



Return to the hotel. Lunch on your own.

Free time in the afternoon to enjoy the experience of a **Turkish Bath**. The Turkish bath, also known as hamam or hammam, is one of the ancient world's most widely exported customs. The tradition of the Turkish bath was born generations ago, adopted from



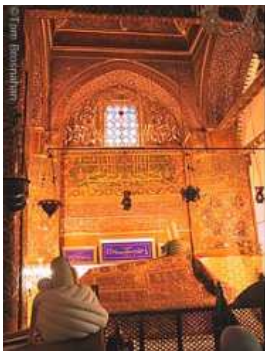
Romans and Byzantines and then perfected by the Seljuk and Ottoman Turks and has continued even until today. "What happens in a Hamam?" The ritual is simple. You enter into the Sicaklik or Hararet, a room filled with the sound of splashing water, the scent of soap, and wafting steam through which daily concerns and worries cannot penetrate. In the gentle moist heat your body relaxes, and your nerves are soothed. You sit down at one of the marble wash basins which line the walls, and adjusting the temperature of the water to a delicious warmth, dip the copper bathing bowl into the basin and tip the water over your head and body. Waves of relaxation seem to pour right through you as the water envelops your body. Laying on the warm stone in the center of the room, your attendant (men for men and women for women) will pour hot water on you and begin to scrub every square inch of your body. Basically, every millimeter of dead and dirty skin is scrubbed off, even the skin between your fingers and toes. Afterwards you are lathered with liquid soap and shampoo and given the choice of massage options. After the massage, the attendant will wash you from head to toe again as if you are a small child. One last shower and then it is time to leave the Sicaklik. Then you are given fresh towels and again brought to Sogukluk (the cool room) to rest, dry off and marvel at your glowing, soft as a baby's skin. A treat not to be missed!



This evening enjoy a night of dinner and the cultural entertainment of a **Whirling Dervish Performance** by men dressed in white robes, whirling and rotating around the floor. During this moving meditation the dancer focuses on his great love of God, and can thus attain divine unity. **Overnight Cappadocia.**

Day 7: Saturday, June 1. To Konya; Mevlana Museum; Aspendos; to Antalya (B/D)

This morning you're off to Konya, **one of the world's oldest cities**, with excavations revealing settlement from as early as the **3rd millennium BCE**. The city is famous for its hand woven carpets, the monastery of the mystical sect known as the Mevlevi, or whirling dervishes, and the tomb of the sect's founder, the poet and mystic **Jalal al-Din Rumi**, a **Sufi mystic** also known as Mevlana or Rumi. His **poetic message of peace, love of God and one's fellow creatures**, resounds to a far wider audience today than it did over 700 years ago when he preached and taught in Konya, and whirled in ecstasy through its streets.



On arrival visit the **Mevlana Museum**. The former dervish hall was converted into the museum in 1927. Inside are the **tombs of Rumi, his family**, and outstanding members of the Mevlevi order. In the main room, we see the tomb of Rumî himself, resplendent in gold decoration and covered in cloth-of-gold. (What you see is a cenotaph. Rumî's actual tomb is beneath it.) Adjacent to Rumi's burial is that of his father, Baha al-Din Valed. His sarcophagus stands upright. Legends say that when Rumi was buried, his father's tomb "rose and bowed in reverence." There are also tombs of Rumi's son and other Sufi sheikhs are clustered about the shrine. The burials of Rumi, his father and several others are capped with huge turbans, these being symbolic of the spiritual authority of Sufi teachers.

Lunch on your own with the group. Then drive to **Aspendos**, which is famous for its magnificent beautifully preserved Roman Theater which seats 20,000 people, one of the largest of the ancient buildings in Asia Minor. Today it's still used for important concerts.



Continue to the coastal city of **Antalya**, named after the Pergamene King Attalos II. Check in at the hotel. Group dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Antalya.

Day 8: Sunday, June 2. Antalya Area: Perge and Termessos (B/D)



Morning visit to **Perge**, a large site of ancient ruins 9 miles east of Antalya on the coastal plain, where you can see interesting monuments such as the well-preserved stadium that held 15,000 people, the Great Theater, huge Hellenistic and Roman gates, and an impressive colonnaded street. The acropolis dates back to the Bronze Age. During the Hellenistic period, Perge was one of the richest and most beautiful cities in the ancient world, famous for its Temple of Artemis. You'll see the remains of a monumental fountain, the Nymphaeum which was dedicated to Artemis Pargaea.

Lunch on your own with the group. Continue to the Psidian city of **Termessos**, one of the most spectacular and best-preserved ancient cities in Turkey. It was founded on a natural platform on top of Güllük Dağı or Mt. Solymos, soaring among the surrounding travertine mountains of Antalya, which average only 656 ft above sea level. Explore the city walls, King's road, Hadrian's Gate, gymnasium, theatre, Odeon, decorated walls and cisterns.



Return to Antalya. Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Antalya.**

Day 9: Monday, June 3. Olympos, Demre/Myra; to Kas (B/D)



Depart this morning to the remarkable city called **Olympos**, located in a valley at the south of Termessos and southwest of Antalya. The former city of Olympos was founded in the Hellenistic period, presumably taking its name from nearby Mount Olympos (*Tahtali Dagi*), one of over twenty mountains with the name of Olympos in the Classical World.

Lunch on your own with the group. Afterwards visit **Demre** and the ancient city of **Myra**. One of the most prominent members of the Lycian Federation, it retained this throughout the Middle Ages because of its association with the bishop St Nicholas, from which the modern-day character of Santa Claus is derived. The city is well known for its amphitheater (the largest in Lycia) and the plethora of rock-cut tombs carved in the cliff above the theatre. Myra once had a great temple of the goddess Artemis Eleuthera (a distinctive form of Cybele, the ancient mother goddess of Anatolia), said to be Lycia's largest and most splendid building. It was built on large grounds with beautiful gardens and had an inner court defined by columns, an altar and a statue of the goddess.



Your day ends with check in at the hotel in Kas. Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Kas.**

Day 10: Tuesday, June 4. To Bodrum (B/D)



Today's drive takes you along the Lycian coast to the port of **Bodrum**. Lunch on your own with the group. Upon your arrival, check in at the hotel. Then, time allowing, enjoy a light stroll through the streets of Bodrum's ancient Halicarnassus to discover the ruins of the **Mausoleum of Maussollos**, one of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**. Or, visit the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, or the Bodrum Castle of The Knights of St. John. The museum has relics that takes one back in time into the worlds of ancient mariners who sailed to meet their destiny shipwrecked on Anatolian shores. Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Bodrum.**

Day 11: Wednesday, June 5. Lagina, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis; Pamukkale (B/D)

Departure this morning for Pamukkale. The day's first stop is **Lagina**, famous for its **Hekate Sanctuary**. During recent excavations made by Turkish archaeologists, it was discovered that the history of the site dates back to the Bronze Age, about 3,000 BCE. It became an important religious center during the rule of Seleucid kings around 3rd century BCE and major constructions were made in the 1st century BCE under the reign of emperor Augustus.

According to the inscriptions found at Lagina and at the bouleuterion of Stratonikeia city, these two sites were connected by a sacred road. After the Hellenistic and Roman periods the Byzantines also settled at this site but then it was abandoned most probably because of the earthquakes and invaders. Hekate was most likely originally from the Carians of Asia Minor, and came to Greece in the 6th century BCE. An alternative explanation is that Hekate evolved from the Egyptian midwife goddess *Heqit*, her name related to "heq," the matriarch and wise woman of the tribe.



Then continue on to **Aphrodisias**, one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. Excavations have unearthed numerous marble statues and other artifacts. The great beauty and extraordinary preservation of this site combined bring the civic culture of the Graeco-Roman world vividly to life. Aphrodisias was famous as the **City of Aphrodite**, and pilgrims came to pay homage to the **Goddess of Love** at her temple. In Roman times a famous **sculpture academy** was located here because of high-grade

marble quarried at nearby Babadağ.

The next site to explore is the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hierapolis**, an ancient Greco-Roman city of ancient Phrygia located adjacent to the famous hot springs and the modern city of Pamukkale. The hot springs there have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BCE; people came to soothe their ailments, with many of them retiring or dying here. Thus there is a large necropolis filled with sarcophagi. The great baths were constructed with huge stone blocks without the use of cement, and consisted of various closed or open sections linked together. There are deep niches in the inner section of the bath, library, gymnasium and other closed or open locations. The complex, which was constructed in the 2nd century BCE, constitutes a good example of vault type architecture. The complex is now an archaeological museum. A temple was raised to Apollo Lairbenos, the principal god of Hierapolis, during the Hellenistic period. Apollo was linked to the ancient Anatolian sun god Lairbenos and the god of oracles Kareios. But ancient worship also centered on Cybele, Artemis, Pluto and Poseidon. Now only the foundations of the Hellenistic temple remain. The **Temple of Apollo** has deliberately been built over an active fault passing underneath, giving rise to the cave of the Plutonium, as shown by seismological investigations.



The **Plutonium** is a small cave, just large enough for one person to enter through a fenced entrance, beyond which stairs go down. Suffocating carbon dioxide gas caused by underground geologic activity emerges from the cave. Behind the 32 sq ft roofed chamber is a deep cleft in the rock, through which fast flowing hot water passes, releasing a sharp smelling gas. Because people died in the gas, the local belief was that it was sent by Pluto, god of the underworld. During the early years of the town, castrated **priests of Cybele** descended into the Plutonium, crawled over the floor to pockets of oxygen or held their breath. (Carbon dioxide is heavier than air and so tends to settle in hollows.) They then came up to show that they were immune to the gas. People believed a miracle had happened and that the priests were infused with superior powers and had divine protection. Visitors could ask questions of the oracle of Pluto, for a fee, which provided a considerable source of income for the temple. The entrance to the Plutonium was closed off during the Christian times.



Check in at the hotel. Group dinner. **Overnight Pamukkale.**

Day 12: Thursday, June 6. Miletus, Didyma and Priene (B/D)

After breakfast, you check out of the hotel and you're off for a full day tour of the three ancient cities **Miletus**, **Didyma** and **Priene**, while driving through the beautiful Turkish farmland and countryside. Arrive in **Miletus**, an important commercial and governmental center from 700 BCE until 700 CE. It was one of the most important cities in the ancient Greek world, but eventually declined due to the silting up of its harbors. St. Paul stopped at Miletus on his Third Missionary Journey, on his way back to Jerusalem. There are many well-preserved ruins to be seen at the site, including a Temple of Apollo, a Byzantine church, and an important inscription relating to Jews. There was also a Temple of Artemis.



Continue on to **Didyma**, a sacred place of pagan worship famous for its Temple of Apollo that was built in the 7th-8th century BCE and was second in importance only to Delphi as an oracular site. Most of the works seen today however are from the 4th century efforts of Alexander the Great. Didyma means "twin" and refers to the twins Apollo and Artemis, who were born to Zeus and Leto.

Lunch on your own with the group. To reach **Priene** you make your way through picturesque high mountain passes. Dating back to 300 BCE, it was one of the League of Ionian Cities. Its ancient population was 5,000 and there was a well-planned grid system design for its streets. It was the home of an important temple of Athena. Priene's picturesque ruins include several columns of the Temple of Athena, much of the city wall, a well-preserved theater and a council chamber.



Continue to the port of Kusadasi. Check in at the hotel. Group dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Kusadasi.

Day 13: Friday, June 7. Ephesus; Temple of Artemis; Basilica of St. John (B/D)



Today you explore ancient Ephesus, the greatest Temple City in Asia Minor, **dedicated to the Great Goddess Artemis Diana**. Over the centuries, a succession of empires—Greek, Persian, Roman, Byzantine and, finally, Ottoman—ruled over the city of Ephesus. Yet no matter how many times it changed hands, the city remained one of the most vibrant metropolises of the ancient world. Located on Turkey's western coast, nearly 300,000 people lived there at its height, in the second century CE. Its busy seaport ferried goods from Asia to Greece, Italy and beyond.

Explore the spectacular ruins from the period of St. Paul, some of which have only recently been excavated: **the Odeon/ Bouleterion, Fountains, the Temples, the Brothel, the Celsus Library, the Agoras, the Roman Baths, and the Gymnasiums**. According to its inscription, the **Odeon/ Bouleterion** was built by one of the rich citizens of Ephesus in the 2nd century CE and presented to the Gods and People of Ephesus. This small hall which could hold 1500 people was used for concerts, lectures, poetry reading competitions and also for the meeting of city council.



Throughout the site you'll see **carvings to various Goddesses**:

1) In the **Temple of Hadrian** there are reliefs of **Medusa**, symbolically keeping evil spirits away. In Greek mythology Medusa was a guardian or **protectress of the Underworld**. In the mists of time Medusa was worshiped as one of the Triple Aspects of the ancient Goddess Anatha. She was the **Dark Moon Goddess**, one of the Serpent Goddesses of female wisdom. She ruled over the regenerative

mysteries of sex and death, and protected these magical rites from being discovered and abused by the uninitiated. Her wise message was about the inevitability of death. As an Ocean Goddess of the West, She guarded the gateway of death and granted safe passing to all souls entering the oceanic entrance to the underworld. In **Greek mythology**, the patriarchy, in their fear of the wise woman of death, and of the magical sexual power of the menstruating feminine, demonized Medusa into a monstrous figure of the devouring, castrating mother. In this tale, Medusa was one of three Gorgon sisters born from ancient sea deities. Two sisters were born immortal and ageless, Medusa was born mortal. They lived near the border of life and death at the ocean's edge near the edge of the world. Tales of their beauty was told all over the world and many suitors called upon the sisters. From the many suitors it was Poseidon that Medusa took as Her lover one day in the temple of Athena. When they lay together, the enraged Athena transformed Medusa's beautiful hair to serpents and made her face so terrible to behold that the mere sight of it would turn onlookers to stone.



2) You'll see a stunning relief of **Nike, the Goddess of Victory, Strength and Speed**. The Greek word 'Nike' (pronounced 'nee kay') is synonymous with the word 'Victory'. Its origins are rooted in proto-Indo-European languages to mean 'first', 'victor' and 'afore' from 'Nikh' (pronounced 'neekh'). She was the daughter of the giant Pallas and the river Styx. Nike was originally an attribute of both Athena and Zeus, represented as a small figure carried in their hand. She gradually came to be recognized as a mediator between gods and mortals, and was frequently shown carrying a palm branch, wreath, or staff as the messenger of victory. Nike is a **winged Goddess** because she gives us the ability to soar and fly to our highest highs! She is generally considered a **warrior Goddess** because she has the power to decide the outcome of battles and wars by conferring Victory to one and condemning to defeat the other. However, Victory is applicable in all fields, not just the battlefield. Victory applies to any field where success and failure are outcomes.



Next visit the amazing **Celsus Library**. One of the most beautifully reconstructed buildings in Ephesus, it has become an icon of the ancient city. According to its inscription, it was built between 110 and 135 CE by the Consul Julius Aquila as a mausoleum for his father, Julius Celsus Polemaeanus, Roman governor of the Asian Provinces, a former Roman senator and major mason of Emperor Trajan.



Situated by the south gate of the Commercial Agora, the library draws our attention because of its fascinating two-storied restored facade with six windows. Flight of steps, flanked by two statue bases with inscriptions lead to the main reading room. The inscriptions gives information about Celsus and his official career. At the end of his career he moved to Ephesus, died there and was buried in a niche on the right side of the back wall. A few centuries after its construction a fire destroyed the reading room and the library fell into disuse. Around 400 CE, the courtyard below the exterior steps was converted into a pool. The facade collapsed in an earthquake in the 10th century. Between 1970 and 1978 the Austrian Archaeological Institute excavated here and restored the magnificent building to its present state.

On a low wall in front of the Celsus Library you'll find an exquisite carving of a garlanded **Bull Head**. The bull was the symbol of the solar masculine principle. Interesting that it's located across from the remains of the **Temple of the Sacred Prostitutes**, or what archaeologists and modern-day historians call the **Brothel**. In the ancient communities women enjoyed a status in the culture which is unknown today. Sexuality was regarded as a sacred activity, as opposed to a physical or romantic function, and had a public as well as private role. Every New Year, the king had public sexual intercourse with a priestess who embodied the goddess. This act of sacred sexuality—the *hieros gamos*, or sacred marriage, insured prosperity and abundance for the entire kingdom throughout the coming year. And in the



private sphere of the community, the same act was carried out by the people. This spiritual rite continued for many centuries. At Ephesus, as part of the **worship of Artemis / Diana**, men could visit the temple to have intercourse with a *hierodule* (sacred prostitute) who was believed to embody the Goddess. The building consisted of two floors. On the ground floor was a hall, the reception area with a mosaic floor of the four seasons, of which the figures of Winter and Autumn are still well preserved, and a bath. There were rooms on the second floor where the sacred prostitutes entertained their clients.

Lunch on your own with the group.



The afternoon's visit is to the ancient **Temple of Artemis**, built about 550 BCE, One of the **Seven Wonders of the World**, it was one of the most complex temples built in ancient times. The temple was the last of the Great Goddess temples to remain open, and was the **site of Goddess worship well into the Christian era**. When the Temple was in use, it was brightly painted and inlaid with stone and had a marble sanctuary and a tile-covered wooden roof. Conceived by architect Chersiphron and his son, Metagenes, the temple's inner space featured a double row of at least 106 columns, each believed to be 40 to 60 feet high. The foundation was approximately 200 feet by 400 feet. The original temple burned in 356 BCE and was rebuilt on the same foundation. Fire devastated the second temple in 262 CE, but its foundation and some debris have survived.

The discovery of the Temple of Artemis is considered one of the greatest detective stories of world of archaeology. In his search to find the ancient temple in the 19th century, the British engineer T.J. Wood searched the site of Ephesus for seven years and finally discovered an important inscription in the Theater. The inscription in Latin told of the last will of a Roman citizen who wanted his relatives and friends to carry the statues of Artemis from Her temple to the theater, walking through the major streets of Ephesus and through the Magnesia Gate and then back to the Her temple. This inscription made it clear that the temple was outside the major ruins of Ephesus, and that the sacred road from it to the city made a circle around Mount Pion. Wood found the Magnesia Gate and the pavement of the sacred road, and by following it he finally reached the deeply buried Temple of Artemis.



"I have seen the walls and Hanging Gardens of ancient Babylon, the statue of Olympian Zeus, the Colossus of Rhodes, the mighty work of the high Pyramids and the tomb of Mausolus. But when I saw the temple at Ephesus rising to the clouds, all these other wonders were put in the shade".- Philon of Byzantium



Continue on to visit the grave and **Basilica of St John**, constructed by the Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. It stands over the believed burial site of **John the Apostle**. It was modeled after the now lost Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The tomb itself acted upon its miracle every year on 8 May, during an all night-festal in honor of St. John, for nearly a thousand years, prompting many pilgrimages throughout the medieval period. The pilgrims who journeyed to Ephesus did not leave empty-handed. Flasks were produced at St. John's tomb for the pilgrims. These flasks usually had the Saint's image designed on to it as well. They were used to collect the dusts that would appear around St. John's tomb, which was then carried back to the pilgrims' respective homeland where it was said to have performed miracles by curing sickness and even calm storms on land or sea.



Return to the hotel. Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Kusadasi.**

Day 14: Saturday, June 8. Pergamon/Bergama; Assos (B/D)

After breakfast, depart Kusadasi and drive to the modern city of **Bergama**. Today, the main sites of ancient Pergamon are to the north and west of the city. Located on the fertile plains watered by the Selinus River, **Pergamon**, or Pergamum, was home to many civilizations in ancient times. Its Greek name means "citadel." The remains of the Roman city are for the most part beneath the modern town, while the Greek city with the imposing ruins of its royal stronghold occupies a magnificently impressive location on the summit and along the terraced slopes of the hill which rises above Bergama to the east. Two of the country's most celebrated archaeological sites are here: the **Acropolis and the Asklepion**, both listed among the **top 100 historical sites on the Mediterranean**. Our visit will include both the Isis and Serapis Temple at the bottom of the hill, as well as the area of the site at the top of the hill.

The main function of the **Acropolis** was social and cultural as much as it was sacred. In the **Upper**



Acropolis we visit the **Temple to Athena**, who represents the **power of the mind**, and thus sometimes may appear cold or purely mental, separated from more feminine attributes, such as tenderness and maternal love. But She is not cold. She was not only a warrior Goddess, but also ruled over **domestic crafts**: the spindle, the loom, the cooking pot, as well as all arts of civilization. She is the Goddess of the City, of community and democracy. With her **owl companion**, Athena sees far with the gray eyes of perspective and clarity. She does not act rashly,

but wisely considers Her strategies. Athena symbolizes the ability to conquer fear with intelligence and vision.

In the **Lower Acropolis** we visit the **Temple of Demeter** and the **Sanctuary of Hera**. **Demeter** was the Great Mother Goddess of Agriculture and Vegetation,. She presided over grains, the fertility of the earth, and the seasons. She also presided over the sanctity of marriage, the sacred law, and the cycle of life and death. In the myth with her daughter **Persephone**, the Goddess of Death and Regeneration, Persephone was abducted into the underworld by Hades. In a rage of grief, Demeter withdrew her energy from the earth, and autumn and winter came to the land. Demeter wandered through the dying earth, searching for her daughter. Eventually, Persephone was restored to her mother for part of each year, and with Demeter's joy, spring came again. Essentially, the rites imitated the agricultural cycles of planting the seed, nurturing its growth, and harvesting the grain. On the esoteric level the drama enacted for the initiates symbolized the odyssey of the human soul, its descent into matter, its earthly sufferings, its terror in the darkness of death, and its rebirth into divine existence.



Hera, wife and one of three sisters of Zeus, was the **Goddess of Women and Marriage**. Portrayed as majestic and solemn, often enthroned, and crowned with a high cylindrical crown worn by several of the Great Goddesses, Hera often bears a pomegranate in her hand, an ancient emblem of the Great Goddess symbolizing fertile blood and death. Actually Her worship is far older than that of Her husband. It goes back to a time when the creative force we call "God" was conceived of as a woman.



The Goddess took many forms, among them that of a bird. The bird that was Hera's symbol was the peacock, symbolizing fertility and the "all-knowing" denoted by the eyes on the peacock's feathers.

The ancient **Library of Pergamon** on the Acropolis is the **second best in the ancient Greek civilization**. When the Ptolemies stopped exporting papyrus, partly because of competitors and partly because of shortages, the

Pergamenes invented a new substance to use in codices, called *pergaminus* or *pergamena* (parchment) after the city. Made of fine calfskin, this was a predecessor of vellum. The library at Pergamon was believed to contain 200,000 volumes, which Mark Antony later gave to Cleopatra as a wedding present.

The **Asklepion** was one of the earliest medical centers on record; it was an ancient healing temple dedicated to **Asclepius, the God of Healing**. He is the son of Apollo and the nymph, Coronis. While pregnant with Asclepius, Coronis secretly took a second, mortal lover. When Apollo found out, he sent Artemis to kill her. While burning on the funeral pyre, Apollo felt pity and rescued the unborn child from the corpse. Asclepius was taught about medicine and healing by the wise centaur, Chiron, and became so skilled in it that he succeeded in bringing one of his patients back from the dead. Zeus felt that the immortality of the Gods was threatened and killed the healer with a thunderbolt. At Apollo's request, Asclepius was placed among the stars as Ophiuchus, the serpent-bearer. The **Staff of Asclepius** is the personification of Medical or healing Art and its ideals. Most medical Associations around the world today use the "correct" and traditional symbol of medicine, the staff of Asclepius with a single serpent encircling a staff, classically a rough-hewn knotty tree limb. Asclepius is traditionally depicted as a bearded man wearing a robe that leaves his chest uncovered and holding a staff with his sacred single serpent coiled around it, (example right) symbolizing renewal of youth as the serpent casts off its skin. Here at the **Asklepion**, people would come here to bathe in the water of the **sacred spring**. It's said that Asclepius would appear in a **vision** to tell them how to **cure their illness**. Archeologists have found lots of gifts and dedications that people would make afterwards, such as small terracotta body parts, representing what had been healed.



Time allowing you'll also visit Pergamon's other notable structure, the monumental **Temple of Isis and Serapis**, and possibly also **Osiris, Harpocrates** and other lesser gods, who may have been worshipped in a pair of drum-shaped rotundas, both of which are virtually intact, alongside the main temple. Today it's known as the **Red Basilica**, Red Hall or Red Courtyard, south of the Acropolis. It consists of a main building and two round towers within an enormous sacred area. The building was originally a vast hall, rather

than a basilica, covered by a wooden roof that had no interior support or colonnade. Its walls were built entirely of red bricks that gave the building its modern name. A total of twelve arched niches are embedded in the walls of the western end of the temple; they presumably held statues of deities – perhaps the twelve **gods of the zodiac**.

In the first century CE, the Christian Church at Pergamon inside the main building of the Red Basilica was one of the Seven Churches to which the Book of Revelation was addressed in Revelation. The forecourt is still supported by the **Pergamon Bridge**, the largest bridge substruction of antiquity. The 643 ft wide structure was designed during Hadrian's reign (117–138 CE) to form a passageway underneath a large court in front of the "Red Basilica" temple complex. The two intact tubes, which consist of supporting walls covered with barrel vaults, still serve their purpose to this day.

The day ends with a visit to the ancient city of **Assos** for exploration of the ancient theater and the **Temple of Athena**. The city was founded from 1000-900 BCE by Aeolian colonists from Lesbos, who are said to have come from Methymna. The settlers built a Doric Temple to Athena on top of the crag in 530 BCE. From this temple Hermias of Atarneus, a student of Plato, ruled Assos, the Troad and Lesbos for a period of time, under which the city experienced its greatest prosperity. Under his rule, he encouraged philosophers to move to the city. As part of this, in 348 BCE Aristotle came here and married King Hermias's niece, Pythia, before leaving for Lesbos three years later in 345. This 'golden period' of Assos ended several years later when the Persians arrived, and subsequently tortured Hermias to death. The Persians were driven out by Alexander the Great in 334 BCE. Between 241 and 133 BCE, the city was ruled by the Kings of Pergamon. However, in 133 BCE, the Pergamons lost control of the city when it was absorbed by the Roman empire. St. Paul also visited the city during his third missionary journey through Asia Minor, which was between 53-57 CE, on his way to Lesbos. From this period onwards, Assos shrunk to a small village, as it has remained ever since. In the early 1900s an attempt was made



to move the contents of the Temple of Athena. Much of the art has been moved to museums like the Louvre. The art found includes pictures both of mythical creatures and heraldic events.

Check in at the hotel. Group dinner at the hotel. **Overnight Assos.**

Day 15: Sunday, June 9. Troy; Return to Istanbul; Farewell Dinner (B/D)

Check out of the hotel and depart to explore the ruins of **Troy**, the famous city which existed over 4,000 years ago, and was known as the center of ancient civilizations, and of course is most famous as being the site of the Trojan War. The site has had many incarnations over the centuries. The **Archaic Temple**



of Athena: After a 400 year hiatus at the end of the Late bronze Age, the site was resettled around 700 BCE by Greek colonialists who were possibly from Lesbos or Tenedos. The Early Iron Age city (Troy VIII) was founded with the name Ilion. There is no history to tell us when the Archaic Temple of Athena at Troy was built, but it followed the principles of Greek architecture. Around 546 BCE, following the Persian conquest of all Ionia, Troy fell under Persian domination. In 480 BCE Xerxes halted at Troy to sacrifice a thousand oxen before

crossing the Hellespont into Greece. Alexander the Great liberated the city in 334 BCE and went to the Athena Temple to make an offering to the Goddess; he promised to build a new temple and left his armor as a gift to Her. The **Hellenistic Temple of Athena:** Following the death of Alexander in 323 BCE, his successor Lysimachus had a new Temple of Athena built. It was partly destroyed in 85 BCE during Fimbria's sack of Troy. The **Roman Temple of Athena:** In the reign of Augustus (27 BCE - 14 CE) the city and the sanctuary of Athena underwent a large rebuilding program. In the center of the Sacred Square was the large Temple of Athena. The remains of it found by Schliemann prove the temple was Doric. The city has been excavated in recent times, starting in 1822.



Lunch on your own with the group. Continue to Istanbul. Check into the hotel. Tonight enjoy your **Farewell Dinner** with the group at the hotel.

Overnight Istanbul.

Day 16: Monday, June 10. Depart Istanbul (B)

Group transfer(s) to the airport. OR, transfer on your own. (SSJ can arrange this for you after you register.)

NOTE: This itinerary is subject to change due to conditions beyond our control.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Fifteen nights hotel accommodations.
- Sightseeing as per itinerary.
- Arrival and departure group transfers
- Buffet breakfasts at the hotels.
- 14 dinners at hotels and local restaurants.
- Whirling Dervish show (Cappadocia)
- Turkish bath (Cappadocia)
- All transfers and transportation by private air-conditioned bus.
- English speaking government-licensed professional tour guide throughout
- All entry fees
- Service charges and local taxes
- Pre-Paid Gratuities

NOT INCLUDED:

- Roundtrip international airfare to Istanbul, Turkey
- Turkish Tourist Visa (Easily obtainable at the airport when you arrive in Istanbul; cost currently \$20.00 US; one passport photo required; details to be provided after you register for the tour.)
- Meals not included, as indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks during meals
- Cost to obtain valid passport
- Any items of a personal nature such as laundry, drinks, internet access and telephone calls. Any item that is not specifically detailed in this tour document or the final trip itinerary

HOTELS (or similar):

Istanbul:	Kent
Bursa:	Thermal Kervansaray
Ankara:	Barcelo Etap Altinel
Cappadocia:	Peri Tower
Antalya:	B.W. Khan
Kas:	Hera
Bodrum:	Manastir
Pamukkale:	Lycus River
Kusadasi:	Grand Belish
Assos:	Eden Gardens

TOUR PRICING

Based on a Group of 20

This Sacred Sites Journey to TURKEY is LAND ONLY. You are responsible to book your international flights as per instructions in the tour itinerary.

Turkish Airlines has two departures from New York City's JFK Airport on Saturday, May 25, 2013, both arriving in Istanbul on Sunday, May 26. *(Once you have registered for the trip Sacred Sites Journeys will be happy to assist you to book one of these flights.)*

****DISCOUNT!** You will receive a **5% discount** if **ALL payments** are made by check or money order. The prices listed below for this option **INCLUDE** this discount.

MAIN TOUR: Per Person, double occupancy, land only:

\$3,499.00 – payment via check or money order

\$3,683.00 – payment via credit card

Single Room Supplement:

\$749.00 – payment via check or money order

\$789.00 – payment via credit card

The Single Room Supplement is for those travelers who would like to have a private non-shared room during the journey.

ROOMMATES: Would you like to meet and make a new friend on your journey? If you're not traveling on the journey with anyone you know, and would like for SSJ to try to match you up with a suitable roommate, we'll be happy to try to do so.

Per our Terms and Conditions, we will hold the registration for the trip open until 30 days before the departure date (or later if possible) in order to try to match you with someone. If by that date we have not been able to do so, and there is no one to share your room, you will be responsible to pay for the single supplement. If you would like to be matched with a roommate, please register early.

TO REGISTER, please use the form below.

We suggest you keep a copy of the Registration Form and Terms/Conditions for your records.

Sacred Sites Journeys

A Division of Heartlight Fellowship

P.O. Box 3591; Sedona, AZ 86340

928 284-2384 or 928 814-0773

Toll Free in the US: 888 501-3853

www.SacredSitesJourneys.com info@SacredSitesJourneys.com

REGISTRATION FORM

TURKEY: Sacred Journey through Myth and History

Karen Tate and Dr. James Rietveld Group

May 26 – June 10, 2013

Please complete and sign this form and mail it to the address above with your deposit of \$350.00.

Payment must be made via personal check, bank cashier's check, postal money order (US Only – see below), bank wire or credit card.

PAYMENT VIA CHECK or MONEY ORDER:

IMPORTANT: Please make checks payable to "Heartlight Fellowship"

(Heartlight Fellowship is the Administrator of Sacred Sites Journeys)

Checks not made out in this name will not be accepted by our bank & will be returned to you to replace, and could thus jeopardize your reservations.

No personal checks accepted after April 26, 2013.

NOTE: For registrations from outside the US:

We can accept personal checks or bank cashier's checks only. (Sorry, no postal money orders).

Checks must be drawn in US Dollars and on a bank that has an affiliate bank in the US, and the name of the affiliate bank must appear on the check.

PAYMENT VIA CREDIT CARD:

If you would like to make your deposit via credit card, please use the form provided below.

No credit cards accepted after April 10, 2013.

PAYMENT VIA BANK WIRE:

You may wire funds to our bank account. (Details to be provided through email; please contact us.)

(An additional \$25.00 bank wire fee applies for wires sent from outside the U.S.)

FINAL PAYMENTS:

Final payment is due 60 days prior to the beginning of the journey, on **March 27, 2013.**

If you are registering after that date, please remit your payment in full.

Name: _____

NOTE: The name you use must be exactly as it appears, or will appear, on your passport. If you do not have a passport when registering, please complete this registration form and mail it to us now. You can provide Sacred Sites Journeys with your passport information when you receive it.

Passport number _____ Country of Issue _____

Issue Date _____ Exp. Date _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____ Profession _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Eve) _____

E-mail: _____

Sex: Male _____ Female _____

_____ I would like **single occupancy**.

_____ I would like **double occupancy**, and **have a roommate**. **My roommate is**

Roommate Phone (Day) _____ Roommate Phone (Evening) _____

Roommate E-mail: _____

If your roommate is not sending in their registration at the same time as you are, please indicate when Sacred Sites Journeys can expect their registration: _____

_____ I would like **double occupancy, but do not have a roommate**. I understand that Sacred Sites Journeys will try to match me with a suitable roommate. I further understand that if by 30 days before the departure date, SSJ has not been able to find me a roommate, that I will be responsible to pay the single supplement fee before the tour departure date.

_____ I understand that Sacred Sites Journeys highly recommends purchase of **Trip Cancellation Insurance**. I understand that a trip insurance pamphlet and acknowledgement/waiver form will be provided to me with my registration packet documents that will be sent to me after my payment is received by SSJ. I do ___ do not___ don't know at this time ___ plan to purchase trip insurance.

_____ I do not have any **physical limitations** that require special attention. If you do, please attach details on a separate sheet. Most situations can be accommodated, but we must know beforehand in order to make arrangements. There may be additional costs involved.

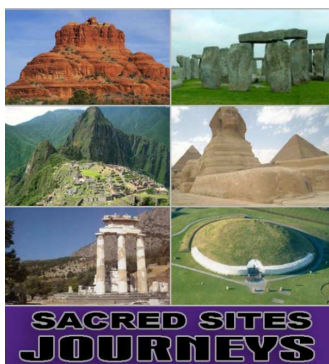
_____ I require the following **special diet**:

I understand that some or all payments made may be forfeited, based on my cancellation of this program as detailed within the "Terms and Conditions" included with this Registration Form. Should this trip be cancelled by Sacred Sites Journeys, all payments received will be refunded.

My signature below affirms that I have read and completely understand the Tour Itinerary as described in the Tour Brochure, as well as Information and Conditions as stated in the "Terms and Conditions" provided herein and agree to all of the contents therein.

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: A separate Registration is required for each traveler.
We suggest you photocopy this for your records.



Sacred Sites Journeys
A Division of Heartlight Fellowship
Andrea Mikana-Pinkham, Director
P.O. Box 3591; Sedona, AZ 86340
888 501- 3853 (Toll Free in the US) or 928 284-2384
www.SacredSitesJourneys.com info@SacredSitesJourneys.com

TURKEY: Karen Tate and Dr. James Rietveld Group
May 26 – June 10, 2013

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Please fill out and sign the form below, and return it with your registration.

SACRED SITES JOURNEYS accepts American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover

FOR THOSE REGISTERING BEFORE MARCH 27, 2013:

CREDIT CARD INFO & AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE REGISTRATION DEPOSIT:

I, _____, do hereby authorize Sacred Sites Journeys to submit a one time charge for my registration deposit to my Credit Card.

Credit Card Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Billing Address for card: _____

Phone Number of record for card: _____

Amount to be charged: \$300.00

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR THOSE REGISTERING AFTER MARCH 27, 2013, but BEFORE APRIL 10, 2013:

CREDIT CARD INFO & AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE PAYMENT IN FULL:

I, _____, do hereby authorize Sacred Sites Journeys to submit a one time charge for my registration deposit to my Credit Card.

Credit Card Type: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Billing Address for card: _____

Phone Number of record for card: _____

Amount to be charged: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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Terms and Conditions

Reservations and Payments: Reservations and Payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$350.00 per person, along with a completed and signed application must be submitted with the reservation to confirm the trip.

Final payment for all tours is required 60 days prior to departure. If you would like to join the group **after that date**, hotel accommodations will be on request. SSJ will notify you if space is available. You will also be responsible to pay a **late booking fee** of \$100.00 for any reservations that are made after 30 days before departure. Immediate payment in full for all tour package pricing and additional late booking fees will be required via bank wire transfer or certified bank check mailed Priority or Overnight Delivery before any reservations are made. An early registration assures you of your place on the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you submit your registration deposit as early as possible to avoid disappointment and/or additional fees.

Cancellations and Refunds:

Days Prior to Departure

Registration Deposit

60 – 0 days before departure

Cancellation Fee

Non-refundable upon submission

Final payments are 100% non-refundable

SSJ highly recommends trip interruption/trip cancellation insurance. See **Insurance Protection Plan** section below.

Credit card payment: Sacred Sites Journeys accepts American Express, MasterCard, Visa and Discover.

Sacred Sites Journeys is able to accept credit cards for payment up until 45 days before the tour departure date.

After that you can pay with a credit card check, bank cashier's check, or money order (US residents only). Or wire funds to our bank account (additional \$25.00 bank wire fee applies for wires originating from outside the U.S.).

Tour Pricing: SACRED SITES JOURNEYS offers a 5% discount on the published Tour Price if **ALL payments are made by check or money order**. This discount is included in the pricing listed on our website for this payment option.

Possible Cancellation Due to Lack of Participation: Should the trip fail to achieve minimum participation, SSJ reserves the right to cancel the tour, and SSJ will refund in full all payments received.

Possible Tour Surcharge: The advertised cost for this Sacred Sites Journey is based on an established minimum level of participation, as noted on in the Tour Pricing section of this document. If the final number traveling in the group falls below this number, in order to keep from having to cancel your trip, SSJ will issue a surcharge. This amount will merely be the difference in fixed costs for the different group sizes, and no commissions for SSJ will be included in the amount. SSJ makes every effort not to have to enact a surcharge; but if we do, we keep it as small as possible. If assessed a surcharge, you will be notified of the amount as soon as the tour registration is closed. Payment is due upon notification, and must be received in our office immediately in order for your final tour documents to be emailed or mailed to you in a timely manner. If your payment arrives at such a date that SSJ has to mail your documents to you with expedited service, you will be responsible to pay for these costs.

Required Tour Documents: A valid passport must be held by each passenger.

Accommodations: Based on twin-bedded rooms, with ensuite bathroom. You are assigned accommodations as the guest of the facility selected. The tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category.

Meals: Meals will be provided as per the final trip itinerary. Any foods or beverages not included in the program

and purchased by you will be at additional cost. Tour price includes only foods and beverages that are provided to the entire group.

Sight-seeing: As specified in itinerary. Entrance fees are included.

Land transportation: As specified, by modern air-conditioned (where required) coaches.

Not Included: Roundtrip international air to Istanbul, Turkey. And items of a personal nature such as laundry, drinks at meals, internet access, and telephone calls, as well as any item that is not specifically detailed in the brochure or final trip itinerary.

Consumer Disclosure Notice: SSJ and/or their agents act only in capacity as agents for the passenger in all matters connected with hotel accommodations, sight-seeing tours and transportation, whether by air, rail, bus, motorcar, boat or any other means and as agent holds itself free of responsibility for any damage occasioned by any cause. SSJ and or its agents will not be responsible for any damages, expenses or inconveniences caused by late departures or change of schedule, strikes or to their conditions, nor will be responsible for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passenger's belongings. All prices quoted are correct at time of brochure printing, include the cost of operation of the tours, and are subject to currency exchange rate and airfare changes. SSJ, its parent corporation and affiliates, officers, employees, servants and agents shall not be responsible for personal injury, death or property damage as a result of force majeure or for any other losses or damages incurred by any person or tour participants caused by any delay or change of itinerary or arising out of any act, including, but not limited to, any act of negligence, any person acting for or on behalf of SSJ for transportation, accommodation or sight-seeing provider or any other person or entity rendering any of these services or accommodations being offered in connection with these tours. Any dispute arising out of these tours, must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the completion of the tour and will be settled by arbitration within the State of Arizona.

Insurance Protection Plan: We strongly recommend **TRAVEL INSURANCE** to protect against cancellation fees and additional travel expenses that may incur before, after or during the trip. With your reservation confirmation, will send information about insurance coverage.