

Traveling in the Footsteps of Paul

Seven Churches of Asia Minor and Rome

Sponsored by Laurel University

June 4–15, 2012

Dr. John and April Lindsey, Tour Hosts



MTS > **TRAVEL**

124 E. Main St., 4th Fl.
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 721-7300
(800) 874-9330

Mon., June 4 Departure

Depart from Charlotte Douglas International Airport late this afternoon on a transatlantic flight.

Tue., June 5 Istanbul

Change planes in Munich, arriving in Istanbul mid-afternoon. Enjoy an orientation of Istanbul (Byzantium, Constantinople) and a private boat cruise along the Bosphorus to view 19th century mansions and palaces. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul at the Crystal Hotel.

Wed., June 6 Istanbul

Istanbul was the center of the Byzantine Empire and the capitol of Constantine the Great. Today's visit offers an opportunity to see ancient church architecture and experience church history up close and personal. See the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, the St. Sophia Museum, the Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



Thu., June 7 Istanbul / Nicaea / Bursa

Drive to Iznik (ancient Nicaea) an important Roman and Byzantine town where the first Council of Nicaea was held during the reign of Constantine in 325 AD. The four gates which allowed access to the city still stand. The ruins of the St. Sophia Cathedral, the seat of the first Ecumenical Council, are found in the town center. Visit the St. Sophia Church, the Green Mosque, and the Nilufer Hatun Imareti. Continue to the city of Bursa to visit the Green Mosque, the Green Tomb, the Grand Mosque and the Koza Han. Dinner and overnight in Bursa at the Almira Hotel.

Fri., June 8 Bursa / Akhisar / Sardis / Alasehir / Pamukkale

Drive to Akhisar to visit the ruins of the ancient city of Thyatira. Continue to Sardis through the Thousand Hills, royal cemetery of Sardis. Stop at the town of Alasehir to visit the ruins of Philadelphia. Continue to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight at Pam Thermal Hotel.

Sat., June 9 Pamukkale - Kusadasi

Visit the ruins of the ancient cities of Laodicea, Hierapolis and the limestone wonders of Pamukkale. Continue to Selcuk to visit the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus. See the house where the apostle John obeyed the request of Jesus and provided a place for Mary to live. Continue to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight at the Palmin Hotel.

Sun., June 10 Kusadasi – Pergamon – Izmir

Drive to Izmir to visit the Roman Agora of Smyrna. Continue along the Aegean coast to the town of Bergama to visit the Acropolis and the Asclepion of Pergamon. Dinner and overnight in Izmir at the Anemon Hotel.

Mon., June 11 Izmir / Pompeii / Pozzuoli

Fly from Izmir to Rome, and drive to Pompeii for an escorted archeological journey through this ancient city. Pompeii was buried under a layer of ashes by a sudden eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, giving few people the opportunity to escape. After 1700 years, excavations have uncovered a first-century Roman town whose daily life has been frozen in time.

The visit to Pompeii puts Paul's preaching against the excesses of the Roman culture in perspective. Understand Paul's anger as he walked through the streets of Pompeii and why he preached against the corruption of the Romans. Explore the houses, shops, temples,



squares, and streets. See the Lupanar (the house of prostitutes) and the Suburban Bath. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. (Romans 1:26) Continue to Hotel Solfatara in Pozzuoli for dinner and overnight.

Tue., June 12 Pozzuoli / Foro Appio / Rome

Tour Pozzuoli (Puteoli), the port where the ship carrying Paul landed. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. There we found some brothers and sisters who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. (Acts 28:13b–14) Visit the seaport and the ruins of the well preserved Roman village of Minturno, along the Appian Way which Paul traveled on his journey to Rome. Pass Foro Appio, located at the spot where an ancient Roman "posta" (tavern) once stood. The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. (Acts 28:15) The sight of these people encouraged Paul. Arrive in Rome late this afternoon, and enjoy dinner and overnight at the Palazzo Carpegna Hotel.

Wed., June 13 Ancient Rome / Paul's Sites

Begin a walking tour of Ancient Rome at the Basilica of San Clemente, with its magnificent frescoes and twelfth-century mosaic of the Cross as the Tree of Life. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. (Philippians 4:3) Continue to the center of the Ancient Roman Empire—the Roman Forum. See the ruins of buildings built by the great emperors as lasting monuments to their power. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (Romans 1:25)



Visit the Forum of Trajan, whose markets were the true forerunners of modern commercial centers. Walk to Capitoline Hill, once the political and religious center of Rome and now the seat of the modern Municipality. A stairway leads to the Piazza del Campidoglio, a magnificent project of Michelangelo. See the Curia—seat of the Roman Senate, the State Archive, basilicas, Palaces of Justice, the Temple of Vesta, the House of the Vestals, and temples, columns and arches of triumph erected to the gods of Rome. And exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. (Romans 1:23)



Visit Palatine Hill, the center hill of the seven on which Rome is built, founded by Romulus in the year 753 BC. See the Arch of Constantine and the Coliseum, the symbol of the greatness of Rome and the arena for staged games, gladiator fights and Christian executions.

Travel to the Church of Santa Prisca on the Aventino Hill. See the house where Paul lived, which is named in a legal document from the 5th century, as "Titulus Prisciae." It is possible that this is the home of Priscilla (Aquila and Priscilla) or that of an early church martyr named Prisca.

Paul was in Rome between 61 and 63 AD. The area of San Paolo Alla Regola is the most credible location of his home—an area inhabited by Jews near the River Tiber. Archaeological excavations show the presence of stores of grain (horreum), and

a second-century account says Paul rented a horreum—possibly to preach, teach, and comfort the Christians. Paul worked as a leather tanner, and the area was known by the name of “Contra-da Pauli” (Paul’s district). In a 1245 AD legal document are found the words “In loco qui dicitur Pauli” (in that place called “of Paul”). In 366 AD, Pope Damasus built a church over the ruins dedicating it to Saint Paul. See the oratory created using the room where Paul lived. On the main beam you can read the following: “This is the place where the Apostle Paul lived and taught.”

Continue to the Abbey of the Three Fountains, the place of Paul’s beheading. Tradition says that three different springs gushed out from each spot touched by Paul’s head as it fell. The legend is nice, but the springs were known in pre-Christian times as the *Aquae Salviae*, with excavations revealing ancient mosaic pavements. It is also said that a Stone Pine tree stood at this site and in 1857 ancient Stone Pine cones were found during excavations.



St. Paul Outside the Walls is a Benedictine Abbey sharing its name, origins and centuries of history with the adjoining basilica, where the bones of Paul have recently been found. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thu., June 14 Galleria Borghese / Catacombs / San John Lateran / Vatican Museums

Visit Galleria Borghese to view the masterpieces of major Italian artists. Those who wish to do so, may choose to explore the lovely park, including Secret Gardens, Valley of Plain Trees, Piazza di Siene, the Gardens of Muro Torto and the Bio Park. Continue to the Ancient Appian Way and visit the Catacombs of Santa Domitilla. These Christian catacombs are extremely important to early Christian art history. At first the catacombs were used both for burial and the memorial services and celebrations of the anniversaries of Christian martyrs and probably were not used for



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regular worship. Many modern depictions of the catacombs show them as hiding places for Christians during times of persecution.

Continue to the Basilica of San John di Lateran—among the most important Christian Churches in Rome and symbolic of the importance that Emperor Constantine placed on his newly adopted faith. The property was donated by Constantine’s family. Next to the Basilica is the Lateran Baptistery, built by Constantine as a place to celebrate the sacraments. Pilgrims come every year to renew their baptismal vows at this site.



After lunch visit the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel to admire one of the greatest masterpieces of all time—*Genesis and The Last Judgment* by Michelangelo. See the Basilica of St. Peter with 2000 years of history and famous works of art such as *The Pietà* by Michelangelo. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Walk to the Trevi Fountain—one of the most famous sites in Rome—shop, rest or sightsee on your own. Return to the hotel to relax before a late dinner and overnight in Rome.

Fri., June 15 Departure

Depart Rome this morning for a mid-afternoon arrival in Charlotte.

Tour Price from Charlotte Airport: \$3,999 per person, based on double occupancy

Single Room Supplement: \$499

Optional Group Travel Insurance: \$210 (this is non-refundable)

This tour price reflects special group rates and is based on a minimum group size of 35 participants. Fewer tour members will result in an increase of the tour price. Deposits received after February 28, 2012, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

Tour Price Includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Charlotte Douglas International Airport
- Accommodations in hotels listed in itinerary, or similar
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to sites listed in itinerary
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Driver and transportation in air-conditioned motor coaches
- Hotel service charges and local taxes
- Tips to guides, drivers and hotel staff
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharges (currently \$557; subject to change)

Note: This trip is highly recommended for Christian educators and students of biblical history and will meet ASCI Continuing Education requirements.

Tour Features and Conditions

Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully.
Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

Air Transportation: Air transportation is restricted to the services of any IATA carrier, in economy class based on nonrefundable fare. Travelers are responsible to provide their names as they appear in their passport. Ticketing will be made 30-45 days prior to departure, after which there will be a charge for name corrections. Tour price includes current airline taxes and fuel surcharges of \$557, which are subject to change until ticketed. Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge of \$499. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily. Beverages with dinners are not included.

Transfers and Baggage: Transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included in the tour price, including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. **Due to limited luggage storage space on motorcoaches, it is important that each person bring only ONE piece of checked baggage.** In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motorcoach or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations are included. Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for personal services are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

Not Included: Passport fee, travel protection insurance, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to Charlotte Douglas International Airport and return is not included.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$500 per person. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due April 5, 2012.

MTS Cancellation Conditions: Refund of full deposit (less \$100 administrative fee) will be made up to February 28, 2012. If cancellation occurs between February 29 and May 4, 2012, a fee of \$500 will be charged, plus unrecoverable airline, hotel and tour operator payments. There is no refund after May 4, 2012, or for unused tour services.

Protect Your Investment: MTS TRAVEL strongly recommends purchasing this primary insurance coverage. If you purchase the protection plan within 21 days of your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. If protection plan is purchased after the 21 days, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage, which you will receive upon receipt of deposit. You will have ten days to review coverage and cancel your policy.

Following is a brief description of coverage:

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Medical Evacuation: \$250,000
- Medical Expenses: \$25,000
- Baggage loss/delay: \$1,500/\$250

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until December 16, 2012. A visa for Turkey is required for U.S. citizens and is not included in the tour price. The visa will be obtained upon arrival at the Istanbul Airport. The current visa fee is \$20.

All rates and fares are based on current information and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 35 persons traveling together. A "small group" additional fee may be assessed if necessary.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred.

The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

In the ever-changing world situation, MTS TRAVEL recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit www.mtstravel.com and click "U.S. State Department Travel Warnings" in the middle of our home page.

Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire in advance about whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility

Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/A MTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserves the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

CST 2013363-40

Reservation Form
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This tour price reflects special group rates.

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**To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this form, along with your deposit of \$500 per person to:
MTS TRAVEL, 124 E. Main St., 4th Fl., Ephrata, PA 17522, .**

Please reserve space as follows:

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$_____ (\$500 per person.)

Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL or complete the credit card payment information below.

(Please Print)

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Birthdate: _____ Birthdate: _____

Passport Copies: Please provide a clear photocopy of the photo and signature page of your passport. This is required for all international tours.

Room Type: Twin/Double Single Rooming With: _____

Travel Protection Insurance—Check One:

I/we wish to be covered by cancellation insurance.

(Include \$210 per person with your deposit check. The \$210 is not refundable.)

I/we do NOT wish to be covered by the cancellation insurance.

Credit Card Information:

Please Charge: My Deposit of \$_____ + \$_____ Travel Insurance = \$_____ Total Charge

Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Name as it appears on card (printed): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

I have read the Tour Features and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____