

6. Ephesus & Miletus

Tour:

W 20 2:00 pm chartered ferry to Kuşadası, Turkey; arr. 7:00 pm. Our Turkish guide will meet us.

Charisma Hotel, Kuşadası (3 nights)

Th 21 Ephesus: full day tour: archaeological site (UNESCO WHS) including Terrace Houses; Basilica of St John; Archaeological Museum.

F 22 Full-day excursion to 3 sites south of Kuşadası: Miletus, Didyma, Priene.

Sa 23 05:30 depart hotel for Izmir airport (ADB):

08:55 10:15 ADB IST TK2311

13:15 16:45 IST SFO TK79 13h30. A350-900

A. In the Ancient World

1. Ionia

After the collapse of the Hittite Empire (central Anatolia), Greeks settled the western coast.

c. 650 BC, 12+ cities formed the Ionian (or Panionic) League (κοινὸν Ἴωνων), including Ephesus, Miletus, Priene, Smyrna. The central sanctuary was the Panionium, a temple to Poseidon on Mt Mycale, in the custody of Priene.

2. Roman Province of Asia

Asia was the first and most important Roman province in the eastern Mediterranean. In 133 BC, King Attalus III of Pergamum died without an heir, willing his kingdom to Rome. From this kingdom of Pergamum, Rome created the province of Asia. It was a proconsular province, governed by a proconsul (a former consul appointed by the Senate for a one-year term; other provinces were imperial provinces governed by imperial appointees).

When the province of Asia was created out of the kingdom of Pergamum, Pergamum remained the capital. The capital was later transferred to Ephesus. There was bitter rivalry between three large cities: Pergamum, Smyrna, Ephesus.

B. Ephesus

UNESCO World Heritage Site: Ephesus (#1018, 2015)

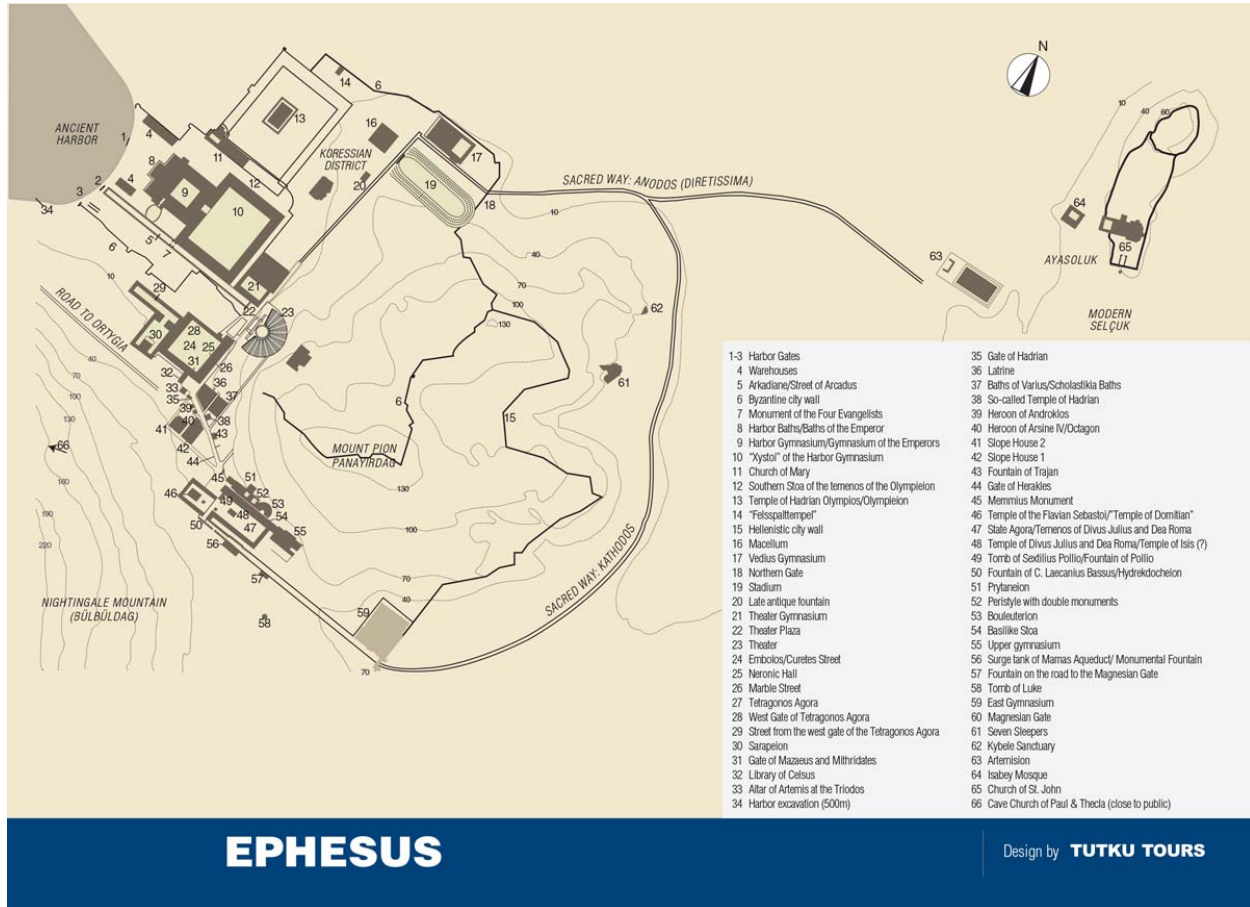
Ephesus was originally located on or near the shore of an inlet of the sea, near the mouth of the Cayster river. The city was later incorporated into the kingdom of Lydia. The last Lydian king, Croesus, besieged Ephesus, but was then the primary benefactor of the temple of Artemis. The ancient city was located near this temple. Around 290 BC, Lysamachus relocated the city to the valley between Panayir Dag and Bülbül Dag. Half of the city moved back in the late Byzantine period. The remainder of the city was abandoned in the tenth century.

With a population of 250,000, Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire. It was a free city, i.e., self-governing. It was the largest commercial center in Asia Minor, and enjoyed great prosperity under the reign of Augustus, and until the mid-second century. It eventually replaced Pergamon as the capital of the province of Asia. The Great Theater seated 25,000. The stadium built during Nero's reign seated 75,000. Ephesus called itself "First and Greatest Metropolis of Asia."

Ephesus contained many temples, including:

- Artemisium: the Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World by Antipater of Sidon (2nd century BC). It was the largest Greek temple in antiquity, four times larger than the Parthenon in Athens. The temple was plundered by the Goths c. AD 262.
- Dea Roma and Divus Julius: a single temple, authorized by Augustus, for the worship of the goddess Roma and the divine Julius Caesar. The construction of this temple probably reflected the desire of the people to honor Augustus for the peace that he had restored to Asia, which brought renewed commercial prosperity.
- Temple of the Sebastoi: an immense temple constructed during the reign of Domitian. It contained a colossal

statue of Domitian. Following the *damnatio memoriae* of Domitian, his name was chiselled out of all inscriptions and replaced by the name of Vespasian.



C. Miletus

Μίλητος, Lat. Miletus, Turk. Milet. 37.53, 27.28.

Three cities of Panionic League on Miletus Bay in Caria: Miletus, Priene, Myus. Miletus had multiple harbors. The Meander River has silted up the bay; Priene and Myus by Hellenistic times, Miletus by Late Antiquity. Miletus is now 10km/6mi from the sea.

Miletus was a prominent city in the 6th-5th cent. BC, thanks to the Milesian School: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes.

Famous residents:

- Thales (c.624-c 546)
- Anaximander Ἀναξίμανδρος (c. 610-c. 546): world map (*mappa mundi*).
- Hecataeus of Miletus (c. 550-c. 476 BC), early Gk historian, geographer. Περίοδος γῆς ("Journey round the Earth" or "World Survey"). Refined *mappa mundi*.
- Hippodamus Ἱππόδαμος (498-408): designed the ideal city: grid layout with a central open space, which developed into the agora/forum. He used this layout for Miletus, Piraeus. Rome continued the grid layout: the *cardo maximus* was the major north-south street; the *decumanus major* was the major east-west street in a Roman town.
- Isidore of Miletus: architect of Hagia Sophia, inventor of the flying buttress.



Fig. 6-1: Miletus Bay (Wikimedia Commons)

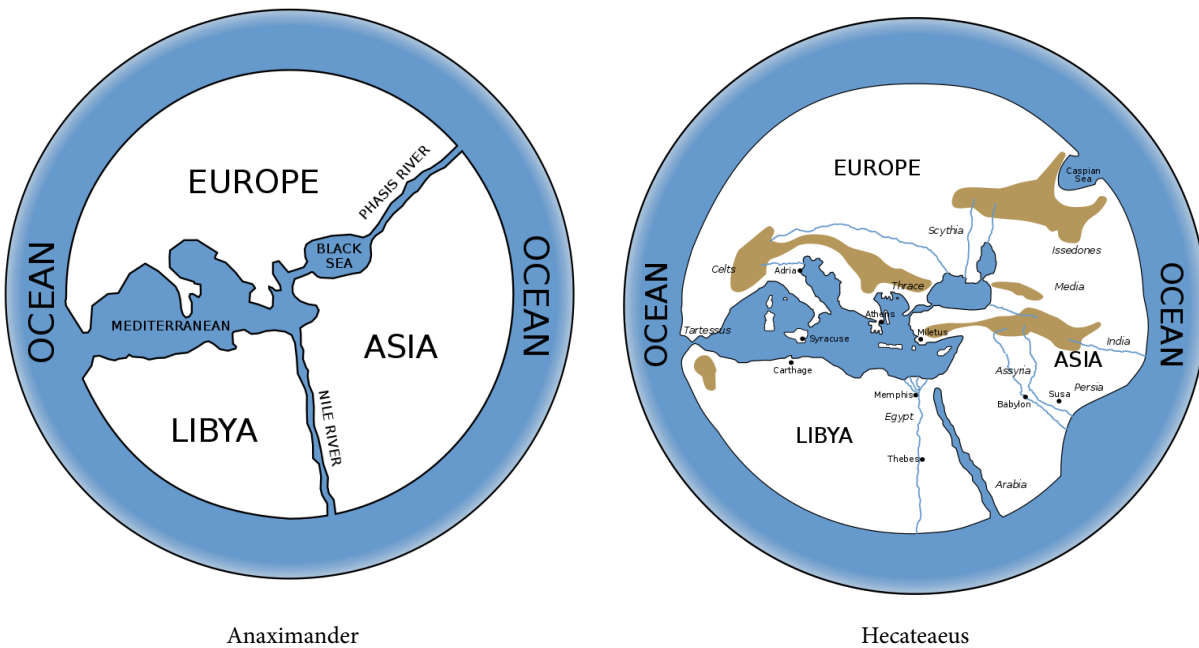


Fig. 6-2: Geographers of Miletus (Wikimedia Commons)

The Market Gate of Miletus (probably Hadrianic) is in the Pergamon Museum, Berlin.
A Sacred Way led from Miletus 17 km to Didyma.

D. Priene

Πριήνη. 37.6598, 27.2978. At the foot of Mt Mycale.

The city was moved several times as the Meander silted up Miletus Bay. The current site was established c. 350 BC, on a Hippodamian grid plan. It was no longer a port by the first century.

Temple of Athena: dedicated to Alexander the Great in 323 (the Priene Inscription in British Museum).

Also sanctuaries to Zeus and Demeter.

Priene calendar inscription c. 9 BC; now in Berlin Museum.

It seemed good to the Greeks of Asia, in the opinion of the high priest Apollonius of Menophilus Azanitus: “Since Providence, which has ordered all things and is deeply interested in our life, has set in most perfect order by giving us Augustus, whom she filled with virtue that he might benefit humankind, sending him as a savior [σωτήρ], both for us and for our descendants, that he might end war and arrange all things, and since he, Caesar, by his appearance [ἐπιφανείην] (excelled even our anticipations), surpassing all previous benefactors, and not even leaving to posterity any hope of surpassing what he has done, and since the birthday of the god Augustus was the beginning of the good tidings for the world that came by reason of him [ἤρξεν δὲ τῷ κόσμῳ τῶν δι’ αὐτὸν εὐαγγελίων ἢ γενέθλιος τοῦ θεοῦ],” which Asia resolved in Smyrna.¹

cf. The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ [υἱοῦ θεοῦ]. (Mark 1:1)

E. Paul in Ephesus & Miletus

1. Second Journey (AD 50-52; Acts 15:36-18:22)

Sailed from Cenchreae (Corinth’s eastern port) to Ephesus with Priscilla & Aquila, whom he left there. He stayed briefly, visiting the synagogue, declining to stay longer, but promising to return, God-willing. He sailed on to Syria: landed in Caesarea, went up to Jerusalem, then down to Antioch.

2. Third Journey (AD 53-57; Acts 18:23-21:16)

Paul left Antioch and again passed through Galatia. This time he was not prevented from entering Asia, but came to Ephesus, where he stayed over 2 years (Acts 19:1-20:1).

From Ephesus, Paul went to Macedonia, Corinth, back to Macedonia, arranging and receiving the collection for Jerusalem (20:1-6). With him were the delegates to accompany this collection: Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy of Lystra, Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These he sent on ahead, while he celebrated Passover 57 with Luke in Philippi, after which they sailed to Troas where they met the others. Paul wanted to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (50 days later). They sailed down the coast, passing Ephesus so as not to be delayed. Stopping at Miletus, he sent for the elders of the church in Ephesus, to whom he bid a tearful farewell (20:17-38). Paul and his companions sailed on to Caesarea, then up to Jerusalem.

3. Timothy

Paul later delegated Timothy to investigate and sort out problems in the church in Ephesus, writing 1 Timothy to him.

1. Craig A. Evans, “Mark’s Incipit and the Priene Calendar Inscription: From Jewish Gospel to Greco-Roman Gospel,” *Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism*, 1 (2000) 67-81.

F. Subsequent History

431 Third Ecumenical Council

- Condemnation of Nestorius.
- Mary declared *theotokos*, Mother of God.