

IN THE STEPS OF PAUL AND JOHN

led by Dr Peter Walker and Dr Ian Paul



Sunday 15 - Tuesday 24 June 2025



Price starting at: **£ 2,120 GBP** (*Ground Only*)

Your Journey Includes:

Guided Sightseeing & on-site Lectures • All Administrative & Entrance Fees • Hotel Gratuities
Breakfast & Dinner daily • Driver Tips • Good-quality Hotels and much, much more!

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IN THE STEPS OF PAUL & JOHN

*a Study Tour to Greece and Turkiye visiting
places mentioned in Acts and Revelation
led by Dr Peter Walker and Dr Ian Paul*

WELCOME - from Peter and Ian

Travelling to the Mediterranean always offers the opportunity for a time of enjoying a great holiday experience—in beautiful sites and in sunny weather. This Study Tour will be no exception, but it will be more than just a wonderful holiday: we will be travelling to over a dozen places that are mentioned in the pages of the New Testament and finding that the biblical text comes alive before our eyes.

The two of us have been to this historic part of the world, separately, on numerous occasions and each of us has always come back with fresh excitement about the world of the New Testament and wanting to teach its powerful message about Christ with new vigour and confidence.

However, we have never travelled together, so we are looking forward to all the fresh ideas and insights that might be sparked – both between us and amongst those travelling with us—as we all learn together about the apostles and how we should follow Christ ourselves today in our own generation.

So please join us for what we trust will be a ‘trip of a life-time’—full of biblical teaching and spiritual inspiration. We may come from different backgrounds and with different interests: some may be ordained Christian ministers, wanting to be refreshed in the task of preaching; others may be doing research in biblical studies, looking forward to seeing the geographical context of the Early Church; others may be practising Christians, simply wanting to learn more about the Bible whilst travelling with other like-minded people.

Whatever your particular interest, we look forward to welcoming you to join the party. We believe it will be fun and enjoyable, informative and inspiring. Together we hope we will come to a new appreciation and understanding of St Paul and St John the Divine, and, through reflecting on their authoritative writings, come to experience a greater love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

OVERVIEW

Our tour begins on the Sunday afternoon when we arrive in the modern city of Izmir. The next morning we set out to see the few remains nearby of the ancient harbour-city of Smyrna. The church congregation in Smyrna was the second one to be addressed by the Risen Christ in the seven messages found in the apocalyptic prophetic letter that is the Book of Revelation (chapters 2-3); and, later that morning, we drive a few hours north to see the third city, Pergamum, remarkable for its high acropolis. We return to our hotel in Izmir and then set off to explore the next three cities mentioned in Revelation, travelling clock-wise around what was a familiar route for ancient couriers; of these three, the most impressive is Sardis, with its high hills and many archaeological remains spread out below.

That night we sleep in ancient Hierapolis (known today as Pamuk-kale or cotton-castle); this is a world-famous tourist destination because of the unique formations caused by the hot thermal waters, flowing out over the limestone cliffs. When St Paul writes to the Colossians, he refers to other Christian believers living in nearby Hierapolis and Laodicea (Col. 4:13). These three towns were quite close together in the Lycus Valley but, as we discover when we set out on Wednesday morning, they had very different water-supplies: Hierapolis had natural hot thermal waters, Colossae natural cold streams, but Laodicea had to build pipelines from far away – causing the water, on arrival, to be luke-warm (Rev. 3:16).

On Thursday, we drive down the Meander Valley westwards, stopping at the spectacular site of Aphrodisias (not mentioned in the Bible) before travelling on down to the ancient harbour (now silted up) of Miletus, the place where Paul addressed the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-35). We travel on to the modern port of Kusadasi, where we stay two nights, giving us the opportunity for a full-day excursion on the Friday to the extensive ruins of Ephesus (Acts 19; Rev. 2:1-7) and nearby Selcuk, with its museum as well as the church over the traditional burial-place of St John the Apostle.

OVERVIEW (Continued)

And then we set off on our cruise! It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon voyage down to the island of Patmos, where St John the Divine encountered the Risen Christ (Rev. 1:9); we visit the traditional cave where he received the revelation and go up in the late afternoon to visit the Byzantine monastery—with its many treasures and fantastic views over the island. The next morning we find ourselves harbouring off Heraklion on the island of Crete, with the option to go on a morning tour to ancient Knossos (the capital of the Minoan civilization); and, later that afternoon, we are taking a cable-car up to the top of the volcanic caldera that makes Santorini such a breath-taking place for photography—especially as we enjoy its many white-washed walls at sunset.

We finally reach the port for Athens on Monday morning and drive straight round past Athens to visit the impressive site of Ancient Corinth. We see the place in the marketplace where Paul was brought before the Roman governor Gallio (Acts 18:12–17) and also the intriguing pavement with the inscription about Erastus (Rom. 15:23). We then return for our final 24 hours in Athens, enjoying the Acropolis and its modern museum, as well as going up onto the Areopagus (Mars Hill) where Paul addressed the philosophers of his day. Standing there, we can sense the enormity of what Paul and the early Christians achieved, in speaking out against the pagan idolatry and wisdom of their day and proclaiming Christ as the world's true Lord. And, with such thoughts in our mind, we make our way to the airport, ready to return to our own cultures as followers of the same Jesus Christ.

ITINERARY

Sunday 15 June 2025: Departure and Arrival

- Depart from UK (flight times to be arranged)**
- Afternoon arrival at Izmir airport and transfer to our hotel in Izmir (2 nights)

Monday 16 June: Izmir and Pergamum

- The ruins of ancient Smyrna
- Pergamum (modern Bergama): its acropolis and lower city

Tuesday 17 June: Thyatira, Sardis and Philadelphia

- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Drive to our hotel in Pamukkale (2 nights)

Wednesday 18 June: The Lycus Valley

- Laodicea
- Colossae
- Hierapolis (its ancient city and 'travertines')

Thursday 19 June: The Meander Valley

- Aphrodisias
- Miletus
- Drive to our hotel in Kusadasi (2 nights)

Friday 20 June: Ephesus

- All-day visit to Ancient Ephesus

Saturday 21 June: From Ephesus to Patmos

- Visit the Selcuk Museum
- Board at midday the Celestyal Olympia ('premier outside cabins': 2 nights)
- Sail to Patmos, visiting the sites associated with St John the Divine

Sunday 22 June: From Crete to Santorini

- Optional morning excursion to ancient Knossos
- Afternoon visit to Thira

Monday 23 June: The Isthmus and Corinth

- Disembark near Athens
- Drive past Athens, Eleusis and Megara to the Corinth Canal
- Ancient Corinth
- Cenchrea harbour
- Drive back to our hotel in Athens (1 night)

Tuesday 24 June: Athens and Departure

- The Acropolis and its museum
- The Areopagus
- Transfer to Athens airport for late afternoon flights home

Flights: The cost of flights is not included. Individuals are asked to arrange their own flights (ideally landing in Izmir by 5.30pm on Sunday 15 June and departing from Athens airport on Tuesday 24 June after 6.00pm).

Extra Nights: JCBS can arrange hotel accommodation for those wishing to stay any extra nights in our Izmir or Athens hotels. The price for such extra nights will be determined nearer the time, but please make your requests known as soon as possible.

Registration: The JCBS office of Educational Opportunities (Lakeland, FL) will handle all registrations for North American passengers and is able to help them find the most suitable transatlantic flights and schedules. Please register at <https://www.jcbs.org/tours/er25061525w57759>

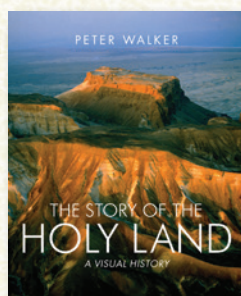
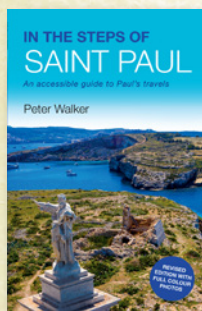
For those traveling from UK and Europe, there is a separate registration form: please send this and payment to Dr Walker at the address provided on the form.

YOUR TOUR LEADERS

Dr Peter Walker



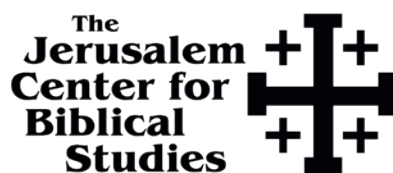
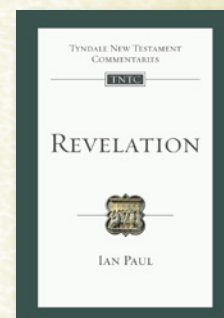
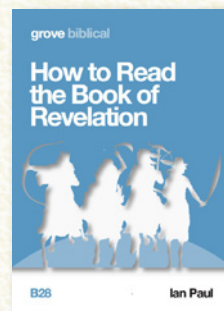
Dr Peter Walker was ordained in 1989 and served his curacy in the diocese of Rochester. For many years he taught at Wycliffe Hall in the University of Oxford and then, from 2012 to 2017, was Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity School for Ministry (near Pittsburgh, PA, USA). He is now back in the UK and, for the last three years, has been serving as the Rector of the Itchen Valley parishes, near Winchester. The majority of his books have focused on the Holy Land (the topic of his doctoral and post-doctoral research), for example: *Holy City, Holy Places?* (OUP, 1990); *Jesus and the Holy City* (Eerdmans, 1996); and *In the Steps of Jesus* (Lion Hudson, 2006). His chief writing about Paul is *In the Steps of Saint Paul* (Lion Hudson, 2008; revised Walkway Books edition 2022), but he has also written two articles in the *Journal of European Theology* (2012), arguing for an early date for Paul's pastoral epistles.



Dr Ian Paul



Dr Ian Paul studied Maths at Oxford and Southampton and worked in industrial business before studying theology in Nottingham and completing a PhD on the interpretation of the Book of Revelation. After ten years in parish ministry, he was Academic Dean at St John's College, Nottingham for a further ten years. Since 2013 he has been teaching, researching, and writing, and publishes the widely-read blog *Psephizo*. He has written the *Tyndale Commentary on Revelation*, as well as more than 20 academic articles on the book, and is currently working on a commentary on the Fourth Gospel. For ten years he led the Revelation group at the British New Testament conference, and edited a volume of papers from the group with Mohr Siebeck. He is part of Revelation research groups at the Evangelical Theology Society (ETS) and Institute for Biblical Research (IBR), and chairs the Tyndale New Testament study group, and is part-time Managing Editor at Grove Books.



This itinerary has been devised by Dr Peter Walker and Dr Ian Paul in collaboration with the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies. JCBS was established in 1973 as a non-profit organization with the purpose of hosting tours for Christian scholars, students and visitors, primarily in the Holy Land, but also in other lands of the Bible. JCBS, together with its parent organization, Educational Opportunities, will be our hosts throughout the tour and are responsible, working through their appointed local Greek travel agency, for the delivery of the advertised itinerary.