



## Sample Ephesus Shore Excursion Program

A Private, Historical and Cultural Shore Program  
of Ephesus with your personal English-speaking guide.

*The following is just a suggested daily tour schedule. You will have complete control over your daily schedule and may change your plans at any time by simply telling your guides.*

### Day 1

#### *Kusadasi (Ephesus)*

Today, your driver and guide will meet you at the pier at **9:00am** and take you to the remains of ancient Ephesus.

Your guide today is an expert on Ephesus and has worked as an archaeologist on the site. This will be an amazing opportunity to tour this site through the eyes of an insider.

Ephesus was originally founded as a Greek colony in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century BC. It gradually prospered and became a major trading hub and an important religious center for the worship of the Mother Goddess Cybele. Ephesus was ruled for a period of time by the Macedonian general Lysimachus. After his death, the city came under Egyptian, and later under Roman and Byzantine rule. Ephesus was incorporated in the Ottoman empire in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

Today's visit will begin at the Ephesus Archaeological Museum located in Selcuk and just a few minutes drive from the site of Ephesus itself.

Many of the works of art excavated in Ephesus between 1867-1905 were transported to the British Museum; those from 1905-1923 were taken to Vienna. The Turkish Republic then forbade taking antiques out of the country and founded the museum. The present museum dates to 1983.

The Ephesus Museum is different from other many museums in that it is not designed according to chronological order but the rooms are laid out with a theme, e.g. The Hall of the Fountain, The Hall of Funerary Relics, the Hall of Artemis and so on.

During your visit to the museum, your guide will provide the background history to Ephesus and will then introduce you to the site itself.

Most of the structures surviving today at Ephesus are from the Roman period. The Library of Celsus was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century to store some 12,000 scrolls and is one of the few remaining examples of ancient Roman libraries. After a massive restoration project, the front façade of the building was rebuilt and now serves as a prime example of Roman architecture. The statues in the niches of the façade are of Sophia – the goddess of wisdom; Arete – the goddess of virtue; Ennoia – the goddess of intelligence; and Episteme – the goddess of knowledge. You will also visit the remains of the Hellenistic theater, which once had an estimated 44,000 seating capacity and is believed to have been the largest outdoor theater in the ancient world. Other sites included in the visit will be the Odeon, Temple of Hadrian and the Fountain of Trajan.

Your guide will also take you into the Ephesus terrace houses which are truly remarkable and provide a wonderful insight into family life during the Roman period. They were built according to the Hippodamian plan of the city in which roads transected each other at right angles.

You may enjoy lunch today at the restaurant in the Steam Train Museum. This museum was founded as a result of the historical significance that the railway played in the discovery of Ephesus.

*(Cost of lunch is not included)*

This afternoon your guide will accompany you to the home of the Virgin Mary. Ephesus was an important center of the early Christianity. The apostle Paul spent here more than two years on his third missionary journey and wrote the first letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus. The apostle and evangelist John also lived in Ephesus during the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan. It is believed that he also brought Mary, the mother of Jesus, with him to Ephesus, where she spent the last years of her life in a modest stone house, which is today a popular place of pilgrimage.

Next your guide will take you to the Basilica of St. John. It is believed that the evangelist St. John had spent his last years in the region around Ephesus and buried in the southern slope of Ayasolug Hill. Three hundred years after the death of Saint Paul, a small chapel was constructed over the grave in the 4th century. The church was changed into a marvelous basilica during the reign of Emperor Justinian ( 527 -565 AD). The monumental basilica was in the shape of a cross and was covered with six domes.

Raised by two steps and covered with marble, the tomb of St John was under the central dome, that was once carried by the four columns at the corners. The columns in the courtyard reveals the monograms of Emperor Justinian and his wife Theodora.

With the invasion of Turks, the chapel was used as a mosque in the 14th century; unfortunately the "Basilica of Saint John " became unusable due to the serious earthquake in the same century. Excavations around the basilica have been ongoing since 1973.

Return to your ship later this afternoon.

**Exeter Services: Full-day Car, Driver and Guide**

**Meals Included: None**

**Price:** for two Guests traveling together: \$450.00 per person.

Your itinerary includes...

**Accommodations**

None Included.

**Meals**

None Included.

**Services**

Private, deluxe vehicle and driver at your service as described. A day with your vehicle is generally 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. English-speaking guide from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM as described. A half-day is 3.5 hours.

**Transfers**

All transfers to and from your cruise ship are included in the program as noted.

**Guides**

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM daily. Guides may assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater tickets at your request.

**Tickets**

All museum tickets as described in the program.

**Exeter International Independent Shore Programs**

*SIGHTSEEING*

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

#### *OPTIONAL EXPENSES*

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

#### *GRATUITIES*

Gratuities are not included in your tour price. Your copy of "Travel Tips" contains suggested gratuity guidelines for your consideration. Gratuities may be extended in the local currency, U.S. Dollars or Euro.

#### *DINING WITH YOUR GUIDE*

On days when dinner and lunch costs have not been included in your itinerary (or in your tour cost), you may, at your discretion, choose to invite your guide to dine with your party. You are under no obligation to do so but, if you do extend such an invitation, the guide is your guest and you will be responsible for the cost of his/her meal.

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

##### *PAYMENT*

Exeter International must receive a deposit of 10% of the total program cost or \$250 per person, whichever is greater, before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. *No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received.* Availability and pricing is subject to change until this deposit is received. **All deposits are nonrefundable.**

##### *CANCELLATION*

Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost

- 59-14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost.

##### *REFUNDS*

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

### *INSURANCE*

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

### *PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS*

Once an itinerary is finalized and final payment has been made, a \$100 revision fee will be charged if the itinerary is changed.

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of January 2010. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International is under no obligation to give breakdown costs involved in any Travel Program.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*

#### **Exeter International**

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