

Ephesus

Two thousand years ago Ephesus was one of the major cities of the Roman Empire. It had a good harbor on the western side of what is now the country of Turkey. Then it was the capital of a relatively small province called Asia, a term now applied to the entire continent eastward to the Pacific Ocean. Ephesus ceased to be a city long ago when the local river filled the harbor with sediment. The shoreline was pushed out to sea by many kilometers. Only the ruins remain. However, these ruins are extensive and much has yet to be uncovered.



This map shows the layout of ancient Ephesus. A piece of the scale in the lower left shows a length of 250 meters. We entered at the bottom of the hill at numbers 1 and 2 and proceeded to the upper center. We then went to the ruins at 23 in the upper right. The blue at the left represents the former sea inlet.



An ancient street at position 3.



Emperors Nero and Trajan mentioned.



There were many cats here.

Public toilets over a ditch with water.

A huge shelter covered many homes.



Some pathways had mosaic designs.

Most mosaics have yet to be restored.

The translucent roof provides light.



Several examples of floor patterns.



The large city library.

Another long street.

Street to former harbor.



The large amphitheater served many public functions, not just entertainment.



Street view of amphitheater.

There are thousands of large pieces that are not yet identified and assembled. Much more can be excavated in the future, revealing the life in this city nearly two thousand years ago.

We visited these ruins on Thursday, 27 October, after

docking at the port city of Kusadasi, Turkey.

At the time of the story in the Biblical book of Acts, many leaders lived here in Ephesus and shared the news about Jesus. The teaching of Paul was so effective that the local silversmith industry feared economic ruin. Paul claimed correctly that their silver statues of the city goddess of Artemis had no special powers, and so the followers of Jesus would not buy them. Paul wrote some of his letters from Ephesus. Timothy was a leader here. So was John, the caretaker of Mary - the mother of Jesus. John was exiled to the island of Patmos. While there he wrote the letter, called Revelation, to 7 area churches. It was intended to give encouragement to the followers of Jesus who were suffering severe persecution. While in prison elsewhere, Paul wrote an important letter to the Ephesians giving guidance about how to live as a follower of Jesus.

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2 November 2016, written off the southern coast of the Greek island of Crete.

