



Tomb of St. Philip the Apostle Discovered in Turkey

A tomb believed to be that of St. Philip the Apostle was unearthed during excavations in the ancient Turkish city of Hierapolis.

Italian professor Francesco D'Andria said archeologists found the tomb of the biblical figure -- one of the 12 original disciples of Jesus -- while working on the ruins of a newly-unearthed church, Turkish news agency Anadolu reported Wednesday.

"We have been looking for Saint Philip's tomb for years," d'Andria told the agency. "We finally found it in the ruins of a church which we excavated a month ago."

The structure of the tomb and the writings on the wall proved it belonged to St. Philip, he added.

The professor said the archaeologists worked for years to find the tomb and he expected it to become an important Christian pilgrimage destination.

St. Philip, recognized as one of Christianity's martyrs, is thought to have died in Hierapolis, in the southwest province of Denizli, in around 80AD. It is believed he was crucified upside down or beheaded.

Hierapolis, whose name means "sacred city," is an ancient city famous for its hot springs and a spa since the 2nd century.

The Turkish news agency notes a wealth of current archaeology projects underway in the country, which has seen a potpourri of cultures over the centuries: Assyrians, Phrygians, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans and more.



Brand New Addition to Crowne Plaza Portfolio

After Old City, Harbiye, and Asia, Crowne Plaza will be opening its forth hotel in Istanbul, right in the heart of Istanbul.

Crowne Plaza Istanbul Hagia Sophia will be located in the premium location of Sultanahmet. It will be surrounded by all major and cultural landmarks of old city. You may explore the historical peninsula including Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. Their new hotel will be offering stylish accommodations with its elegance and modern designed rooms and unparalleled service. You will be fascinated with a direct view of Hagia Sophia Museum when you have a look from your window. The entrance of Yerebatan Cistern is next to their new hotel, and you will feel like sleeping on the Cistern.



Turkey Chapter President
for the second time:
Ertugrul Karaoglu

Intra CEO Ertugrul Karaoglu was delighted to learn that he has been re-elected President of ASTA's Turkey Chapter to serve a second term from 2011-13. In 2010 he was instrumental in arranging for the American Society of Travel Agents' annual International Destination Expo to be held in Istanbul and securing the support of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the event.

ASTA Turkey's website is still in the process of being developed at www.asta-turkey.com and new initiatives to strengthen ASTA in Turkey will shortly be announced on the site.

About Ertugrul "Art" Karaoglu

Ertugrul Karaoglu has started his tourism career as a local tour guide in 1976 and with TMGT (Turkey National Youth Federation) Tourist Guiding Course in 1977. Same year he started to work for the TMGT Travel Agency.

In 1980 he participated in foundation of Intra Tourism and Travel Agency.

In 1982, after the company has become a corporation, he has become the director.

Currently he acts as the chairman of both Intra Tours - DMC who is a market leader in incoming tourism to Turkey from Italy, Spain and Portugal and is also very active in the Greek, U.S.A, U.K and South American markets. Its sister company, INAIR Aviation provides important air transport services to both the incoming and outgoing sectors.

He is also a founding partner of Intra Travel and TeamCon other sister entities specializing in MICE, organizing congresses, symposia, seminars, meetings, motivational programs, international exhibitions and incentive programs for the domestic market.

He fluently speaks English, Italian and Spanish and also German and French are at intermediate level. He is married and has 1 child.