



A view over the plains of Mesopotamia from Mardin

# Ancient Anatolia The Origins of Belief

1 – 13 October 2024

“Great care taken with visits. The richness of the tour was in part due to the dual input of religious and cultural material. It is such an interesting region of which there is so much to be said. We were fortunate to have so much input.”

Katrina Pearman, *Origins of Belief*, May 2014



Jon Baines  
tours



Head of King Antiochos, Nemrut Dagı

**Travel to southeastern Turkey and northern Mesopotamia, an area rich in ancient history, where ongoing archaeological discoveries further substantiate its claim to being a cradle of civilization. Tour leader, The Right Reverend Lindsay Urwin, takes you to an area undiscovered by mass tourism, to explore such gems of antiquity as the earliest surviving man-made temple in the world. Along the way experience a traditional society and enjoy its cuisine.**

Travel from Diyarbakir and look out across a spectacular view over the plains of Mesopotamia. Follow the Tigris River to Mor Hananyo Monastery and visit Mardin, perched high on a rocky mountain over a vast sunburnt plain. Spend time in Sanliurfa; ancient Urfa

and the birthplace of the prophet Abraham. Visit Göbekli Tepe, considered to be the oldest man-made place of worship yet discovered, and hear about the influence of geography on history and belief.

At Nemrut Dagı, on the summit of a mountain, witness the legacy of a pre-Roman king's megalomania before continuing to the Silk Roads crossroads of Gaziantep. The tour ends in Cappadocia, a long-standing spiritual centre for Hittites, Persians, Greeks and Jews, and an early Christian centre.

Lindsay will give a series of specialist talks during the tour that provide context and explore the beliefs and history of the region.

## Tour Leader

The **Right Reverend Lindsay Urwin OGS**, originally from Melbourne, journeyed to the UK with intentions of priesthood in 1976. Following his ordination in 1980, he served at several parishes before being appointed Diocesan Missioner of Chichester and later Area Bishop of Horsham in 1993. During his tenure, he took on additional roles such as Provost of the Southern Region of the Woodard Corporation of Schools and the Arch Bishop of Canterbury's President of the School Chaplains Association.

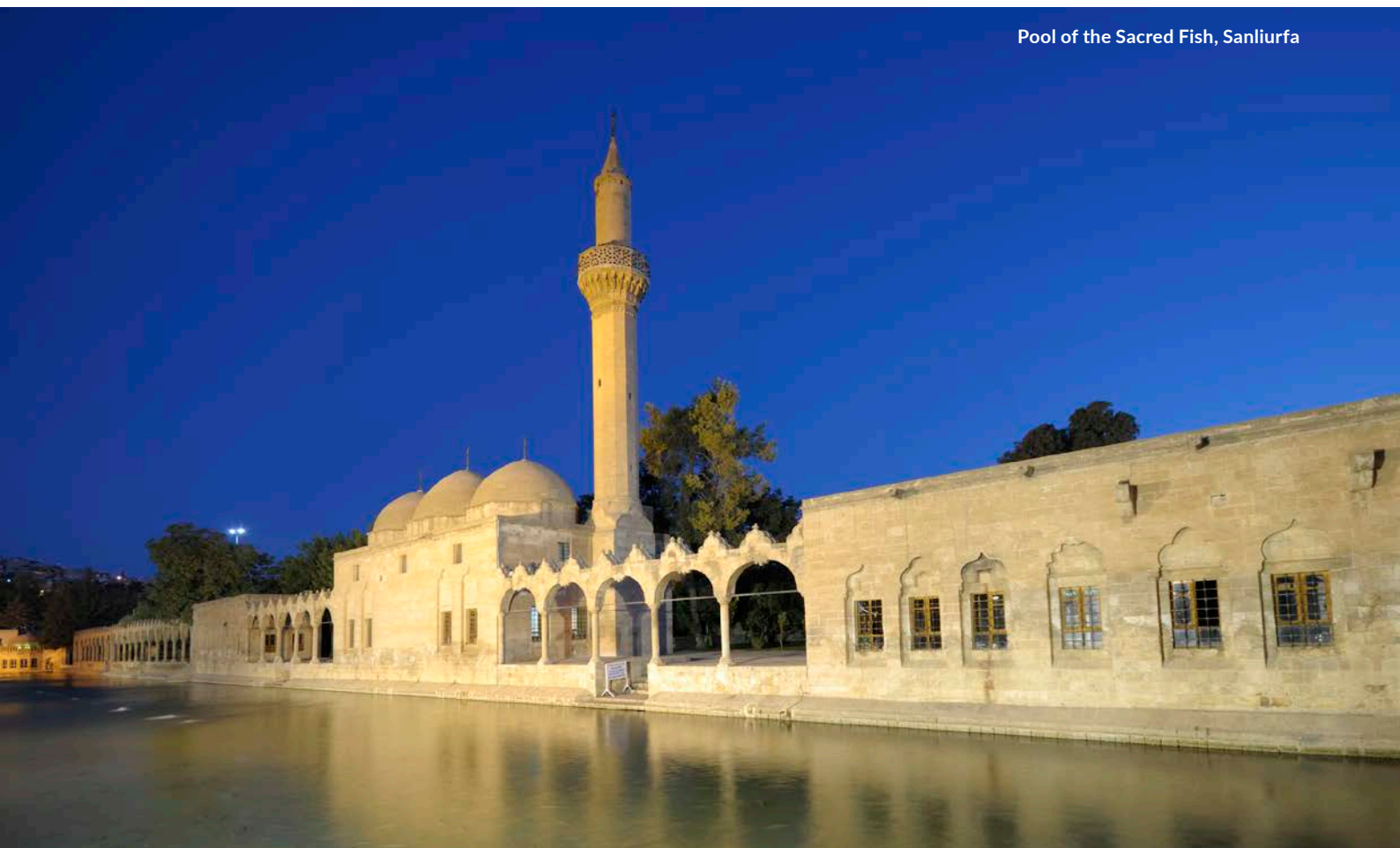
In 1991, he was professed in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, a religious community of the Anglican Communion. He is currently the Superior of the Order. He has an MA in Pastoral Liturgy from the University of London and was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Divinity in 2011. Lindsay has led a number of pilgrimage tours to various places over the years.

He served as the Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham from 2009 until 2015.



He remains an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Norwich. Returning to Australia in 2015, Lindsay served as the vicar of Christ Church and as Bishop overseeing ministry in Anglican schools. After eight years in Australia, at the beginning of 2024 Lindsay returns to the UK as his main base, allowing a more itinerant ministry of preaching and teaching.

Pool of the Sacred Fish, Sanliurfa





## Itinerary 1 – 13 October 2024

**B** = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

3 nights Diyarbakir – 2 nights Sanliurfa – 1 night Adiyaman – 3 nights Gaziantep – 3 nights Cappadocia

### Day 1: Diyarbakir (Tues, 1 Oct) **D**

**Am:** Arrive in Diyarbakir and check in to the Diyarbakir Anemon Hotel.

**Pm:** Explore Sanliurfa, the ancient city of Urfa and birthplace of the prophet Abraham. Visit the Crusader citadel overlooking Urfa with its Roman columns and visit the Mevlid Halil Mosque, the Cave of Abraham and the pool of sacred fish. Enjoy time at leisure to walk around the old bazaar.

### Day 2: Diyarbakir (Wed, 2 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Explore the old city of Diyarbakir, built to a Roman town plan encircled by triple walls built of striking black basalt dating from 394 A.D. Enjoy a spectacular view over the plains of Mesopotamia. Visit the stone caravanserai of Deliller Han, the Arab-style Ulu (Great) Mosque built in 1091 by an early Seljuk sultan. Take a tea and coffee break while listening to the singing story tellers at the Dengbej House. Visit the old city walls and the 3rd century Aramaic Church of the Virgin Mary where Aramaic, the language of Christ, is still spoken.

### Day 5: Sanliurfa (Sat, 5 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Drive to Göbekli Tepe, considered to be the oldest man-made place of worship yet discovered (see page 6). Visit the excavations, including Karahan Tepe.

**Pm:** Return to Sanliurfa and visit the city museum, home to the oldest statue in the world, and at leisure. Talk: *'The Influence of Geography on History and Belief'* LU.

### Day 3: Diyarbakir (Thurs, 3 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Follow the Tigris River to Mor Hananyo Monastery. Continue to the beautiful Arabic-style city of Mardin, perched high on a rocky mountain over a vast sunburnt plain, and take an orientation walk of the old city including the mosque, stone houses and old bazaar.

**Pm:** Talk: *'Belief Systems of the Region'* Lindsay Urwin (LU).

### Day 6: Sanliurfa / Adiyaman (Sun, 6 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Drive to Adiyaman via the Ataturk Dam, Turkey's national irrigation project which transformed the country's formerly parched southeast.

**Pm:** Following a lunch break in Kahta, drive to the World Heritage Site of Nemrut Dagi and walk to the summit. This impressive archaeological park, perched high on a mountain top, is the site of a pre-Roman king's megalomania. Return to Adiyaman.

### Day 4: Diyarbakir / Sanliurfa (Fri, 4 Oct) **B D**

**Am:** Drive to Sanliurfa.

### Day 7: Adiyaman / Gaziantep (Mon, 7 Oct) B D

**Am:** Take a boat trip on the Euphrates to Rummale.

**Pm:** Visit Kelaynak Special Breeding Station where the bald Ibis is protected and is being reintroduced into the wild. Continue to Gaziantep.

### Day 8: Gaziantep (Tues, 8 Oct) B D

**Am:** Explore Gaziantep, including the old city castle, copper bazaar and the Medusa Roman Glass Museum.

**Pm:** Following lunch at the Tahmis Coffee House, visit the Hammam Museum and the Culinary Museum. Talk: *'Life on the Silk Road'* LU.

### Day 9: Gaziantep (Wed, 9 Oct) B D

**Am:** Visit the stunning Mosaic Museum which features mosaics excavated from Zeugma, a Roman city now inundated beneath dam waters.

**Pm:** Lunch at Imam Cagdas and take part in a culinary tour, including a baklava workshop.

### Day 10: Gaziantep / Cappadocia (Thu, 10 Oct) B D

**Am:** Drive to Cappadocia, stopping en route for coffee and ice cream in the town of Kahramanmaras.

**Pm:** Arrive in Goreme late afternoon.

### Day 11: Cappadocia (Fri, 11 Oct) B D

**Am:** The word magical is over-used in travel

writing, but Goreme more than lives up to this description. The small village is set amid towering fairy chimneys and majestic honeycomb cliffs. Take a tour of its open air museum, visit the remote and lovely church of Pancarlik and the spectacularly sited town of Ortahisar and the delightfully situated Keslik Monastery.

**Pm:** Lunch in Mustafapaşa at the Old Greek House. Optional walk into Pigeon Valley or at leisure. Talk: *'The Cappadocian Fathers'* LU.

### Day 12: Cappadocia (Sat, 12 Oct) B D

**Am:** Drive from the hotel and visit the Ihlara Valley, a beautiful, verdant gorge occupied by a fast-flowing river. The gorge is believed to have contained more than four thousand dwellings and a hundred churches cut into the rocks, used for worship by early Christian communities. Explore some of these churches and visit the underground city of Kaymakli.

**Pm:** Visit one of Cappadocia's most famous wineries to learn about the region's 4,000 year old wine industry. Enjoy a wine tasting.

**Eve:** End the day with a panoramic sunset view followed by a farewell dinner.

### Day 13: Cappadocia (Sun, 13 Oct)

**Am:** Optional hot air balloon ride to enjoy the sunrise over Cappadocia. Depart for the airport or extend in Cappadocia.





Sanliurfa

## Hotels

### **Diyarbakır - Anemon Hotel**

The hotel is known for its excellent service, large, quiet rooms and spa.

includes beautiful hand-crafted furnishings and antiques. There are several dining areas inside and on the rooftop terraces.

### **Sanliurfa - Narlı Ev Boutique Hotel**

An oasis of tranquillity located in the heart of the old city, this charming hotel is within an historic building around a central courtyard. The comfortable rooms all have recently renovated bathrooms. The generous, traditional breakfasts are very popular.

### **Adiyaman - Ramada Hotel**

This modern hotel has excellent reviews and good breakfasts.

### **Gaziantep - Şirehan Hotel**

This former caravanserai, in the heart of the city, is now a Boutique Hotel. Rooms are arranged around the original courtyard and the hotel includes an excellent restaurant and an attractive bar.

### **Cappadocia - Dere Suites Hotel**

This upmarket cave hotel has attractive rooms decorated in a warm, traditional style and

### **Göbekli Tepe**

Göbekli Tepe changes the way we look at history. So old that it pre-dates everything - pre-writing, pre-pottery, pre-agriculture, pre-wheel - it emerges from our distant hunter-gatherer past. The temple complex is dated at around 9,500 BC - 5,500 years older than the first cities of Mesopotamia, and 7,000 years older than Stonehenge. The meaning of Göbekli Tepe is still being debated but its historical significance is clear. Before, it was thought that agriculture gave rise to cities and later to writing, art, and religion. Now, it seems that the urge to worship sparked civilisation.



**The cost of the tour sharing a room is USD \$4,648**

**The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is USD \$5,488**

**The cost includes:**

- 12 nights' accommodation with private facilities in medium grade and boutique accommodation
- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily
- Wine with dinners
- Tour leader and lecturer throughout (The Right Reverend Lindsay Urwin OGS)
- All tours and talks
- Admission fees where applicable
- Local English speaking national guide
- All transport services
- Tips

**The cost excludes:**

- Meals not mentioned
- Flights
- Drinks not mentioned
- All personal extras (porterage, laundry etc)
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visa if required

**This tour requires a degree of physical fitness. Participants will need to walk across uneven and rough ground on archaeological sites as well as being able to comfortably manage a number of walks through towns and cities.**

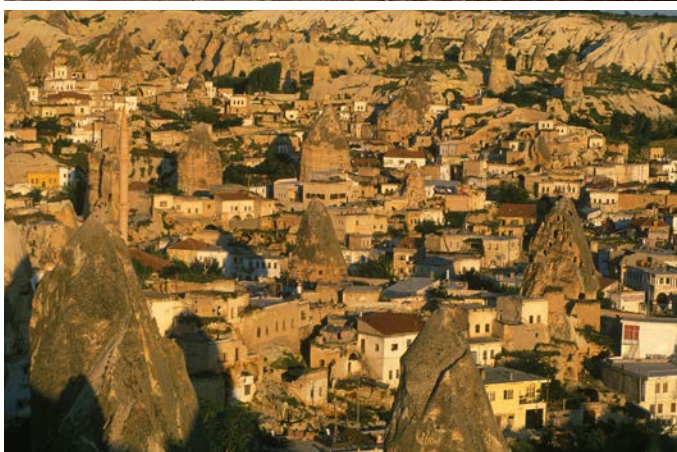
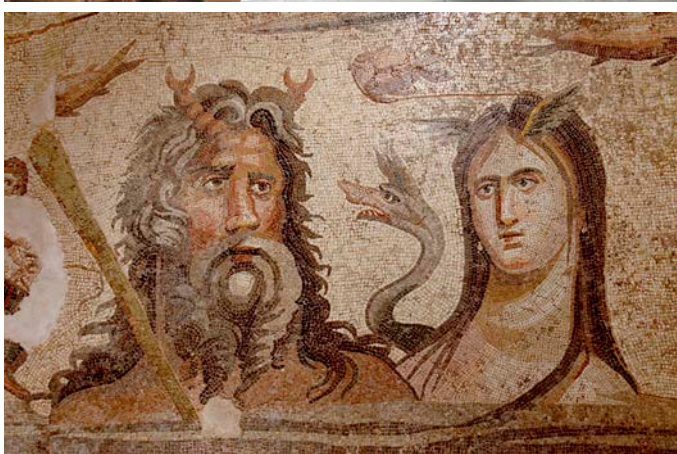
# About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Karahan Tepe (top); Gaziantep copper bazaar;  
Museum of Mosaics, Gaziantep; Goreme, Cappadocia (above)



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