



A SANCTUARY ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Discovering the House of the Virgin Mary: A journey
through history, spirituality, and inner peace.

Located on the summit of Mount Nightingale in Selçuk, İzmir, this stone house is believed to be the final residence of the Virgin Mary. It stands as a beacon of faith, visited by pilgrims and travelers from around the globe seeking solace away from the noise of the modern world.



THE ANCIENT ORIGINS

According to Christian tradition, before his crucifixion, Jesus entrusted his mother Mary to the Apostle John. It is accepted that John brought Mary to the Ephesus region to live out her final days in safety and seclusion.

A Bridge Between Faiths

This site is a unique center of faith held sacred by both Christian and Muslim communities, bridging cultures through shared reverence for Mary (Meryem).

VISIONS AND REDISCOVERY



The Visionary

Anna Katharina Emmerick, a 19th-century German nun, never visited Ephesus. Yet, she described the location of the house in detailed visions that were later recorded by the poet Clemens Brentano.



The Expedition

1881: French priest Julien Gouyet discovers the first traces of the structure based on Emmerick's descriptions.
1891: Lazarist monks conduct a second expedition, confirming the location matches the historical descriptions perfectly.

The Confirmation

Theologians and researchers confirmed that the architectural foundations and carbon dating of the findings matched the historical texture of the 1st Century AD.

A TIMELINE OF VENERATION



1st Century

Arrival of St. John and the Virgin Mary in Ephesus.



1891

Rediscovery by Lazarist monks; international interest begins.



1950s

Vatican-guided restoration transforms the ruins into a pilgrimage site.



1967

Official visit by **Pope Paul VI**, cementing its status as a Catholic pilgrimage center.



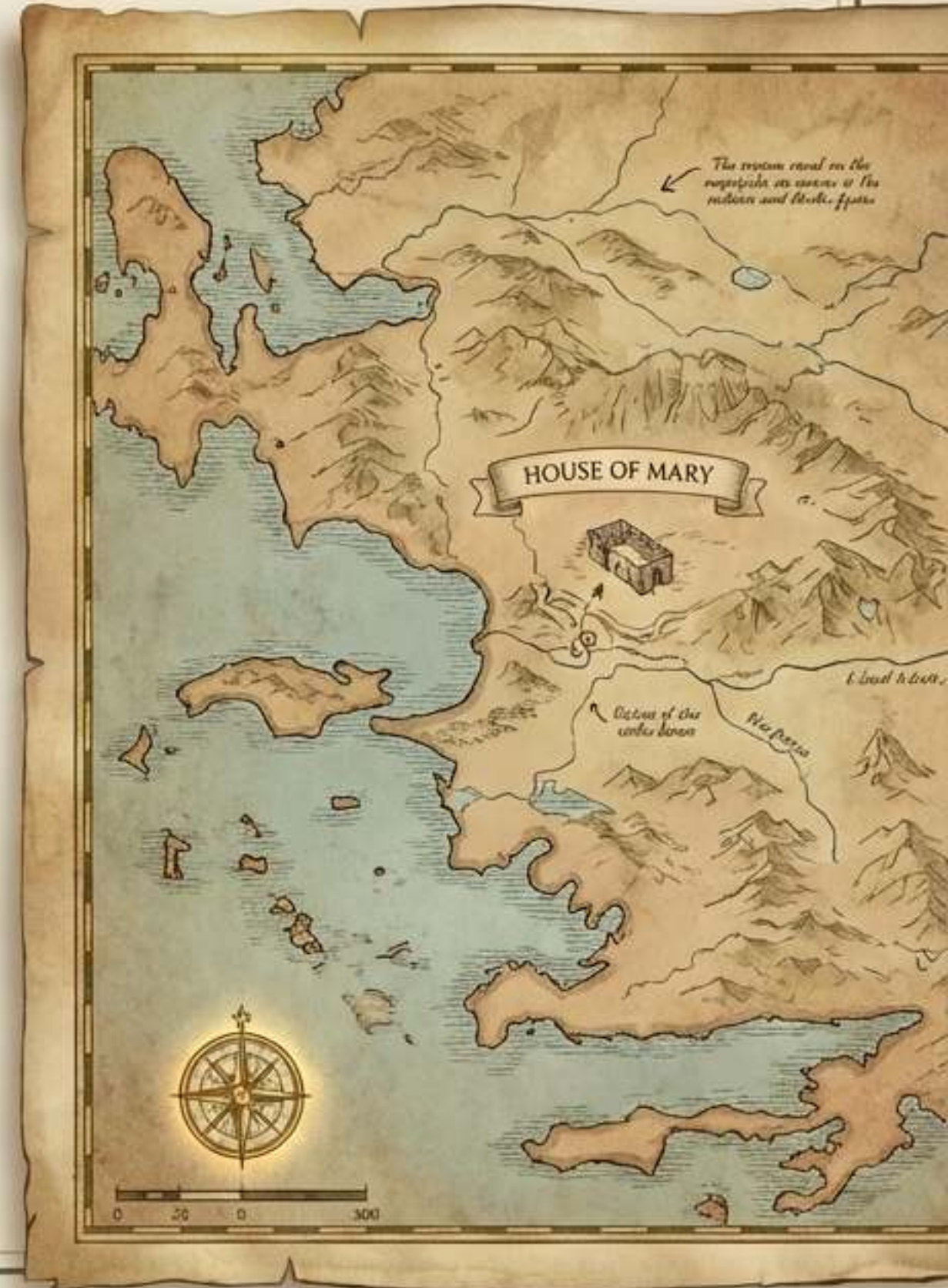
1979 & 2006

Pilgrimages by **Pope John Paul II** and **Pope Benedict XVI**.



Present Day

Thousands gather annually on August 15th for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary.



INSIDE THE SANCTUARY



The Chapel

A humble stone structure for prayer and reflection.



The Holy Fountains (Dilek Suları)

Waters believed to be sacred and healing. Visitors drink and bottle this water.



The Wishing Wall

A meeting point for thousands of prayers and wishes from every language and religion.

RESPECTING THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE



Silence is Essential. The site is an active place of worship. Maintaining a quiet atmosphere allows everyone to pray in peace.



Modest Dress Code. Respectful attire is required. Shoulders and knees must be covered to enter the chapel area.



Duration. Suggested visit time is approximately 1 hour to fully absorb the atmosphere.



Important: Entrance Fees. The Museum Pass is **NOT** valid here. The site is managed by a private foundation, not the Ministry of Culture.

THE CHALLENGE OF MOUNT NIGHTINGALE



Cinzel

****The Access Problem****

- * ***Location:** The sanctuary is perched on the summit of Bülbül Dağı (Mount Nightingale).
- * ***No Public Transit:** There are no direct public buses or dolmuş lines to the gate.
- * ***Terrain:** The road is winding, steep, and approximately 7km from the main road, making walking difficult in the heat.
- * ***Conclusion:** Reliable vehicle access is a necessity.

YOUR PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR TO THE SACRED



Destina Transfer provides a direct, comfortable link between your hotel, port, or airport and the House of the Virgin Mary.

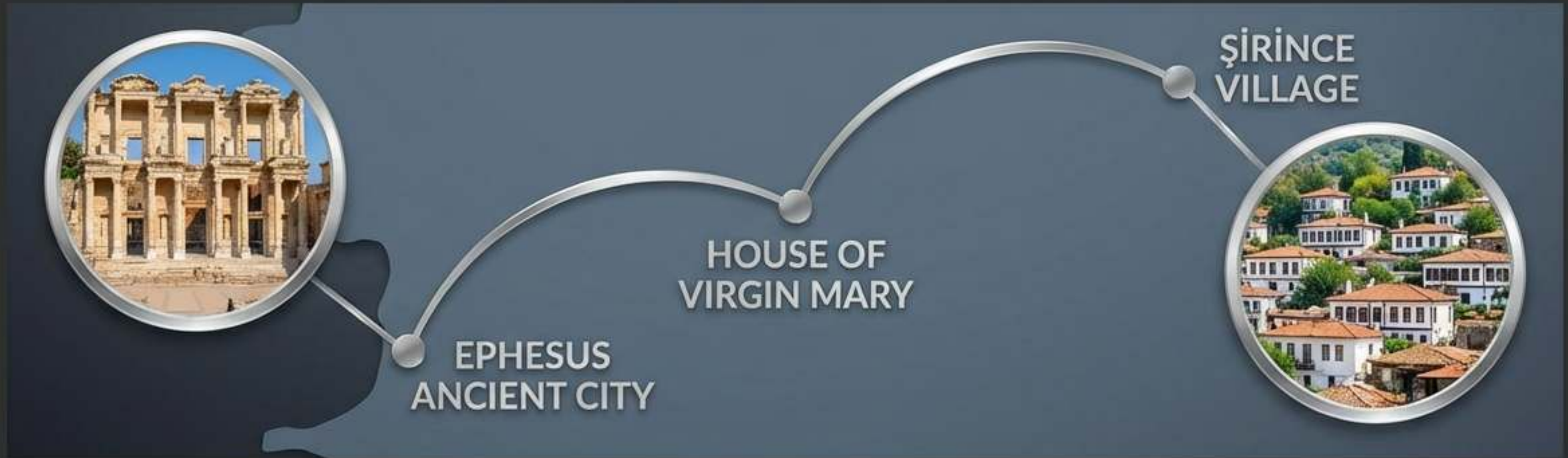
We handle the winding roads, navigation, and parking logistics so you can focus entirely on your spiritual journey. Our drivers are professionals experienced with the specific terrain of the region.

THE VIP EXPERIENCE



- ✓ **Privacy:** Avoid the noise and crowds of large tour buses. This is a private space for you and your companions.
- ✓ **Comfort:** Luxury Mercedes vehicles ensure a smooth, cool ride up the mountain.
- ✓ **Flexibility:** Unlike rigid group tours, you set the pace. Stay as long as you need for prayer or reflection.
- ✓ **Door-to-Door:** We pick you up from İzmir, Kuşadası, or Selçuk and drop you right at the entrance gate.

BEYOND THE SANCTUARY



Combine & Explore Since the visit to the House takes about one hour, maximize your day by exploring the region's other treasures.

Ephesus Ancient City: Located just a few kilometers down the mountain. Highly recommended to visit both in one trip.

Şirince Village: A charming historic village known for its architecture and wines. Can be easily added to your itinerary.

Custom Itineraries: Destina Transfer allows you to build a custom route, visiting these historic neighbors effortlessly.

SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS FOR EVERY TRAVELER



For Cruise Passengers

- Pick-up directly from **Kuşadası Port**.
- Optimized for limited shore time. We ensure you see the sights and return to the ship on time, avoiding the slow pace of big bus tours.



For Air Travelers

- VIP welcome at **İzmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB)**.
- We monitor your flight status to adjust for delays, ensuring a stress-free arrival.

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

“

The driver was very knowledgeable... drove very carefully and safely even when heavy rain started during the trip.

- Julia S.
(Focus: Safety)

“

Our driver was very polite. He picked us up exactly on time and helped with our luggage... A great service!

- Anna B.
(Focus: Punctuality)

“

The driver contacted me before arrival regarding the time, which completely reduced my stress. Comfortable and safe journey to the bus terminal.

- Merve K.
(Focus: Reliability)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I get there?

A: Located on a peak, a private vehicle is the best option. We provide direct transfer from İzmir, Kuşadası, or Selçuk.

Q: Is the Museum Pass valid?

A: No. The site is run by a foundation, so entrance fees must be paid separately at the gate.

Q: Can we do Ephesus and the House of Mary in one day?

A: Absolutely. They are very close. We can plan a route that includes both, and even Şirince Village.

Q: Is the car private?

A: Yes. You do not share the vehicle with strangers. It is exclusively for you and your group.

YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



The Destination:

A spiritual encounter with history, healing waters, and peace.

The Service:

Private, safe, and flexible transfer in luxury Mercedes vehicles.

The Result: A day of peace, free from the stress of navigation, parking, or strict timetables.



START YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Destina Transfer

Book your private transfer today to experience the House of Virgin Mary
with the comfort and respect it deserves.

Destina Transfer

Services: Airport Transfer | Port Pickup | Private Tours



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