



| | |
|---|----------|
| INDEX | 1 |
| I – CULTURAL ISTANBUL | |
| 1- Architecture | 2-9 |
| 2- On the Steps of Sinan | 10-16 |
| 3- Bosphorus | 17-22 |
| 4- The Prince Islands | 23-26 |
| 5- Pera and Galata in French&Italian (for English see www.karavantravel.com/02.zip) | 27-30 |
| 6- Istanbul Greek Heritage and Extension to Trabzon-Sumela-Black Sea | 31-32 |
| II- CULTURAL TURKEY | |
| 7- Unesco World Heritage Tours | 33-38 |
| 8- History and Gastronomy | 39-42 |
| 9- Cappadocia the Great | 43-46 |
| 10- Archeology-History and Natural Beauty | 47-48 |
| 11- Pontus-Black Sea Tour | 49-52 |
| 12- Black Sea and South East Tour | 53-57 |
| 13- Classical Sites of the South-West | 58-60 |
| 14- Anatolian Civilization Tour | 61-63 |
| 15- West and Central Turkey Archaeological Tour | 64-65 |
| 16- Izmir Levantine Heritage Tour and Levantine Symposium | 66-70 |
| 17- Greek Heritage Izmir and Environs Tours. | 71-73 |
| 18- Turkey Religious Sites | 74 |
| 19- Paul Tour in 5 countries | 75-80 |
| 20- Jewish Heritage | 81-84 |



ARCHITECTURE

INTRODUCTION

BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE

Although a little arbitrary we can say that the Byzantine Empire began with the foundation of Constantinople in A.D 324 and ended with its capture by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

The first golden age is the age of Justinian with St.Sophia. Constantinople which we know better than most of other Byzantine cities had in the course of the Middle Ages more than five hundred churches and monasteries. Of these about thirty have survived. We shall visit the most important ones surviving on our days able to give an idea on the particularities of this Architecture.

Unfortunately we do not have the same chances regarding to the civil architecture as palaces and public edifices have very little survived as walls etc.

Byzantine construction characteristic of Constantinople was brick and rubble. The use of marble was confined to columns, corniches and architraves

THE WATER ARCHITECTURE

A great importance was given by the Byzantines and the Ottomans on cisterns, aqueducts, fountains and baths(hamams) and we will have the occasion to see and visit many of them.

THE RELIGIOUS OTTOMAN ARCHITECTURE

The religious ottoman architecture was influenced by the arabian and persian architecture brought by the Seldjoukids.

At the end of the XIII century we see a certain evolution profiting from the Byzantine experience. During this period many religious edifices, as mosques, schools (medrese) and mausoleums (turbe) have been build. The XIV century using technics and local materials was the formative period of the Ottoman Architecture.

The Turbe

The Architecture of the Ottoman funeral monuments remind those of Persia and Central Asia as well as the armenian and georgian ones. There were build for the members of the Imperial family, later on as from the XV century it includes also the high dignitaries of the Court.

OTTOMAN CIVIL ARCHITECTURE

Palaces - civil administration edifices

A lot survived and the highlight will be the TOPKAPI PALACE Complex which dated as from the period of the Conqueror Fatih Sultan Mehmet.



Bazaars, Bedestans

Interesting ones typical to Middle East with the famous Grand Bazaar which is constituted by two bedesten (covered bazaars) around which were build shops. This city within the city gives at a first glance the impression of a labyrinth but in the reality the squares and the streets are composing a plan of regular rectangles.

Hamams

The turkish bath or hamam has been around for centuries . These beautiful baths are known by their stone domes which have small holes in to filter light through.

Ottoman traditional Houses and Yalis

These houses were build in wood since the middle of the XVII century.

The seaside mansions known as yalis of Bosphorus were build in wood in a traditional ottoman style at the beginning then modernized in the successive periods

ARCHITECTURE OTTOMAN BAROQUE

At the end of the XVIII century we see under the western influence the birth of the Ottoman Baroque where there is an amalgam of neoclassic and oriental effects. We see many palaces of this style as the Dolmabahce Palace and several Pavilions (Kasri) . The armenian dynasty of the Balians distinguished themselves on that.

ISTANBUL

1- **The Church of Saint-Sergius and Saint Bacchus (Kucuk Aya Sofya -the little St. Sophia)** which is considered the prefiguration of the Basilica St. Sophia was build between 527 and 536 and is an octagonal building with a dome.

2- **The Basilica of St. Sophia** the Marvel of the Marvels of Justinian I The design has not close antecedents. It is made up of elements that were current at the time but these elements as far as we know had not previously been put together in the same combinations (Cyril Mango Byzantine Architecture) A dome suspended in the air. (55 meters height)or if you prefer in the heaven as many say. Forty windows which bring light everywhere. Eight porphyry columns in the exedrae are all of different sizes and the beautiful golden mosaics are increasing the wealth and the beauty of this unique Basilica The main architects were Isidore of Miletus and. Anthemus of Tralles (Aydin)

3- **Blue Mosque:** Facing St. Sophia famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets built in the name of Sultan Ahmet by the architect Sedefkar Mehmet Aga between 1609-1616.....

4-**Topkapi Palace and fountains:** As from 1469 the Conqueror Fatih Sultan Mehmet build walls in the city between Saint Sophia and the seashore facing The Bosphorus. Then within them was installed the complex of the Palace of Topkapi. The palace is an extensive complex rather than a single monolithic construction with an assortment of low buildings constructed around courtyards interconnected with galleries and passages. Few of the buildings exceed two storeys interspersed are gardens and fountains to give a refreshing feelings. The Palace compound is a rough rectangle divided into four courtyards and the Harem. The total size of the complex varies from around 592.600 to 700.000 square meters depending on which part are counted. The imperial treasury as well as Chinese porcelain, weapons and many other artifacts are exhibited.



We see in this complex also a fountain of Sinan in front of the Library of Murat III decorated with Iznik tiles of floral motives.

Another interesting fountain is the one of Ahmet -III at the exterior of Topkapi which is in a turkish rococo decorated with sculptures and large calligraphic plates.

5- **Hippodrome:** Byzantine Center of sporting(chariot races, athletics) events and political activities. The race track of ther Hippodrome was U-shapped and the Emperor lodge was located at the eastern end of the track.A passage was connecting this lodge with the Great Palace. The hippodrome was filled with statues of gods, emperors and heroes.

6- **The Cistern (Yerebatan):** The Basilica cistern is the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns of Istanbul. This under ground chamber of about 9.800 square meters is able to hold 80.000 cubic meters of water. The ceiling is supported by 336 marble columns. The capitals of the columns are mainly Ionic and Corinthian styles with few of Doric one. The cistern is surrounded by a firebrick wall. The weight of the cistern lies on the columns by means of the cross shaped vaults and round arches of its roof.

7- **Istanbul Archaeology Museums** Is a group of three Archaeology museums located near Topkapi Palace and they houses over one million objects that represent almost all of the eras and civilizations in world history The Archaeology Museum architect was the levantine Alexandre Vallaury. The facade of the building was inspired by the famous Alexander Sarcophagus and the Sarcophagus of the Mourning Women from the excavations of Sidon by Hamdi Bey and Demostene Bey Baltazzi and which are the highlights housed inside the Museum.

The Museum is one of the prominent structures built in the neo classical style in Istanbul.

8-**Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum:** The museum is housed in the restored Palace of Ibrahim Pasha at Sultan Ahmet square. A sumptuous residence built by order of Sultan Suleyman 'Magnificent' for his Grand Vezir Ibrahim Pacha.

What we see is only part of the original structure whose foundations date from about 1500.

We will admire many ethnographic exhibits a fully furnished nomad' tent, a XIX century Ottoman parlor and many beautiful objects as carpets, calligraphy, tiles etc

9- **Grand Bazaar:** As already emphasized in the introduction an important construction of the civil ottoman architecture with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry, gold, carpets and leatherware

10- **Hamams:** We will visit the Cagaloglu Hamam built in 1741 with its magnificent white-marble dome steam room.

11- **Blachernae Palace (Tekfur Sarayi) and walls:** a complex of multiple buidings during the Byzantine period a representative of the civilian byzantine architecture probably build in the XII century



12- **Fethiye Cami - Theotokos Pammakaristos Church:** The principal building was erected in the XII Century. We can admire mosaics of the XIV century. as well as capitals which are the testimonies of a rebirth of an artistic movement during the reign of the Paleologos.

13- **Kalenderhane Mosque at Vefa:** Probably the Church of Theotokos Kyriotissa which represents one among the few still extant examples of a Byzantine Church with domed Greek cross plan. This church build at the end of the XIII century on foundations of more ancient buildings has a typically Byzantine structure with alternating layers of bricks and stone massonery.

14- **Beyazit -II Mosque and complex :** is the second large imperial mosque to be erected after the Conquest. The earliest one the Fatih Mosque was destroyed by earthquakes and rebuilt in different styles. Its remarkable courtyard is a colonnaded peristyle with 20 columns of porphyry, verd antique and granite salvaged from churches and ancient ruins The interior is patterned after the St. Sophia on a smaller scale and the dome is supported by huge rectangular piers with pendentives and stalactite decorations.

15-**Pera Museum -Tepebasi:** The Museum building which is one of the most significant of Pera - was designed in 1893 in neo classic style by the Ottoman greek architect Achille Manoussos. It served for long years as Bristol Hotel The Museum exhibit three permanent collections. Anatolian Weights and Measures, Kutahya tiles and ceramics and Orientalist art. The Museum hosts frequently multipurpose exhibitions, cultural events

16- **Nisantas- Taksim - Beyoglu (Pera) Tepebasi- Galata**

Quarters developed mainly as residential in the XIX century are now shopping areas with modern boutiques and hotels. The Taksim square and gardens with the Ataturk Statue of the italian architect Canonica. There are interesting buildings in this area where was living a cosmopolite population of various faiths. We can see many Christian Churches, synagogues and neo classic, baroque buildings and passages build by the levantine, greek and italian architects as Vallaury, d'Aranco, Mongeri, Manussos-(The Pera Museum), Kyriakidis (- The Frej appartments with the statues at the facade), the brothers Fossati with the Netherlands and Russian Embassies now Consulates, The Palazzo Venezia, the Casa Botter in Art Nouveau of the architect Raimondo d'Aronco, The Cercle d'Orient the Ottoman Bank (Vallaury) and Hans in the former Voyvoda Street now Bankalar Caddesi, The Genovese Galata Tower.

17-**SIRKECI**

Central Post office: in the style of the National Architectural Renaissance a kind of Ottoman Revival The Post Office was completed in 1909 and designed by Vedat Tek Bey. The facade of the ostentatious building is carved stone and marble. The hall's ceiling which goes up to the roof is covered with predominantly orange and blue glass

Sirkeci Terminal -Railway Station -(1909) The architect of this project was a Prussian August Jachmund. The terminal building which rises on an area of 1200 m2 is one of the most famous examples of European Orientalism and has influenced the designs of other architects. The building was also modern having gas lighting and heating in winter .



18- Eminonu quarter- The Egyptian Bazaar- Yeni Mosque- Rustem Pacha Mosque:

An interesting colorful quarter with many shops not far from the Grand Bazaar- with the Bab-i-Ali gate in a marble decorated with sculptures.

The Egyptian Bazaar or Bazaar of the spices. A long T-shaped building with distinctive smells, garlic, pepper and frankincense.

The Yeni Cami without being original is quite elegant with its two minarets and its coupolas The Rustem Pasa Mosque designed by Sinan, is built on a high terrace over a complex of vaulted shops. Narrow twisting interior steps give access to a spacious courtyard. The mosque has a double porch with five domed bays. The Mosque is also famous for its exquisite Iznik tiles. The plan of the building is an octogon inscribed in a rectangle.

19- The Golden Horn and the Kariye Museum

Kariye Museum - St Saviour in Chora which originally formed the center of a Byzantine Monastery complex. Only the church section which contains one of the best preserved collections of Byzantine mosaics and frescoes has survived.

20- The Süleymaniye Mosque- built by the Architect Sinan by order of Süleyman the Magnificent is a vast religious complex blended Islamic and Byzantine architecture elements. The Mosque itself is preceded by a monumental courtyard with a colonnaded peristyle with columns of marble, granite and porphyry. The four minarets have a total of 10 galleries. The interior is almost a square. The dome is flanked by semi-domes and arches with windows supported by enormous porphyry monoliths.

21- The Zeyrek Mosque was a Byzantine complex with the Church of Christ Pantokrator. The Imperial Chapel and the Church of the Theotokos Eleousa an example of architecture of the Byzantine middle period. The masonry has been partly built adopting the technique of the recessed brick, typical of the Byzantine architecture of this period.. The church is surmounted by two domes

22- İhlamur Pavilion (Kasrı) The Pavilion consists of two kiosks, the Maiyet and the Merasim Kosk which is garnished with Baroque style carvings and the ceiling is covered with landscape pictures. The porcelain ornaments decorating the fire place are products of Yildiz Oven

23 - Dolmabahçe Palace and The Ortaköy Mosque

The Dolmabahçe Palace was built between the years 1843 and 1856 by the Armenian architects the Balyans. The design contains eclectic elements from the Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassic styles blended with traditional Ottoman architecture to create a new synthesis. It is the largest Palace in Turkey, its monoblock building occupies 45.000 m²

The Ortaköy Mosque was built between 1854 and 1856 by the architects Amira and Nigogayos Balyan who designed it in Neo Baroque style. The wide high windows let the ever changing high reflections of the Bosphorus shine in the Mosque.



24- Cruise at Bosphorus

Cruise the waterway separating the two continents of Asia and Europe marble palaces, bridges to see ancient wood villas (the Yalis) besides modern residences and luxurious apartment buildings and admire the incomparable beauty of the world's narrowest strait used for navigation.

25-The YALIS

The seaside mansion known as the YALI is an architectural phenomenon unique to the Bosphorus. The classic yali was of wood and was two or three stores high with an overhanging cumba (bay window). The building was invariably surrounded by flower gardens. The traditional color of yalis was a deep red known as Ottoman Rose. European influence in the late XIX. Century was reflected in the architectural style of seaside mansions. Art Nouveau, neo-baroque, classical and fanciful, eclectic styles competed with the traditional yali (From the Bosphorus - Rhonda Vander Sluis)

26- **Sabancı Museum** Is located in Emirgan at one of the oldest settlements of the Bosphorus. The Villa was build in 1927 by the italian levantine Architect Eduardo De Nari for the Prince Mehmed Ali Hasan of the Hidiv family of Egypt. Bought by the famous industrialist Sabanci it was known as Atli Kosk the Horse Mansion due to many precious horse sculptures in its garden.

Today Museum presents a versatile museological environment with it rich rich permanent collection of paintings and calligraphy and the comprehensive temporary ones.

27- **Sait Halim Pasa Yali:** The neoclassic Sait Halim Pacha Yali at Yenikoy on the Bosphorus European Coast was known also as the Pink Lion Yali because of the two stone lions on the quai.

28- **Kucuksu** a small Palace build en 1870 on the Asiatic Coast. It reflects the tendency of the art baroque of this epoch. Two advancing curves are rendering sweeter the line of the perfectly symmetric, facade.

The sculptures in stone were decorating with rococo motives the windows , the doors, the front facade elements and the public fountains

29- **The Maiden's Tower- Kiz Kulesi:** The tower was first built by the Athenian general Alcibiades in 408 BC to control the movement of the Persian ships in the Bosphorus. The tower was later enlarged and rebuild as a fortress by the Byzantines and then was restored and slightly modified several times by the Ottomans most significantly in 1509 and 1763. The most recent facelift was made in 1998 Steel supports were added around the ancient tower as a precaution after the 1999 earthquake.

Used as a lighthouse for centuries the interior of the tower has been transformed into a popular cafe and restaurant.

30-Selected Hotels

Four Seasons Hotel a luxury hotel rooms and suites housed in a century old neoclassical Turkish prison. From some experts it is considered as belonging to a national architecture renaissance style (1876-1922) meant to promote the patriotism and identity of the historically multi ethnic Ottoman Empire (klasik otel tanitmayi ilave vs)



Ciragan Palace Hotel: The Ciragan Palace built by Sultan Abdulaziz was designed by the palace architect Nigoyan Balyan and constructed by his sons Sarkip and Hagop Balyan between 1863 and 1867 mainly financed by the Galata Bankers, the Baltazzis.

The inner walls and the roof were made by wood, the outers walls of colorful marble. A very high garden wall protect the Palace from the outer world The Palace was renovated during the first quarter of 2007 now resembling the authentic Palace with the Baroque style and soft colors.

ITINERARY

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D) Arrival Istanbul transfer to the hotel dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) Drive to the Historical Center of Istanbul visit The Church of the Saints Sergius and Bacchus, St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hipodrome, the Cistern, Lunch, Istanbul Archaeological Museum, Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, Bazaar and Cagaloglu Hamam dinner and overnight at Hotel

Day 3 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) After breakfast we drive To Blachernae Palace and Fethiye Mosque Kalenderhane Mosque, The Beyazit Mosque and complex, Lunch and walking tour at Pera Beyoglu, Tepebasi. where we visit the Pera Museum. We continue to Nisantasi where we will have dinner. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 4 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) after breakfast we drive to Sirkeci Central office, then to Sirkeci Railway Station, Egyptian Bazaar we see Yeni Mosque and visit Rustem Pasa Mosque. The Galata Bridge lunch Golden Horn Kariye and Suleymaniye, Zeyrek Mosque and we return to hotel dinner and overnight

Day 5 ISTANBUL (B-L-D): We drive to visit Ihlamur Pavilion, Dolmabahce Palace lunch We take a half day cruise to Bosphorus seeing the numerous Yalis, visiting Sabanci Museum and Sait Halim Pasa Yali. The Kucuksu Palace at the Asiatic Coast then the Kiz kulesi where we will have dinner and return to Hotel for overnight.

Day 6 ISTANBUL: After breakfast transfer to the Airport

EXTENSION IZNIK-BURSA-EDIRNE

Day 6 IZNIK (B-L-D) Drive from Istanbul to Iznik which walls were build during the Hellenistic period. It was called Nicea by Alexander's general Lissymachus in memory of his wife. Conquered by various nations as Romans, Goths. Arabs, Persians, Byzantines and Ottoman its became famous for its beautiful tiles. We will visit The Yesil or Green Mosque one of the earliest examples of the Ottoman Architecture build the XIV century. It is composed of a three bay portico and a single prayer hall covered with a single dome. We will see the Basilica of St. Sophia now Museum and its mosaics. . Nicea is also known for the two ecumenical councils held in 325 and 787.

The Mosque of Haci Ozbek with its dome in bricks and which had never had a minaret. We will see also some tradional turkish houses in wood and proceed to Bursa for overnight.



Day 7 BURSA (B-L-D) We will visit Bursa famous for its thermal baths since the Roman period its production of silk and its ottoman character with its Mosques which the most famous is the Green Mosque (Yesil Cami) where for the first time there was a cohabitation of mosque and school (medrese) and where we will see important spaces covered by domes. Many turbes, bazaars and bedestans also completed this historical scenery and traditional architecture.

Day 8 EDIRNE(ADRIANOPLE)(B-L-D) We will visit various wonderful Mosques as the Old Mosque (Eski Cami) which is the smallest and the oldest. It is known for its calligraphic inscriptions on its interior walls with a small central dome atop. We will see the Macedonian Tower and The Uc Sefereli Mosque, The Mosque with three balconies.

Then we will visit the Selimiye Mosque and its complex where the classical ottoman architecture attained its culminant point with this masterpiece of the famous architect Sinan build between 1569 and 1575. In this Mosque Sinan employed an octogonal supporting system that is created through eight pillars incised in a square shell of walls. The structure made by Sinan render possible to see the mihrab from any location within the Mosque.

After a short sightseeing in the center of this city which had in the past a multicultural population of various ethnies and faiths with their churches, synagogues and schools we will drive back to Istanbul.

Day 9 (B): Drive back to Istanbul



ON THE STEPS OF SINAN - THE RISE TO GREATNESS

INTRODUCTION

The most famous of all ottomans architects born in 1489 in Kayseri and died in 1588 in Istanbul. He was from a Karaman's christian greek family. He was accepted into the devşirme(Note1) at twenty one, he must have demonstrated outstanding facilities of intellect and ambition which impressed the recruiting officer. His work as architect is considered the climax of the classical period. Suleymaniye -and beyond shaken to its foundation in the same manner that Michelangelo shook the Renaissance like an earthquake.

The Mosque of Selim II at Edirne is revolutionary in conception as the Florentine plans of St. Peter's. Sinan draw or supervised the plans of every important building in Istanbul and over the Empire and listed more than three hundred buildings at his own.

1- Topkapi and Fountains- As from 1469 the Conqueror Fatih Sultan Mehmet build walls in the city between Saint Sophia and the seashore facing The Bosphorus. Then within them was installed the complex of the Palace of Topkapi. The palace is an extensive complex rather than a single monolithic construction with an assortment of low buildings constructed around courtyards interconnected with galleries and passages. Few of the buildings exceed two storeys interspersed are gardens and fountains to give a refreshing feelings. The Palace compound is a rough rectangle divided into four courtyards and the Harem. The total size of the complex varies from around 592.600 to 700.000 square meters depending on which part are counted. The imperial treasury as well as Chinese porcelain, weapons and many other artifacts are exhibited. In 1574 there was a fire in the kitchen and the rebuilding has carried out by Sinan and the kitchen quarters have been enlarged at the expense of the second court.

Although documents indicate that Sinan built some forty pavilions and palaces, they have not survived being built of wood. The most original example to have reached us is the Murad III Pavilion(Kosk) at the Topkapi Palace (1578) It consists of a square structure covered with a dome and its pendentives .

We see in this complex also a fountain of Sinan in front of the Library of Murat III decorated with Iznik tiles of floral motives.

Another interesting fountain is the one of Ahmet -III at the exterior of Topkapi which is in a turkish rococo decorated with sculptures and large calligraphic plates .

2-St Sophia: the Marvel of the Marvels of Justinian I The design has not close antecedents. It is made up of elements that were current at the time but these elements as far as we know had not previously been put together in the same combinations (Cyril Mango Byzantine Architecture) A dome suspended in the air. (55 meters height)or if you prefer in the heaven as many say. Forty windows which bring light everywhere. Eight porphyry columns in the exedrae are all of different sizes and the beautiful golden mosaics are increasing the wealth and the beauty of this unique Basilica The main architects were Isidore of Miletus and. Anthemus of Tralles (Aydin) The Minarets were build by Sinan.

In the precinct of St.Sophia Museum there is the Tomb(Turbe) of Sultan Selim II which is one of the most beautiful Istanbul tombs as well one of the 18 tombs built by Sinan (1577) The structure is an octogonal and its entire outer surfaces are coated with marble.



3-Blue Mosque- Sultan Ahmet Mosque Facing St. Sophia famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets built in the name of Sultan Ahmet by the architect Sedefkar Mehmet Aga between 1609-1616.

4- Sokollu Mehmet Pasa Mosque- Kadirga

Commissioned by grand vizier Sokollu Mehmet Pasa for his wife Ismihan Sultan daughter of Selim II this Mosque was designed by Sinan on 1571/72 and is noted for its architecturally challenging location on a steep slope. Sinan resolved this issue by fronting the Mosque with a two story courtyard. The interior is also famous for its large quantities of Iznik Tiles.

5- Bazaars, Bedestens

Interesting ones typical to Middle East with the famous Grand Bazaar which is constituted by two bedesten (covered bazaars) around which were built shops. This city within the city gives at a first glance the impression of a labyrinth but in the reality the squares and the streets are composing a plan of regular rectangles.

Grand Bazaar - an important construction of the civil ottoman architecture with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry, gold, carpets and leatherware.

6- Burmalı Han of Eminonu- Rustem Pacha let built it to Sinan in 1556. It was a caravanserai at first then used as Han. Its U shaped plan is half yard with a stone and brick pattern, cloister and two stores.

7-Sokollu Mehmet Pasa Mosque. Azapkapisi. Built in 1578 is another interpretation of the octagonal plan of the Selimiye with semi-domes or trompes added to each angle of the octagon.

The Mosque is also famed for its superb Iznik tiles which are in perfect harmony with the Architecture.

Sokollu Mehmet Pasa (1505-1579) a Serbian born was Grand Vizier for three Sultans, Suleyman the Magnificent, Selim II and Murat III. He was married to Ismihan daughter of Sultan Selim. Unfortunately he had a terrible fate when he fell out of favor and was executed during the reign of Sultan Murat III

8- Rustem Pasa Mosque(1561-1563) at Tahtakale The Mosque designed by Sinan is built on high terrace over a complex of vaulted shops. Narrow twisting interior steps give access to a spacious courtyard. The Mosque has a double porch with five domed bays and is also famous for its exquisite Iznik tiles. The plan of the building is an octagon inscribed in a rectangle.

The Mosque was built after the death of Rustem Pasha(1500-1561) of Croatian origin one of Sultan Suleyman's Grand viziers and the husband of his daughter Mihramah.

9- Rustem Pasa Caravansai (between 1544-1581) built by Sinan and known as Kursunlu Han in Galata . The building is two storeyed and has the appearance of a City Inn or Han with its rooms surrounding a courtyard.

It has been constructed upon the remnants of the Genoese Church Santo Michele on the Tersane Street near the Golden Horn. This Han was used by Christians mostly. While there our guide will lecture and show you various other Hansas as Saint Pierre, Bereket Han and speak to you about the Genoese Magnifica Comunita.



10-Kilic Ali Pasa Mosque (1578-1581) at Tophane

The complex built by Sinan was ordered by Kilic Ali Pasa the Grand Amiral an italian born called Occhiali. (1500-1587) his real name should be Giovanni Dionigi Galeni and was born in a village of Calabria.

The complex is situated close to the sea and consisted of a Mosque, a medrese and a public bath.

The plan, with its lateral galleries surrounding the central area on three sides resembles very much that of St. Sophia. The lateral facades make a nice impression with the twin windows niched inside each of the arch intervals. The mihrab and pulpit as well as the tiles and ornamental paintings are interesting.

Rasih Nuri Ileri a researcher claimed during his examination of the complex's foundation documents that the spanish writer Cervantes was a forced worker at the construction of the complex during his enslavement like the captive character in his novel Don Quixote.

11-Sehzade Complex at Sehzadebasi

One of the first works of Sinan build in 1543 commanded by Suleyman the Magnificent in honour of his son Mehmet the Sehzade (Prince) who died at the age of twenty two to emphasize this incredible loss, Sinan choose filigree on the minarets as well as the cornices, representing the perpetual blooming of flowers with their petals opening. At that time there were only three major mosques in Istanbul besides the converted Aghia Sophia, Fatih Cami and Beyazit II Cami.

Sinan here made an attempt to excel Aghia Sophia but was absorbed by the concept of the centralized dome and turned to the ancient tradition form. The mosque itself has a symmetrical plan with the area under the central dome expanded by use of four semi-domes. The complex is composed of a Mosque, a medrese (School), a refectory, a double kervansaray and tombs. Sehzade Mehmet's tomb is a beautiful structure with polycrome design on each facade.

12- Haseki Hurrem Hamam

The Hamam was build by Sinan in the XVI century for Hurrem Sultan known as Roxalane.

Sinan applied here his favourite theme of the extended central dome.

13- Suleymaniye (1551-1558): built by the Architect Sinan by order of Suleyman the Magnificent is a vast religious complex blended islamic and byzantine architecture elements. The Mosque itself is preceded by a monumental courtyard with a colonnaded peristyle with columns of marble, granite and porphyry. The four minarets have of total of 10 galleries. The interior is almost a square. The dome is flanked by semi-domes and arches with windows supported by enormous porphyry monoliths.

The Suleymaniye is the largest square-based semi-domed Mosque (3100m²) to have been designed by Sinan.

As with other imperial mosques Suleymaniye was designed as a Kulliye a Complex which consisted of the Mosque itself, a hospital,, primary school, a Hamam , a Caravanserai, four Medreses, a medical college and a public kitchen.

In the garden behind, there are two Mausoleums including the tombs of Suleyman, Hurrem. Mihrimah, and other Sultans and Sultanas.



SINAN'S TOMB

In the cemetery just outside the walls of Suleymaniye Mosque to the north across the street named Mimar Sinan there is his Turbe (tomb) of his own design, which seems quite modest and simple in comparison of the other Turbes he build for Sultans etc. Another proof of his magnanimity and grandeur, His name is given to a crater on the planet Mercury and in Istanbul the Fine Arts University is named Mimar Sinan University

14-Husrev Kethuda Hamami (Baths) Ortakoy

Ordered by the vizier Kara Ahmet Pasa's kahya (superintendent) Husrev Kethuda and built by Sinan in 1550. Although having be used for other purposes all these past years the plan and the masonry still reflect its XVI century characteristics.

15 -Barbaros Hayrettin Pasa's Tomb(Turbe) at Besiktas Barbaros (1478-1546) born in Mytilene was an Ottoman Admiral of the Fleet who dominated the Mediterranean for decades. He became known as Barbarossa in Europe. He is buried in the tall mausoleum(turbe) which was build by Sinan in 1541 near the ferry station of the district of Besiktas, at the site where his fleet used to assemble. His memorial was build in 1944 next to his mausoleum. The mausoleum is octogonal with one dome and a double row of Windows. The lower ones grilled rectangles and the upper row arched with colored ones.

16-Sinan Pasa Mosque at Besiktas

Between 1553 and 1555 Sinan built for the grand admiral Sinan Pacha a smaller version of Uc Serefeli Cami of Edirne, facing the Barbarossa Mausoleum. With no domes but a shed roof over the revaks it resembles a Greek Orthodox Monastery.

17-The Mihrimah Sultan Mosque at Uskudar (1543-1548) Ordered by the daughter of Sultan Suleyman and wife of Rustem Pasa it is a part of complex which is masterfully integrated into a sloping site which reaches down to the sea shore, This building has its main dome supported by semi domes on three sides with the effect of widening the inner space.

18- Semsî Ahmed Pasa Mosque (1581) at Uskudar With its interesting position right by the sea shore its mass effect and composition Sinan was able to create an original design specifically adapted to the sea shore Semsî Ahmed Pasa who died in 1580 was of Albanian origin and served as beylerbey and vizier.

19-Atik Valide Nurbanu Sultan Mosque at Uskudar (1571) was one of the most extensive mosque complexes in Istanbul area. The Mosque was built for Sultana Nur Banu, the said Venitian born wife of Selim II and the mother of Murat -III .

Sinan completed the Mosque in 1583 and was his last major work. It has a wide shallow dome which rest fix on five semi domes with a flat arch over the entrance portal. The interior is surrounded on three sides by galleries.



EXTENSION TO EDIRNE

ON THE WAY TO EDIRNE

Going to Edirne we will see en route at Edirnekapi at Edirne Gate the:

Mihrimah Sultan Mosque - Edirnekapi (1563-1570) built by Sinan.

This Square based Mosque represents the most advanced stage of the single dome model. Here a large (20 m) and high (35 m) single dome dominates the whole structure.

EDIRNE

20-The Selimiye Mosque and Complex:

The Mosque was commissioned by Sultan Selim -II and was built by Mimar Sinan between 1569 and 1575. Here the classical ottoman architecture attained its culminant point with this masterpiece of Sinan.

The grand Mosque stands at the center of a complex of a medrese, a timekeeper's room and a arasta (row of shops) In this Mosque Sinan employed an octogonal system that is created through eight pillars incised in a square shell of walls. The structure made by Sinan render possible to see the mihrab from any location within the Mosque Each of the four minarets is decked with three balconies. No one before Sinan had been able to establish the position of minarets and their proportion in relation to the main body of the Mosque as well as he generally did. Here in Selimiye these proportions reach a perfection found in no other Mosque.

The Mosque is also famous for its tile panels, its marble pupil, the ornamental paintings and the geometric motifs of its door panels.

21 –Short City Sightseeing: the Macedonian Tower known also as clock tower, the old quarter and the center of the city which was called in the past also Adrianople- Adrianopolis with a multicultural population of various ethnies and faiths with their Churches, Synagogues and Schools.

22-Eski Cami- The Old Mosque A Mosque of the early XV century, the oldest and the smallest of the wonderful Mosques of Edirne. It is known for its calligraphic inscriptions on its interior walls with a small central dome atop. It was ordered by Emir Suleyman and completed during the reign of his brother Sultan Mehmet I in 1414 by Omer Ibn Ibrahim

23-The Bedesten: The bedesten was the commercial center of a city. Their function was to be a strong-room and display hall for jewellers and brocade merchants and such and only the major trading centers possessed them. Some were very large and flanked by shops like those of Bursa and Edirne.

The Edirne bedesten was built by order of the Sultan Mehmet I in 1418 by Haci Aladddin of Konya. Fourteen small cupolas adorn the roof of the two aisle, pillared hall and cluster of little shops.

24 -The Edirne Rustem Pasa Karavansaray

This caravanserail (1561) build by Sinan is a combination of city han and stopover caravanserail In 1972 it has been restored and is now used as Hotel. It got many prizes.



25-The Ali Pasa Carsisi: A covered Bazaar which was build by Sinan in 1568-69 as Caravanserai to provide revenue to Semiz Ali Pasa Complex in Babaeski . With six entrances it is a 300 meters barrel vaulted Bazaar with 146 individual shops. In has been restored lastly in 1997 and is now a vibrant commercial center.

26-The Uc Serefeli Mosque.

is a XV century Mosque. The name refers to unusual minaret with three balconies. The whole complex is characterized by the use of red and white stone. It is said that the architect is Muslihiddin Aga master of Sinan and that restorations where made by d'Aronco and A. Vallaury Istanbul levantine architects of the XIX century.

Note1:Devsirme and Sinan

Devsirme was the practice by which the Ottoman Empire forcibly took boys from Christian families, who were selected by skilled scouts to be trained and enrolled in one of the four imperial institutions, the Palace, the Scribes, the Religious and the Military. Sinan was enrolled at the Yeniceri(Yenitseri) military corps and converted to Islam.He initially learned carpentry and mathematics. But very soon assisted the leading architects and got his training as architect. He participated at many campaigns. When the Ottomans captured Cairo Sinan was promoted to chief architect and while he was at the East and the Balkans with the Army he assisted at the building of defenses and bridges. In 1539 he became Architect of the Abode of Felicity. Through the years he became the Head of a whole Corps of Court Architects training a team of assistants, deputies and pupils.



ITINERARY

Day 1 ISTANBUL(D) Arrival Istanbul dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) Visit Topkapi, St. Sophie, Blue Mosque, Sokollu Mehmet Pasa Mosque Lunch In the afternoon, Grand Bazaar, Burmalı Han, Sokollu Mehmet Pasa Mosque, Rustem Pasa Mosque and Caravansarai. Kılıç Pasa Mosque- dinner and overnight

Day 3 ISTANBUL(B-L-D) After breakfast drive to Fatih district to visit Sehzade Complex at Sehzadebasi, the Haseki Hürrem Hamam continue to Süleymaniye - visit - lunch - Sinan' Tomb- free time- dinner and overnight at hotel

Day 4 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) Drive to Ortaköy - see Hüseyin Kethüda Hamamı - Barbaros Hayrettin Paşa's Tomb, Sinan Paşa Mosque at Beşiktaş- continue to Üsküdar to see The Mihrimah Sultan Mosque. Lunch continue the visits with Semsî Paşa Mosques and Atik Valide Nurbanu Sultan Mosque return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 ISTANBUL- (B): After breakfast drive to the airport for your flight back home.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO EDİRNE A DAY TOUR

Day 5 EDİRNE (B-L-D): Drive to Edirne en route see at Edirne Kapi the Mihrimah Sultan Mosque and continue to Edirne where you will visit the Selimiye Mosque and Complex - lunch and time permitting a short sightseeing and visit of other Mosques and Bazaars. Return to Istanbul, dinner and overnight.

Day 6 ISTANBUL (B): After breakfast transfer to the Airport

Note: For those having short time at disposal and wish to see Edirne the 4th day of Istanbul can be replaced with the day tour to Edirne and depart the 5th day from Istanbul for home.



THE BOSPHORUS

A FULL DAY CRUISE

“The view was the greatest pleasure of Constantinople, the combination of water and architecture was so arresting that poets called Bosphorus a diamond between two emeralds, the jewel in the ring of universal empire” Philip Mansel- Constantinople

Bosphorus: The name comes from greek Bosporos which means passing a river which is a reference to mythology. Zeus who turned Ira into a cow who jumped across the strait.

We shall invite you in a journey which can be a cruise through the Bosphorus shores or a land tour or a combination of both. Our aim is to give you a quite interesting historical information on both shores European and Asiatic a fact which is missing many times on usual tourist tours and guides.

1- EUROPEAN COAST

If we follow the regular ferry itinerary:

EMINONU AND GALATA During the Byzantines these areas were conceded to the Genovese and where many Karaite Jews who were displaced in 1597 when the Yeni Cami -New Mosque was build. Genovese continue to live during the Ottomans around the Galata Tower and an italian Levantine community was enjoying some privileges during Fatih Sultan becoming the Magnifica Communita of dragomans who after with other ethnies greek, jews were active in the cosmopolitan quarter of Pera, the today Beyoglu.

(See Istanbul the Queen of the Cities www.karavantravel.com/02.zip)

DOLMABAHCE : The Dolmabahce Palace was build between the years 1843 and 1856 by the armenian architects the Balyans. The design contains eclectic elements from the Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassic styles blended with traditional Ottoman architecture to create a new synthesis. It is the largest Palace in Turkey , its monoblock building occupies 45.000 m2

BESIKTAS : Cradle Stone was known as Diplokion - double column in Byzantine times, originated may be from a legend about a monk who brought to this village the stone on which Christ was first washed after his birth.

Interesting buildings are the Ferry Landing built in 1913 by the architect Ali Talat Bey and the octogonal Barbarosa Tomb designed for Hayrettin Pasa known as Barbarossa-Scourage of the Mediterranean.

CIRAGAN: The Ciragan Palace built by Sultan Abdulaziz was designed by the palace architect Nigoyan Balyan and constructed by his sons Sarkip and Hagop Balyan between 1863 and 1867 mainly financed by the Galata Bankers, the Baltazzis.

The inner walls and the roof were made by wood, the outers walls of colorful marble. A very high garden wall protect the Palace from the outer world The Palace was renovated during the first quarter of 2007 now resembling the authentic Palace with the Baroque style and soft colors.



ORTAKOY : Formerly known as Agios (Saint) Phocas for who a greek orthodox Church was build in 1872 but its parish dates back to Byzantine times.

Here also what remains from the Palace of Esma Sultan daughter of the Sultan Abdulaziz who received this Palace as a gift when she was ten years old.

ORTAKOY MOSQUE: The Ortakoy Mosque was build between 1854 and 1856 by the architects Amira and Nigogayos Balyan who designed it in Neo Baroque style. The wide high windows let the ever changing high reflections of the Bosphorus shine in the Mosque.

THE BOSPHORUS BRIDGE: Seventh-longest suspended bridge in the world opened in October 1973

KURUCESME : (Dry well) it was renamed after the main village well ceased to provide water. Its ancient name was Kalamos (Bay of Reeds) Constantine the Great erected here a Church in honor of the Archangel Michael, rebuilt several times but finally destroyed in 1452.

In the midst of the forest we see the Princess Naile Mansion.

ARNAVUT KOY (Albanian Village) was named after the craftsmen from Albania who settled here after being commissioned by Sultan Abdulmecit to build sidewalks (arnavut kaldirimi) for the city.

During Byzantines the village was famous for its vineyards and later during the Ottomans for its light strawberries. A numerous greek orthodox community was living there and their Church Ayos Strati Taksiarhi is in the center of the town.

BEBEK : The ancient Chelae with a temple dedicated to Artemis Dictynna, the protectress of fisherman and hunters. A suburb for wealthy citizens, the name Bebek which means baby could had originated from a nickname given to a handsome young commander who ruled the area in the 1800. Famous was Bebek for its rose gardens and trees.

The art nouveau Egyptian Consulate designed by the Italian architect Raimondo d'Aronco in 1902 has been restored recently.

One other remarkable yali is the Yilanli (Snake Yali) which was build during Sultan Mustafa III (1757-1774)

BOSPHORUS UNIVERSITY: The first Turkish University to implement an english language curriculum. The land on the hill was purchased by Cyrus Hamlin an american missionary and the financial backing was made by an American philanthropist Christopher Robert after whom the College was named. The land with a mansion was owned by Kostaki Musurus Pasa.

YALI - SEA SIDE MANSION The seaside mansion known as the YALI is an architectural phenomenon unique to the Bosphorus. The classic yali was of wood and was two or three stores high with an overhanging cumba (bay window). The building was invariably surrounded by flower gardens. The traditional color of yalis was a deep red known as Ottoman Rose.

European influence in the late XIX. Century was reflected in the architectural style of seaside mansions. Art Nouveau, neo-baroque, classical and fanciful, eclectic styles competed with the traditional yali (From the Bosphorus - Rhonda Vander Sluis)



RUMELI HISAR : The European Fortress was let build by Mehmet the Conqueror during the siege of Istanbul and was completed in an amazing four months and twenty days time.

FATIH SULTAN BRIDGE: The 1.096 meters bridge was opened in 1988.

THE TOPHANE MUSIRI : Field Marshal Zeki Pasa Mansion built by the levantine architect Alexandre Vallaury at the turn of ther twentieth century.

BALTALIMANI: (Harbor of the Axe) named after the Grand Amiral Suleyman Baltaoglu (son of the axe) Here there is the building designed by Sarkis Balyan and today houses the Baltalimani Bone Diseases Hospital.

EMIRGAN: it got its name from the Iranian Tahmash Kulu Han Prince Emirgun who surrounded Erevan to Sultan Murat IV in 1638 without a fight.

The Serifler Yali is the oldest yali on the European shore constructed in 1780 The Hamidiye Mosque in 1781 has an elegant baroque interior.

ISTINIYE: Istiniye comes from the greek word sosthenion (thanks giving) with reference to the altar built by Jason and the Argonauts. Constantine built the Archangel Michel Church and the XVII century the village had a great christian influence with Churches and Monasteries. In this actually safe harbor we see the yali of Deli (crazy) Fuat Pasa which is one of many waterfront yalis built by wealthy Armenian businessman along these shores. Fuat Pasa earned this reputation of crazy as he made opposition to Abdulhamid II. There are some other interesting yalis as this known as "Writers Yali" and the Ahmet Afif Pasa Yali a fanciful, eclectic neo baroque one of the architect Vallaury. A greek orthodox Church Taksiarhis can been seen.

YENIKOY: (New Village) here we came to the area of the three villages Yenikoy, Tarabya and Buyukdere which were preferred by the wealthy Greeks, Armenians and European Diplomats. Pictures of the numerous yalis which survived on our days speak by themselves.

Yenikoy, had the same name in greek Neapolis during the Byzantines. During the Ottomans the numerous greeks living there called it.Neahori.... Prominent families as the Karatheodori Pasas had the yali in Venitian style and their relatives the Bankers Baltazzi the one close to the actual pier where there is also the Sait Halim Pasa of the Khedive. The first owner was a greek noble family the Vlastos. The poet Kostantinos Kavafis parents Petros Kavafis and Charikleia Fotiadi were natives of Yenikoy. Remarkable one is also the Twin Yali - Faik and Bekir Bey Yali a symmetrical building built in 1906 by Raimondo d'Aronco the Nerbil Sarper (former Maruni Selim Melhane Pasa), the Eczacibasi (former Evgenidi) The Dadyan Hamamciyan and Hamapulo (now Gonen yalısı) The Austrian Summer Embassy (now consulate)completed to be build in 1898 is here too with the Presidential Summer Palace former Huber mansion . Auguste Huber was an aristocrat who sold weapons to the Ottoman Government.

The Greek orthodox cemetery and Churches Agios Yorgios(1851) and Agios Nikolaos(1770 and restored in the XIX century) can been seen. There were in the past 5 greek Churches and one Synagogue and two armenian churches which still functioning in Yenikoy .

TARABYA: The name comes from the greek Therapia - cure, healing. A favorite entertainment spot in the XIX century with hotels, yalis of famous bankers Zarifi, Mavrogordatos and well known families as Fotiadi, Woods Pasa, Crepin,

Privilegi, Zografos and Evgenidi. Theodore Baltazzi whose had a yali close to the Italian Embassy compared to a Palace, his descents will be in Vienna involved in the famous horse races and Mayerling.



The beautiful Embassies, The Italian one designed by d'Aranco which expect restoration, the British, the German and the French ones, this latter was the Residence of the former Prince Ipsilanti. There is also the ancient Greek Orthodox Church of Aghia Paraskevi(1860)

BUYUKDERE: Large Valley in turkish, called Kalos Agros or Great Meadow in Byzantine times. Wealthy Phanariot Greeks, Levantines as the Alleons, the Hubsch and Armenians as Esseyan had summer vacation homes here as also the waters of Buyukdere and Sariyer where famous.

We see the neo classic Spanish Summer Embassy as well as the Russian one. Two churches a Greek Orthodox Aghia Paraskevi(1831) and the Armenian Catholic one are functioning in Buyukdere.

SARIYER: The Yellow Place is the largest village and the fishing capital of Upper Bosphorus.

The Sariyer Naval Officer's Club with its gothic style turrets and the Azaryan Yali today the Sadberk Hanım Museum of Art and Antiquities are the two remarkable mansions of this village.

2- THE ASIATIC COAST

ANADOLU KAVAGI: Yoros the Genoese Castle. In this site there was initially the temple of Zeus Ourios, the god of favorable winds . The actual structure was build by the Paleologos and the fortifications added by the Genoese and the Ottomans

The beautiful Marko Pasa Villa on the Navy Base belonged to a wise greek doctor who was known as a problem solver.

BEYKOZ: Beykoz is the largest village on the Asian side of the Bosphorus. Its ancient name was Amikos.

The marble Hunkar Mansion today Children Hospital for Chest diseases was designed by Sarkis Balyan. There are Serbostanı Mustafa Aga and Sultan III. Mustafa Mosques as well as The Greek Orthodox Church of Agia Paraskevi(1852).

PASABAHCE was named after Sultan ibrahim Pasa's vizir Ahmet Pasa who planted gardens and orchards in the XVII century here.

The famous Pasabahce Glass Factory is here with some old buildings restored and used as coffee houses.

CUBUKLU: Place of the Stick from an anecdote according to which Beyazit beat here his son Selim I eight times with the stick each stroke representing the years of Selim' s reign.

The Byzantines were calling this place Eirenaion meaning peaceful and there was also a famous monastery.

A neo classic yali of Halil Ethem Pasa ashore and the imposing Hivid Kasrı at the heights which was built by Abbas Hilmi Pasa in 1907 and was the Summer Residence of the Khedives of Egypt are the most remarkable sights.



KANLICA was known in Byzantine times as Glaros- Seagull. There are many interesting Yalis as the art nouveau one of Yagci Haci Sefik Bey, the eclectic one of Haci Ahmet Bey.,the art nouveau/arabesque of Ethem Pertev and many others, to not forget the pittoresque Ottoman rose Hekimbasi Yali and the Amcazade Huseyin Pasa built in 1699 which is the oldest wooden structure on the Bosphorus.

A mosque Gazi Iskender Pasa Cami built by Sinan in 1599 is in the village square.

ANADOLU HISAR AND KUCUKSU: The Anadolu Hisar , the Asian Fortress was once known as Guzelce- Pretty one.

Left of the ferry Landing we see some yalis ashore close one to other and at Kucuksu, the Kucuksu Palace or Kasri. A pretty rococo style palace to day Museum designed by Nikogos Balyan.

KANDILLI: Kandilli the Place of Oil Lamp had many churches and monasteries in the Byzantine era. Later it became a favorite residence area for Europeans, especially the French and British.

The distinctive Kibrisli Yali with its 64 meter shore facade dates back to the late eighteen century. The yali was a favorite gathering spot for writers as was the nearby Count Ostrorog Yali known as the Red Yali. The owner was a polish born legal advisor of the Porte and his wife Jeanne Lorendo from one of the leading levantine banking families.

VANIKOY: The village is named after a devout muslim named Vani Mehmet Efendi.

Many yalis as the Rezaizade Yali, the charming Serasker Riza Pasa Yali and the Mahmut Nedim Pasa Yali with its distinctive cone-shaped tower. Beautiful and unique is the Vanikoy Mosque.

Further on we see the impressive Kuleli Naval Officers Training School which is a landmark on the Bosphorus since 1838 and which was designed by Carabed Balyan for Sultan Abdulmecit.

An interesting Mosque the Kuleli Mosque of the early XIX century.

CENGELKOY: Cengelkoy the Village of the Hook get its name from the Byzantine anchors found here.

The Royal Stavros Gardens stretched from here to Beylerbey in the XVII century replaced lately by yalis belonging to wealthy Greeks, Jews, Armenians and Ottoman Turks in succession.

We see the Bostancibasi Abdullah Aga Yali then of Yordan Pavlidis in 1907. The Sadullah Pasa yali built in 1783 one of the oldest and most beautiful classic wooden yalis on the Bosphorus.

BEYLERBEY: The Byzantines called it Chrysokheramos (golden tiles) a reference to a Church roofed with gilded tiles. In the later years of the Ottoman Empire only religious leaders were allowed to build in this area.

Beylerbey Palace. A sandstone and marble Beylerbey Palace was built by Sarkis Balyan in 1865 for Sultan Abdulaziz. Decorated in an eclectic European style it was used mainly for hosting foreign monarchs including Empress Eugenie and Franz joseph.

The turkish baroque Beylerbey Mosque was built in 1778.

KUZGUNCUK: Kuzguncuk- Little Raven. It is believed that the name comes from a Muslim mystic named Kuzgun Baba who lived here during Sultan Mehmet II reign.

Kuzguncuk was another village where Greeks, Armenians, Jews and Muslims lived together in peace and harmony. Mosque, Synagogue and Church are just blocks apart.

The Cemil Molla Kosk a three story villa with a belvedere, the Fetih Ahmet Pasa Yali a rare example of the classic Yali of the late XVIII century as well as the Kuzguncuk Ferry Landing which is the restored Madame Agavni Muratyan Yali are worth to be seen.



Karavan  travel™

USKUDAR: The old Scutari founded around 670 BC with the name of Chrysopolis (golden city) was the mustering point for caravans and expeditions.

Several Mosques dating from the Ottoman Period are located in close proximity to one another. The one at the harbor area the Iskele Mosque was built by the architect Sinan for Mihrimah Sultan the daughter of Suleyman the Magnificent and wife of the Grand Vizir Rustem Pasa.



THE PRINCE ISLANDS of ISTANBUL

HISTORY OF THE PRINCE ISLANDS

During the Byzantine Medieval Period these islands were known as PAPADONISSIA, the "Islands of the Monks" from the many monasteries there which became famous as many emperors and empress were shut up in them. Justin II having built in 569 a Palace and a Monastery on the largest of the isles this island became known as Prinkipo the island of the Prince.

KINALIADA(Proti)

The Greeks called it Proti - the First- since is the nearest to the City. In Byzantine times there were two monasteries dedicated respectively to Panaghia and to the Transfiguration as well as a Convent which all three housed royal exiles including Michael I, the family of Leo V, the empress Theophano and many others.. The island takes its Turkish name (henna -red) from the colour of the sandstone cliffs. The population has traditionally been largely Armenian.

Highlights: the Greek church of the Panaghia built in 1886, the Greek cemetery of the XIX, the Byzantine Cistern, the Monastery of the Transfiguration which was administered in the XVIII century by the Greek Chios who emigrated here opening a lot of coffee houses, taverns, groceries etc. The Aghia Fotini Ayazma of the 1878, the Surp Krikor Lusavorich Armenian Gregorian Church built in 1857 and the Kinaliada Mosque which was built with the material brought from the Karakoy Mescid of the architect Aranko.

BURGAZADA (Antigoni)

Traditionally inhabited by Greeks is a very pleasant island of the archipelago.

In Antiquity and was known as Panormas and in the Byzantine period as Antigoni with which is still called by the Greeks. During Byzantine times it had a large Monastery dedicated to Transfiguration. .

Burgazada is after Buyukada and Heybeliada the third great island amongst the nine ones of Istanbul and was inhabited principally in the summer by the Greek bourgeoisie of Istanbul.

Burgazada is a quite pretty island with white and pastel coloured houses ringing a crescent bay.

The Greek Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist is a modern structure but it stands on the site of the Byzantine Church of the same name dedicated to St. Methodius. Beyond the Church there is the house of a famous Turkish writer Sait Faik (1907-1954). The other Greek Church Aghios Christos is at the top of the heavily wooded Christos Tepesi the highest peak on the island. There are many ayazma and a Greek Orthodox cemetery as well as a Catholic Saint George Chapel and a Jewish Synagogue.

HEYBELIADA (Halki)

This is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Princes Isles although many would argue in favour of its neighbour Buyukada. The village is a pretty cluster of white washed stone houses and pastel-hued villas on the eastern side of the island.

The Greeks called the island HALKI due to the copper mines long ago exhausted.

In Byzantine times there were two Monasteries. One of these was the Holy Trinity at the Umit Hill where is now surrounded by the impressive Greek Orthodox Seminary. The Theological School which was founded in 857 by the Patriarch Photius.



The second Byzantine Monastery stood on the western slope of Degirmen Tepesi and is dedicated to the Panaghia (Virgin Mary). It was founded by John VIII Paleologos (1425-48) and was the last monastic establishment to be founded in the Byzantine Empire. The only part of the Byzantine structure which survived is the chapel of the Panaya Kamariotissa founded between 1427 and 1439 by Maria Comnena third wife of John VIII Paleologos and the last Empress of Byzantium.

At the left of the ferry landing there are the building and grounds of the Turkish Naval Base. Until recently this was the site of the Turkish Naval Academy which moved to the mainland.

A paved road leads around the coast with a branch road and cutting across the waist of the island. Phaetons can be hired near the ferry station to go all the way around the island.

In the square in the center of the island there is the greek orthodox church of St.Nicholas build in 1857.

BUYUKADA (PRINKIPO)

This is the largest of the Prince Isles.

During the Byzantine period there were at least four monasteries and a Covent which was built by Justinian in the mid-VI century and rebuilt by the Empress Eirene(797-802). Euphrosyne her daughter who was banished remained in the Covent for 26 years as well as the Empress Zoe after she had been exiled by her adopted son Michael V and Anna Dalassena mother of the future Alexius I Comnenus was imprisoned here in 1060.

THE TOWN

Many beautiful old houses, villas as this of Illyaso then Izzet Pasha where Leon Trotsky lived during the first years of his exile as well as of Con Pasha an Ottoman statesman of italian-greek ancestry., Important ottoman, greek, armenian and levantine families had their villas here as Blacque, and Corpi ,who were frequenting the famous Prinkipo Yatch Club now Buyukada Anadolu Kulubu Here also the imposing Hotel Splendid.

MONASTERIES

The Monastery of Transfiguration or Christos Monastery.

Both of the island's hills are surmounted by monasteries. The one on Isa Tepesi- is dedicated to Transfiguration of which the present buildings date from the XIX Century. There are many tombs in its garden

The Monastery of St.George

This picturesque Monastery stands in a beautiful clearing at the top of Yuce Tepe. The Monastery which was on this site early as the XII century is known to the greeks as Agios Georgios Koudonas(St.George of the Bells) The present building consists of six separate chapels on three levels. The room at the bottom of the stairs is a tiny shrine with an Ayazma a sacred spring.

Other Greek Orthodox Churches

Panagia Church; In the Market quarter

Agios Dimitrios which has an interesting architecture and has been built in 1856 and Agios Ioannis Prodromos which was the first Church of the XVII century and restored in 1903.



Catholic Church and Cemetery
San Pacifico Church built in 1885

Armenian Catholic Church
Surp Asdvadzadzin (Virgin Mary Church)
Built in 1858 by the architect Andon Tulbentchian.

Hesed Le Avraam Sinagogue
It has been built in 1904 on the land donated by Avram Arslan Efendi Fresco.

Hamidiye Mosque
Built by order of Abdulhamid II in 1892.

The Prinkipo Greek Cemetery
Is the biggest cemetery of the Island existing since 1886 .



PERA

“Les familles perotes s’avancent en clans nombreux dans l’espace laissé libre par les consommateurs assis, habillés à l’Européenne”

Pierre Loti

Décrire chaque coin, chaque rue de Pera, le Beyoğlu d’aujourd’hui, nommé ainsi pour désigner dit-on le fils du doge Gritti – un des premiers “Levantins” – qui avait son palais ici – il faudrait des pages entières.

Les Eglises Catholiques, Protestantes, Orthodoxes, Armeniennes, St Antoine, St Marie Draperis, the Crimean Memorial Church, Aya Triada, Panaya, Surp Yosgeperan, Surp Yerrortutyun, etc.

Les Ecoles, des grands évergètes (bienfaiteurs) grecs, Zografyon, Zapion. Le Lycée Armenian Esayan. Le Lycée de Langue Française, Galatasaray, St Pulcherie. Les Ecoles et Hopital Italiens.

Le Consulat Français (1719 Ancien Hopital des Pestiférés), le Palais de France, le Palazzo Venezia (ou existait l’ancienne Villa des Levantins Salvago/ Testa), la Casa d’Italia, la Societa Operaia di Muttuo Soccorso. Les tres beaux Consulats de Russie, et de l’Hollande construits par les Fossati. Le Consulat de Suède. Arch. Pulgher. L’imposant Consulat Anglais. L’appartement Botter, art nouveau d’Aranco.

Les Passages, d’Andria, Hacopoulo, Karlman, Aznavour et bien d’autres comme les Grands Magasins, au Bon Marché, Baker, Demilleville, Mayer, qui ont disparu mais qui restent dans le mémoire, la Pharmacie Della Suda.

Les Rues, les Impasses, Alleon, Glavany, Hava, Camondo, Baltazzi ou avaient habité ces Banquiers, grands propriétaires d’immeubles et dont un grand nombre avait été construit par l’architecte levantin Perpignani. Le Cercle d’Orient dont la batisse conserve encore toute sa majesté londonienne, Arch Vallaury.

Les Cités de Roumelie, d’Alep avec leur vieux Hans mélancoliques, et la Cité de Péra de Zografos ou la bonne humeur revient grâce au célèbre Çiçek Pasaji (le passage des fleurs) avec ses joyeuses Tavernes et son pittoresque marché aux poissons.

Domage qu’il n’y a plus le Tokatliyan Hotel, le Théâtre Naum Paşa, le Théâtre Concordia mais Pera s’anime actuellement grâce à une jeune génération et les touristes qui fréquentent Cafés, Bistrots, Restaurants, qui s’installent dans toutes les ruelles, comme celle dénommée Cezayir ou Fransiz Sokagi, située derrière Galatasaray.

Lebon n’est plus là, mais la pâtisserie Markiz restaurée avec succès a ouvert de nouveau ses portes.

Les anciens Hotels particuliers des grandes familles Levantines, Glavany aujourd’hui Grand Hotel Londres. Arch. Semprini, de Decugis aujourd’hui Hotel Galata Antik. Arch. Vallaury. Un temps hotel Amiral Bristol aujourd’hui Musée Péra (tres interessant) fait effet avec sa façade ornementale. Arch. Manoussis.



Des Anciens Hotels, l'Hotel Pera Palas plein des souvenirs de l'Orient Express accueille encore dans nos jours les touristes. A coté l'ancien Consulat des Etats – Unis (ex Villa des Corpi) et un peu plus loin les imposants immeubles des Tubini et des Nomico. L'Union Française est actuellement en restauration.

Enfin vers la zone Şişane l'appartement Frej de l'architecte Kyriakidis. La décoration extérieure des figures, bel exemple de l'art nouveau symbolise disent les experts la productivité de l'entreprise bourgeoise Levantine et son ame privée de prejugs.

Pour terminer ne faut-il pas mentionner et voir l'ancienne municipalité de Pera (6.ci Daire) Arch. Barborini. Les représentants des principales familles pérotes ont durant la période 1850 a 1895 fait part de l'Assemblée et de la Commission Municipale prenant des décisions pour le progres et l'embellissement de Pera. Permettez moi de citer ceux que j'ai pu decouvrir. M. Cezaryilian, M. Tsamitz, Antoine Alleon, Naum Paşa, Abraham Camondo, C. Hava, C. Hanson, N. Privilege, Serendi, Aristide Baltazzi, Lorando, E Blacque.

Alex Baltazzi

Tous droits réservés Karavan

PERA (BEYOGLU)

“A Pera si parla Turco, Greco, Ebraico, Armeno, Arabo, Persiano, Russo, Slavo, Valacco, Tedesco, Olandese, Francese, Inglese, Italiano, Ungherese...”

Lady Mary Montegu (1718).

Visiteremo l'antico quartiere di Pera adesso Beyoglu (Figlio del Bey), si dice lo abbiano chiamato cosi in memoria del figlio del Doge Veneziano Gritti che ha abitato qui.

Beyoglu – Pera era considerato il quartiere chic Europeo, multiculturale e multi confessionale con le sue varie chiese cristiane, le Ambasciate, i suoi negozi, cafe, ristoranti, teatri, circoli, frequentati dall'alta borghesia cosmopolita che dominava il commercio. Garibaldi e Litz di passaggio hanno abitato qui.

Cominciando la nostra visita da Taksim dalla statua di Ataturk, Opera dell'architetto Italiano Canonica, vedremo a destra il Consolato Francese che era nel XIX Secolo l'Ospedale dei Leprosi. A destra c'era il famoso Cafe Eptalofos (adesso Burger King) e si vede la bella Chiesa Ortodossa Greca l'Agia Triada, quasi accanto ci sono le famose Scuole Greche dei grandi benefattori greci come Zografos, Zappas.

Molte Arcade, Gallerie in un stile dove si fonde l'oriente e l'occidente. Piu la in un angolo della strada c'era la famosa farmacia dell'Italiano Della Suda. Vedremo l'edificio dell'architetto italo-francese Vallauray – l'antico Club della elite – le Cercle d'Orient fra i fondatori molti nomi di italiani o di origine italiana come conte Corti, Graziani, Pedrelli, Testa e Baltazzi.



Piu in la sullo stesso lato c'è il Mercato dei Fiori (Çiçek Pazarı) e del Pesce pieni di gioia di colore e di buona tavola.

Passeremo davanti al famoso Liceo Turco con l'insegnamento in francese, il Galatasaray, fiero del suo attuale Club Calcistico. Li c'è anche un Hamam.

Nella via a destra l'imponente ex – Ambasciata Inglese (adesso Consolato)

Entreremo a sinistra in una piccola via che aveva il nome Glavani, e dove ancora c'è una delle case di questo banchiere levantino per andar a vedere Palazzo Venezia, Consolato e Ospedale Italiani.

Ritourneremo su Beyoglu per vedere altri Consolati (ex Ambasciate) tra i quali quello Russo che é opera di architetti Italiani i fratelli Fossati che avevano disegnato anche quello Olandese, opera terminata da un altro italiano Barborini architetto anche del Municipio che potremo vedere piu giu nel Quartiere di Şişane, dove c'e anche quel bel edificio di Frej con statue, opera del architetto Kyriakidis. Le sue statue de l'art nouveau simbolizzano la produttivita dell'impresa borghese Levantina e della sua anima priva di pregiudizi.

Visiteremo le chiese cattoliche San Antonio dell'architetto Mongeri e l'antica chiesa di Santa Maria Draperis.

Nei dintorni come Tepebaşı ex Petits Champs altre opere di architetti italiani, l'Hotel de Londres di Semprini, la galleria d'Andria, l'ex via Venezia adesso (Balyoz Sokak), il Museo Pera, opera di Manusso, la Casa d'Italia. Piu in la il famoso Albergo del Orient Express il Pera Palas e l'ex Consolato Americano ex Palazzo dell'Italiano Corpi ecc.

Termineremo il nostro tour con l'Edificio della Societa Italiana di Mutuo Soccorso ancora una opera di Vallauri e il simpatico Appartamento Botter simbolo de l'art nouveau dell'architetto italiano d'Arancio e la Piazza Tunnel con la funicolare (progetto di Henri Gavand – 1874) e i suoi Cafes. Tempo permettendo si potra visitare il Museo dei Dervisci.

GALATA

On peut commencer ce tour a partir, de la Place Tunnel ou part le funiculaire souterrain reliant Péra a la Place Karaköy (Projet Henri Gavand – 1874).

Galata etait une petite ville fortifiée d'époque Greco - Byzantine plus ancienne d'Istanbul. Dès le XI siècle comptoir de Genes, Venise, et Pise. Puis les Genoais prirent le dessus et exploiterent sans restriction la concession de Galata accordée par les Byzantins. Cité indépendante sous la tutelle de Genes. Le Senat de Gènes nommait pour un an le Podesta qui gouvernait assisté d'un Conseil. Cela dura jusqu'a l'arrivée des Ottomans qui pourtant leur laisserent une certaine autonomie jusqu'au milieu du XVII siècle. La Communita Magnifica gérait les affaires communales.

Places d'intérêt: Monastere des Derviches Tourneurs, aujourd'hui Musée. Dans la meme rue l'ancienne Librairie de Pera et Teutonia. Tout autour et dans les ruelles adjacentes, des batiments delaisés, divisés en appartements ou cohabitaient en grande majorité des Chrétiens de toutes les races et confessions. Les propriétaires etaient les Zaharof, les Averians, Haci Said, Papadopoulos Freres, Helbic (aujourd'hui Dogan) Bernathan.

Enfin la Superba Tour de Galata qui domine toute la zone, devenant involontairement l'unique "highlight" du simple touriste.



L'école et l'église St Benoît qui existe depuis 1427, ainsi que l'école St George et l'Hopital Autrichiens. Les Synagogues, Askenaz et la synagogue Italienne (Kal de Los Francos) ainsi que la plus récente, mais bien célèbre la Neve Şalom.

Galata est aussi un port lourd d'un passé coloré, bruyant de tavernes mal famées, de bon vin, de bordels, de sarrafs, et de marins. Toute la Méditerranée avec ses dialectes, ses multiples capacités, avec la lingua Franca que tout le monde comprenait, mais que les hommes de lettres Français et Italiens en visite ne comprenaient pas.

Une longue histoire qui semble l'avoir fatigué. Pour cela une restauration et des nouvelles structures grâce à un Projet Galata Port deviennent nécessaires pour affronter le flux des touristes des bateaux de croisière.

Des nouvelles émigrations durant l'Empire Ottoman avaient enrichi Galata. Les Européens, les Grecs des îles, les Juifs d'Espagne, les Arméniens, les Turcs, les Arabes. Les lieux de culte pour toutes les religions se multipliaient.

A noter, l'Eglise Orthodoxe, Ayos Yannis ton Chion ou dans ses registres et ses tombes on rencontre les Grandes Familles cosmopolites de Chios. Mavrocordato, Petrocochino, Schilizzi, Negroponte etc. A ces Chiotés ils leur suffisait un port, pour qu'ils dominent le trafic maritime et le monde des affaires. Galata avec Smyrne fut un de leur premiers fiefs.

Malgré les incendies fréquents, d'un commun accord, ou fruit d'une rivalité pacifique, toutes les communautés prenaient soin de la Culture, et de la Santé de leurs co-religionnaires avec des nouvelles écoles et hôpitaux. Les Associations de bienfaisance sont financées par leur banquiers.

A voir, Arap Cami (Ancienne Eglise St Paul – 1320) et l'Eglise St Pietro e San Paolo.
Le Palazzo del Comune, Ancien Podestat et le Han St Pierre ou le poète André Chénier est né.

L'escalier du banquier Camondo vous amènera à l'avenue Voyvoda, l'avenue des Banques. Galata déjà connu pour ses sarrafs, ses banquiers de Galata devient au milieu du XIX^{siècle} le centre des Finances Ottomanes. Dans cette Avenue, nous admirerons l'Architecture de plusieurs édifices, entre autres de l'İş Bankası (ex Han Castro et Helbig) de l'Assicurazione Generali Arch. Giulio Mongeri. De la Banque Ottomane (aujourd'hui Garanti) et de la Banque Centrale arch. Alexandre Vallaury. La Garanti contient un Musée sur l'histoire des Finances et des Banques Ottomanes, avis aux intéressés. À côté l'Akbank (ex Han Baltazzi) ex Deutsche Orient Bank et ex Banca Commerciale Italiana.

De l'autre côté près de l'escalier, la Demirbank arch. NeoClassique - Vallaury, récemment restaurée ex Société Ottomane de Change et des Valeurs qui appartenait à Clado, Eugénidi et Barker.

Alex Baltazzi
Tous droits réservés Karavan



GALATA E DINTORNI

Cominceremo la visita con il Simbolo di Galata – la Superba Torre di Galata, ricordo vivente della Colonia Genovese autonoma installata dal suo Podesta in questo quartiere al tempo dei Bizantini e successivamente nel Periodo Ottomano come Comunità Magnifica.

Vedremo vecchi edifici dove vivevano Cristiani e Ebrei di tutte le etnie e nazione, le varie Sinagoge tra le quali l'italiana “Cal de Los Francos”. Il Collegio francese e la Chiesa di San Benedetto dei Lazaristi (ex Gesuiti) che esiste dal 1427, l'Ospedale e la Scuola degli Austriaci.

Scenderemo verso le stradine del porto che ricordano il quartiere portuale di Genova. Aveva secondo molti visitatori stranieri una ben cattiva fama a causa delle sue taverne, bordelli, e dei suoi frequentatori e dove si parlava una “lingua franca” che solo loro capivano.

In Galata dove ci sono molte piccole chiese Ortodosse Greche, Armene e Russe si erano installati molti emigrati di Chios (Greci e Latini del ex Maona Genovese) marinai e mercanti di nascita ai quali era sufficiente dare un porto per dominare il commercio marittimo da Constantinopoli e Smirne a Trieste – Livorno – Marsiglia e Odessa. I Chioti avevano fatto costruire la loro propria chiesa Ayos Yanis Ton Chion, oggi luogo di culto siriano – ortodosso, da altri emigrati cristiani provenienti dall'est della Turchia.

Visiteremo le chiese San Pietro e San Paolo e l'Arap Cami (la Chiesa più antica – San Paolo del 1320).

Passeremo dal famoso ponte di Galata con suoi pescatori e ristoranti di pesce per scoprire nella zona Eminonu un quartiere mercantile –Tahtakale- tipico orientale con suoi rumori e sue merci, la Moschea Rustem Pasa del famoso Sinan, che non è inclusa nei classici itinerari del turismo, ma che contiene le più belle e antiche maioliche colorate. Per completare questo quadro visiteremo il Mercato delle Spezie denominato anche Bazar Egizio perché gran parte delle spezie e dei profumi arrivava dall'Egitto, insieme al riso, al caffè, alle lenticchie, all'incenso o all'henne con l'annuale carovana del Cairo che comprendeva dieci o più navi.

Daremo un colpo d'occhio alla Piazza Karakoy di Galata che è considerata un simbolo di incontro tra l'oriente e l'occidente con il suo armonioso miscuglio di molti edifici d'architettura italiana con degli Han Ottomani. Un specchio dove si riflette l'anima di Istanbul.

Nella vecchia via Voyvoda oggi Via delle Banche, Centro Finanziario e Economico nel XIX Secolo dell'Impero Ottomano si ammireranno gli edifici imponenti, come quello delle Assicurazioni Generali, architetto Giulio Mongeri. Quelli della Banca Ottomana (oggi Garanti) e Banca Centrale, opere di Vallauri, dell'Akbank (ex Baltazzi). Si vedrà il Palazzo Comunale Genovese del Podesta, l'antico Han di San Pietro dove il poeta Andre Chenier è nato. Termineremo le visite ammirando le scalinate del Banchiere ebreo Camondo annobilitato dal Re d'Italia.



ISTANBUL GREEK HERITAGE AND EXTENSION TO TRABZON-SUMELA-BLACKSEA

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D) arrival to hotel dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL (B-L-D)- Istanbul sightseeing

Start our full day sightseeing tour of Istanbul, with visit of **Blue Mosque** - facing St. Sophia famous for its blue Iznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets built in the name of Sultan Ahmet; **Hippodrome** - center of sporting (chariots races, athletics) events and political activities of the old city; **Moni Sergiou** Bakhou (Small St Sophia Mosque at Sultan Ahmet) built by Justinian in memory of these two saints. This sanctuary to which the court came with a great pomp was one of the richest in the city; **St Sophia** – the church of divine wisdom, one of the greatest marvels of architecture constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian; **Hagia Irini** - (at Topkapi Palace Garden) church built on the site of a Pagan temple to Aphrodite, Constantin the Great in 324 AD dedicated it to peace; **Topkapi Palace** – imperial residence of Otoman Sultans exhibiting imperial treasury, Chinese porcelain, weapons, calligraphy section. Continue visiting Topkapi Palace; Cistern – many underground cisterns were built during the Byzantine Empire, the largest and the most ornate cistern, in its construction, columns and capitals of earlier temples were used and this provides a very decorative appearance; **Grand Bazaar** - most attractive shopping center and the biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry, gold, carpets and leatherware. Return to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at Hotel

Day 3 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) : Breakfast at hotel. After Breakfast FD Tour. Tour is starting with **Moni Hora (Museum of Kariye – Edirne Kapi)** - originally formed the center of a Byzantine Monastery complex. Only the church section which was dedicated to Jesus Christ the Saviour, has survived ; **Patriarchate** - Greek Patriarcate has been on this site since 1601. However, present day patriarchal church of Saint George with small basilica plan dates to 1720. The complex which has administrative offices of Greek Patriarcate has been the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarcate of Constantinople, the leader of all the Christians in the Ottoman Empire under the Sultan's protection. Among the relics displayed in the church, we can mention the tombs the Saint Omonia, Thephano and Saint Euphemia; the Patriarchal throne and portative mosaic icon of Virgin Mary; **Pili Romanou (City Walls at Topkapi), Zoodohos Pigi (Balikli Greek Church)** - one of the sacred grounds for Byzantine Empire where the Royal Family used to spend a week during the time of Ascension. The present day church which is a rather late structure dating to 19th century is built over the sacred pool. According to Byzantine traditions, the fish in the pool is related to the fall of the city. In the small graveyard, there are tombs of Greek Patriarchs with the crosses and double headed eagles. Stop for lunch. Continue with **Panaghia Vlahernon** (Ayvansaray – Halic). Visit **Moni Pantokrator (Zeyrek Mosque)**, the largest and the most important middle Byzantine structure in Istanbul. Church had 3 separate buildings, now in restoration, close nice coffee restaurant place with view to Marmara. After Moni Pantokrator drive to Kadikoy and visiting to **Hagia Euphemia Greek Orthodox Church**. End of the tour transfer back to hotel. Dinner&overnight

Day 4 ISTANBUL(B-L-D) Full day Bosphorus Cruise with lunch

See Cultural Istanbul 3 - The Bosphorus

Return late evening to hotel dinner and overnight



Day 5 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) The Prince Islands with lunch

After breakfast we will go with a boat to visit the most important Prince Islands - Heybeliada- Halki and Buyuk Ada -The Pringipo- see our Prince Islands - Cultural Istanbul 4
Return to hotel. Dinner and overnight

Day 6 ISTANBUL(B) Transfer to the airport

EXTENSION TO TRABZON-SUMELA

Day 6 TRABZON (B-L-D) After breakfast transfer to the Airport to take a flight to Trabzon. This morning our visit will include the beautiful **Ayasofya Museum**, once a 13th century Byzantine church and **Panaya Hrisokefeli**. After lunch, sightseeing in the city to see the old churches now mosques as Agios Eugenius, St Anna, St Andrea etc., then **the Castle, the Zagnos Bridge, the Ataturk Residence** (ex Konstantin Kapagiannidis Mansion), **the Bazaars** including the Russian Bazaar and **the Museum** (ex home of Constantine Theofilaktos). The city of Trapezus was settled by colonizers from Sinope of Greek – Mylesian origin in the 7th century BC. The first Pontic Kingdom was created in 300 BC by Methridates I. His successors fought the Romans who conquered the city in the 1st century BC. The Romans and the Byzantines built monuments and the walls of the city which saw a time of great splendour with the Byzantine Komneros Dynasty who ruled the city until the Ottoman conquest in 1461. Transfer to the Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 7 TRABZON-MACKA-SUMELA-RIZE-TRABZON(B- L-D)

After breakfast start tour with **Sumela Monastery**, situated in a very beautiful and natural setting, built in the 14th century is nestled into the side of rocks in a famous valley in Maçka, only 50 kilometers away from Trabzon. The setting is 1200 meters above the sea level. Two Greek monks, Barnaby and Sophronios started the original building. The 7th century Icon apparently painted by an anonymous Trabizond (Trabzon) artist became the symbol of the monastery. Some say that the name "Sumela" comes from the Greek word "melas" which means "black" and it refers to the characteristic dark color of this icon. But others say that "Melas is the name of the mountain above the monastery, "sou" in the Pontian Greek dialect means "at the", so Sumela (Sou + Mela) means "at the Melas (mountain). The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin and the large monastery complex had 5 floors and a total of 72 rooms. The upper floor was used as a gallery and a lookout post. The whole building was full of frescoes and the wall paintings. The large part of the building was hewn out of the rock. It stands in front of a beautiful valley scenery and sharp rocky mountains behind. Continue with **Rize**. Lunch. Rize, 75 km east of Trabzon, is built on a mountain slope and covered with tea bushes which look like puffy green pillows. Its population is of majority of the Laz origin. The vegetation is so dense in Rize that it is virtually impossible to see ground. The shoreline and hinterland possess myriad shades of green. Rize is famous the world over for its flora and tea. There are about 20 flowers which are unique to the Rize area. The inner regions coming right to the shoreline, with mountains and plateaus, complete the picture while traditional villages and plateau houses blend in with nature to make an enriching contribution. See interesting mosques and typical village houses, **the Castle**. Return to Trabzon for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 TRABZON – ISTANBUL (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the Airport for your flight to Istanbul.



TURKEYS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES TOURS

INTRODUCTION

Turkey has the honor to have 11 sites included in the Unesco World Heritage which are **Göreme National Park** and the Rock **Sites of Cappadocia**, **Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği**, **Historic Areas of Istanbul**, **Hattusha**: the Hittite Capital, **Nemrut Dağ**, **Hierapolis-Pamukkale**, **Xanthos-Letoon**, **City of Safranbolu**, **Archaeological Site of Troy**, **Selimiye Mosque** and its Social Complex and the ancient neolithic site of **Catalhoyuk**.

We have elaborated two tours one with Istanbul West and Central Anatolian World Heritage sites and the other with Istanbul and East Anatolian World Heritage sites. As well as a Guilet Cruise to see Xanthos which can be also added to both tours.

Furthermore we didnt ommited to include in these tours itineraries some other important and beautiful sites of which Turkey is so proud to have in its historical and archeological inventory and which are popular and appreciated by the foreign visitors.

ITINERARIES

1- WEST AND CENTRAL ANATOLIAN TOUR WITH WORLD HERITAGE SITES **Historic Areas of Istanbul Safranbolu-Hattusas- Goreme National Park and Rock Sites-Catalhoyuk- Hierapolis-Pamukkale- Troy and Selimiye Mosque**

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D) Arrival dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL(B-L-D) We will visit the **Historic Areas of Istanbul** which are in the Unesco World Heritage List. The Topkapi Palace , the St. Sophie, the Sultan Ahmet Mosque,the Yeni Mosque close the Galata Bridge, Lunch.The Beyazit Tower which is a 85 metre tall fire watch tower built in 1825 by the architect Senekerim Balyan and the Suleymaniye Mosque.

We will visit also besides the world heritage sites the Rustem Pascha Mosque with its beautiful tiles ans Grand Bazaar dinner and overnight (For more details see the essays Architecture and On the Steps of Sinan)

Day 3 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) Full day cruise to Bosphorus with lunch (for details see the essay Bosphorus. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel

Day 4 ANKARA (B-L-D) the capital of modern Turkey, located in the center of Anatolia. Angyra was its old name and built by Midas the King of Frigia and was conquered by the Lidian, then Alexander the Great, and then the Galates. (there is Paul famous letter to them) The next rulers Byzantines had to fight with many invasions and finally in 1169 it became Seldjukid. Ankara until the exchange of populations had Greek inhabitants and was a mitropolis. There was immigration from Pontus and from Cappadocia due to the railway. Greek quarters were in the Castel Region, there were two churches, one monastery and four schools. Continue with the visit the famous museum of Anatolian

Civilizations (also called Hitite Museum) and the Castle. Visit the Mausoleum of Ataturk (Anitkabir), founder of the Republic of Turkey. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Ankara.



Day 5 ANKARA-SAFRANBOLU(B-L-D) Safranbolu, whose history dates back to 3000 BC. Once a city of Roman Province of "Paphlagonia", Safranbolu has hosted many civilizations including the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman Empires throughout its history. During the Ottoman era the town served as an important junction on the Kastamonu - Gerede (Bolu)- Istanbul route of the famous silk road. Safranbolu was at the same time a popular residence for Ottoman Royalty close to the Sultan and Grand Viziers. Safranbolu displays its extremely rich historical and cultural heritage through 1008 architectural structures displaying a good example of Turkish architecture, all preserved in their original environment. These structures include the public buildings such as Cinci Hodja Kervansaray and Cinci Hodja Hamam, Mosques of Koprulu Mehmet and Izzet Mehmet Pashas, The Tanneries Clock tower, Old hospital premises, The guild of shoe makers, The Incekaya aqueduct, The old city hall and fountains as well as hundreds of private residences. Rock tombs and tumulus just outside the city are also of interest. In the town, there were in 1838 about 250 Christian houses, in 1903 about 500 Greek houses. At Cambaz and Utku Streets there are 3 houses, which owners were Greek. In Kirankoy there is still an old Greek village, Agios Stefanos Church (now Ulu Camii), the Eski Camii also could be before a Byzantine Church. Safranbolu was placed in the world Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO in appreciation of the successful efforts in the preservation of its heritage as a whole. Safranbolu has deserved its real name for its houses. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Safranbolu.

Day 6 SAFRANBOLU- HATTUSAS- CAPPADOCIA(B-L-D) Departure in the morning. Arrive in **HATTUSAS** which was the capital of the Hitite Kingdom. Visit its Lions Gate Tunnel, King's Gate, Citadel and Grand Temple. Continue to Cappadocia overnight.

Day 7 CAPPADOCIA (B-L-D) : Goreme National Park and the Rock sites. We enjoy a full day exploring Cappadocia, with visits to the Goreme Open Air Museum .Dinner and overnight are at the hotel.

Day 8 CAPPADOCIA (B-L-D)we continue with **Uchisar, Kaymakli, Pasabey** and **Avanos**, the latter providing us with the opportunity to purchase some of the hand-turned pottery that has been shaped here for millennia. We will enjoy our dinner and overnight stay in our hotel in Cappadocia.

Day 9 CAPPADOCIA-CATALHOYUK- KONYA (B-L-D)

After an early breakfast, we set off towards Konya with a visit to the Sultanhan Caravansarai on the way. We lunch in Konya and then visit the city's Mevlana Complex and Mausoleum. Departure for **Çatalhoyuk**, is a very rare example of a well-preserved Neolithic settlement and has been considered one of the key sites for understanding human Prehistory for some decades. The site is exceptional for its substantial size and great longevity of the settlement, its distinctive layout of back-to-back houses with roof access, the presence of a large assemblage of features including wall paintings and reliefs representing the symbolic world of the inhabitants. On the basis of the extensively documented research at the site, the above features make it the most significant human settlement documenting early settled agricultural life of a Neolithic community. Dinner and overnight in Konya.

Day 10 KONYA- APHRODISIAS- PAMUKKALE (B-L-D)

After breakfast we drive to Aphrodisias, lunch on route and arriving to the city of the Goddess of Love, where we see the well-preserved stadium, Odeon, Theater and Agora. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.



Day 11 PAMUKKALE-EPHESUS-IZMIR (B-L-D)

After breakfast we visit Pamukkale, "the Cotton Castle," with its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside. We visit the ruins of **Hierapolis** with its famous Necropolis, Basilica, Theater and Temple of Apollo with its *Plutonium*. The Nymphaeum, a shrine of the nymphs, the Martyrium and tomb of St Philip. Following our visits and lunch we continue on to Ephesus and Virgin Mary, which features some of the most impressive archaeological sites in Turkey. Dinner and overnight stay are in Izmir.

Day 12 IZMIR-PERGAMUM-TROY (B-L-D)

We drive to Pergamon where we visit its acropolis, its theater (the steepest of the ancient world), the Temple of Trojan, and the library. Following lunch we visit the Asklepion, the ancient center of healing, and the Red Basilica, which is also one of the Seven Churches of the Revelation. We continue on to Canakkale for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 13 TROY-ISTANBUL (B-L-D)

After breakfast we visit the ruins of ancient **Troy**, where - among other sites - we see its legendary walls and the replica of the wooden horse. After lunch we continue to Istanbul via Gallipoli, where we are transferred to our hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.

Day 14 EDIRNE (B-L-D) After breakfast we drive to Edirne with stops to visit the Hafizaga Mansion, Edirne museum, **Selimiye Mosque**; complex The Mosque was commissioned by Sultan Selim -II and was built by Mimar Sinan between 1569 and 1575. Here the classical ottoman architecture attained its culminant point with this masterpiece of Sinan, caravansary of Rustem Pasha and the covered bazaar. Return to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight

Day 15 Flight day (B)

2- EAST TOUR WITH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES Historic Areas of Istanbul- Great Mosque and Hospital of Devrigi , Nemrut Dag

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D) arrival dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL(B-L-D) We will visit the **Historic Areas of Istanbul** which are in the Unesco World Heritage List. The Topkapi Palace , the St. Sophie, the Sultan Ahmet Mosque, the Yeni Mosque close the Galata Bridge, Lunch. The Beyazit Tower which is a 85 metre tall fire watch tower built in 1825 by the architect Senekerim Balyan and the Suleymaniye Mosque.

We will visit also besides the world heritage sites the Rustem Pascha Mosque with its beautiful tiles and Grand Bazaar dinner and overnight (For more details see the essays Architecture and On the Steps of Sinan)



Day 3 ISTANBUL (B-L-D) Full day cruise to Bosphorus with lunch (for details see the essay Bosphorus. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel

Day 4 ISTANBUL-SIVAS (B-L-D) Morning flight from Istanbul-Sivas. We drive to Divriği **Divriği**, this region of Anatolia was conquered by the Turks at the beginning of the 11th century. In 1228–29 Emir Ahmet Shah founded a mosque, with its adjoining hospital, at Divriği. The mosque has a single prayer room and is crowned by two cupolas. The highly sophisticated technique of vault construction, and a creative, exuberant type of decorative sculpture – particularly on the three doorways, in contrast to the unadorned walls of the interior – are the unique features of this masterpiece of Islamic architecture. Return to Sivas. Dinner & overnight

Day 5 SIVAS-ADIYAMAN (B-L-D)

After breakfast departure for Adiyaman. See on route The Assyrian Church of St Paul and St Peter. Dinner & overnight in hotel

Day 6 ADIYAMAN-NEMRUT MOUNTAIN-URFA (B,L,D)

We drive to **Mount Nemrut** passing through the magnificent local landscape. Once at the site we visit the sanctuary with its 16 giant statues, each 10 meters in height, a mega Alexandrion dream of Antioches. After lunch we continue on to Urfa for dinner and overnight stay at our hotel.

Day 7 URFA-HARRAN-GAZIANTEP (B,L,D)

We enjoy a day that includes sightseeing in Urfa, one of the world's oldest Babylonian cities, with visits to the Crusaders' Fortress and the Callirhoe Fountain as well as Gobekli Tepe which is believed that is the site of the world's oldest temple (12.000 B.C).. Following lunch we continue on to Harran, a small village renowned for being both the home of the Prophet Abraham and for its curious, ant-hill like traditional houses. We continue on to the city of Gaziantep and its museum to admire the new findings of Zeugma (the Seleucia Euphrates- one of the four major cities of the Kingdom of Commagene during the 1st century BC). Then we are taken to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8 GAZIANTEP-DIYARBAKIR (B,L,D)

After sightseeing in Diyarbakir we will have lunch too visit its Basalt Walls, one of the finest existing examples of medieval military architecture, and to the Ulu Mosque (the Great Mosque), we are taken to our hotel in Diyarbakir for our dinner and overnight stay.

Day 9 DIYARBAKIR-ISTANBUL (B) Fly back to Istanbul



3- GULET CRUISE WITH XANTHOS-LETOON A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Xanthos or the Letoon shrine of the goddess Letto The ruined ancient city of Xanthos lies inland of the turquoise Coast in southwestern Turkey. Set on a hillside with breathtaking views of the river below the city dates from the 8th century Bc and suffered two holocausts when under siege , first by the Persians in 540 BC and then by Romans in 42 BC. The city prospered under Roman and Byzantine rule then fell into decline.

Near the entrance stands the Arch of Vespasian and a Hellenistic Gate. Also here is the Harpy Tomb, a Roman Theatre, a Lycian and a Roman Acropolis and a Byzantine Basilica and monastery.

Day 1 ISTANBUL-GOCEK (D)

Arrival in Istanbul and connection flight to Dalaman. Arrive Dalaman\ meet with your guide and transfer to Gocek to embark on the gulet, a traditional Turkish wooden-hulled boat. Cruise to Gocek Island to anchor for the night.

Day 2 GOCEK BAYS (B-L-D)

Cruise along Gocek's beautiful bays and coves, enjoying nature at its best. Overnight at Agalimani, one of the most beautiful bays on the Turkish Mediterranean coast, or Hamam where you can see an ancient sunken church and the ruins of Cleopatra's sunken baths. Hike to Lydae.

Day 3 KAYA-GEMILER ISLAND (B-L-D)

Cruise to Sarnic Bay. Optional walk to the abandoned Greek mountain village of Kayakoy. Return to Gemiler Island and visit the Island.

Day 4 XANTHOS-PATARA/KALKAN (B-L-D)

Early morning cruise to Kalkan, a lovely, small coastal village. Stop for breakfast on the way to Firnaz. Drive to Xanthos, an ancient capital of Lycia, then Patara, where St. Nicholas was born. Relax and enjoy the beautiful beach. Optional hike to Delikkemer, the piece of aquaduct of Patara. Overnight Firnaz bay.

Day 5 KAS(B-L-D)

Today we will cruise to Kas, ancient Antiphellos. Visit the town of Kas in the afternoon. Overnight Kas marina or nearby bay of Bayindir.

Day 6 KAYA-GEMILER ISLAND (B-L-D)

Cruise to Sarnic Bay. Optional walk to the abandoned Greek mountain village of Kayakoy. Return to Gemiler Island to anchor for the night.

Day 7 KEKOKA-MYRA (B-L-D)

Cruise along Kekova Island and see the sunken city as well as the ruins on the island. Continue to Cayagzi, the ancient city of Andriake. Disembark and drive to Myra, where outstanding examples of Lycian funeral architecture can be seen. Visit the church of St. Nicholas, who was once bishop of Myra. Overnight at Karaloz Bay.



Day 8 PHASELIS-ANTALYA (B-L-D)

Cruise to Finike and disembark in the morning. Drive to Arycanda, the great Lycian city located in the mountains. Lunch at a lovely mountain trout farm. Drive to the hotel in Antalya for farewell dinner. Overnight Antalya Tuvana or Kaucuk Hotel.

Day 9 Fly back to Istanbul (B) or other destinations

OPTIONAL EXTENSION ANTALYA

Day 10 ANTALYA (B-L-D)

Free time

Day 11 ANTALYA (B-L-D)

In the morning, we visit the city's museum which is known for its rich collection of artifacts from the ancient world. Following lunch at our hotel we enjoy a free afternoon. hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 12 ANTALYA-PERGE-ASPENDOS-SIDE-ANTALYA (B, L, D)

We enjoy a full day of excursions with visits to Perge, with its well-preserved theater and stadium, and then Aspendos, which ranks as Turkey's most famous antique theater. Later we continue on to Side, a colorful and popular touristic spot. After lunch we return to Antalya for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 13 ANTALYA (B-L-D)

Free time

Day 14 ANTALYA (B-L-D)

Free time

Day 15 ANTALYA (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul or other destinations



HISTORY AND GASTRONOMY TURKEY TOURS

One should not pass over these things, simply saying they are food. They are in reality a complete civilization

Abdulhak Sinasi

2. ISTANBUL AND EAST TOUR

INTRODUCTION

ISTANBUL

Constantinople, then Istanbul the Imperial Capital of two great Empires.

Byzantine cuisine was marked by a merger of Greek and Roman gastronomy. The development of the Byzantine Empire and trade brought in spices, sugar and vegetables.

Ottoman cuisine is the cuisine of the Ottoman Empire and its successors in Anatolia, the Balkans and much of the Middle East. The importance of culinary art for the Ottoman Sultans is evident to every visitor of Topkapi Palace which houses several kitchens that are built underneath ten domes. In the XVII century there were 1300 kitchen staff. A Venitian Ambassador was reporting that there were 25 kinds of meals served at Divan. You will have the opportunity to taste many of them in the restaurants reserved for you during your stay, as veal in apple sauce, stuffed quince and lamb chuck with plums. Various salads as been salad with tahini crushed sesame seeds and spices. Desserts as puddings infused with gum mastic served with almonds, seasonal fruits in a rose water syrup, somolina or apricot with ice cream

Istanbul surrounded by the sea is also rich in sea food and fish as turbot, loufer, red mullet accompanied with various mezes and salads as octopus and shepherds salads.

EAST REGION

For this tour to East which is a very interesting region but quite different than the West but almost rich in history, archaeological findings, mansions, mosques, churches with a quite original and traditional architecture, special cuisine, authentic folklore and handicrafts, we aim hereby to give you as much possible information on its history and its cuisine which wil be completed by our East professional guides during the visits and the meals which will be based on the traditional regional cuisine for which information is given hereby.

ANTAKYA: Antakya's cuisine well represent the culinary arts of the melting pot of civilizations of which is historically is famous over 30 species of appetizers- hors d'oeuvres as humus, aubergine, hymes, the flacky pastry the Boreks and salads etc A main reputed dish are the meat balls called Oruk and cooked at the owen and many kind of grilled meat. As well as Kunefe and Pumkin dessert



ISKENDERUN: The main dishes are Turkish staples as doner(giro) and other kebaps served in the flat drum (wraps) bread. The city in particular offers good quality of fish and prawns The distinctive dish is Kunefe a hot dessert with cheese.

GAZIANTEP: Meals are prepared with the use of various spices, sauces as well as of vegetables, fruits and nuts produced locally.

Gaziantep is also famous for its kofte made with ground and minced meat and flavored with different spices and herbs Gaziantep desserts are a must and they include the sweet pastry BAKLAVA which is considered to be a native of this city and famous throughout the former Ottoman Lands.

Antep is also proud for its slender and delicious type of pistachios.

SANLIURFA: Meat and bulgur- boiled and pounded wheat are the most used in the various recipes.

Various dishes with vegetables as well as kebaps and pilavs (cooked rice) are with ayran- a butter milk- quite popular. As desserts, kunefe, Baklava and Kadayif the dough based ones are quite popular here as there are in all the South East

ADIYAMAN; Adiyaman cuisine has all the particulars flavors of the South East with basis the meat and a variety of wheat, legumes and vegetables. The most used ingredients are sauces, onion, persley, pepper ,garlic and dried mint.

DIYARBAKIR; Diyarbakir cuisine is a combination of Turkish and Kurdish based mainly on lamb and sheep meat. There are also various lahmacuns (a pizza version) the Kaburga a famous local meat dish and the Kibebumbar made from intestine, tripe, rice, salt pepper and peppermint.

As desserts the water melon and the various traditional sweets are excellent.

MARDIN : The Mardin cuisine is in harmony with the climate and the vegetation of the region. Cig koftes a kind of Turkish steak tartare, stuffed kaburga's dolmas, and pilavs are the most preferred dishes.

Culinary herbs are used on the preparation of meals and desserts. The leblebis - roasted chichpeas and almonds as well the wines are well known.



ITINERARY

HISTORY AND GASTRONOMY ISTANBUL AND EAST TOUR

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D)

Arrive to Istanbul. Transfer to your hotel dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL-ANTAKYA-ISKENDERUN (B-L-D)

We have an early flight to Antakya and we start our visits. We proceed to **Antioch-On-The-Orontes**-a city thought to have been founded by Seleucos in 300 BC due to its geographical position. **Antioch** (or present day, **Antakya**) became a melting pot of the Hellenistic and Oriental words. Its prosperity and mild climate turned the Antiochenes into people who welcomed all kinds of new ideas. Due to these conditions it was not difficult for a new religion to gather plenty of adherents among the Gentiles of Antioch. The word “Christians” was first coined here. St.Paul, St Peter and Barnabas were very effective in converting the people to Christianity. Following the Romans The Byzantines gave a great importance to Antioch which became an active center of the Church of Orient. Your city sightseeing includes visits to the **Museum of Antioch** which houses a superb collection of mosaics found in Antioch, **Daphne**, **Seleucia Pieria** to see the two rock tombs, the Tunnel of Titus and **St. Peters Grotto** – a cave church known as the meeting place of the early Christians. Lunch and then continue to **Iskenderun, the old Alexandretta**, founded by Alexander the Great after his Issos victory. In 1097, on the first crusade conquered by the crusaders Alexandretta was included in the principality of Antioch. Dinner and overnight in Iskenderun.

Day 3 ISKENDERUN-GAZIANTEP-SANLIURFA (B-L-D)

Drive to Sanliurfa, on the way short visit to **Gaziantep** and its museum to admire the new findings in **Zeugma** (the Seleucia Euphrates- one of the four major cities of the Kingdom of Commagene during the 1st century BC and Lunch . Drive to **Sanliurfa**, the old Edessa, a testimony of the Bible and of Alexander the Great, one of the oldest Babylonian cities, an important stage on the “**Fertile Crescent**” route from the Mediterranean shore to Upper Mesopotamia. Sanliurfa claims the distinction of being the birth place of Abraham. We will visit the **Crusaders Fortress**, the **Callirhoe Fountain** & the **Mosque of Halil Rahman** as well as Gobekli Tepe which is believed that is the site of the worlds oldest temple (12.000 B.C). Dinner and overnight in Sanliurfa.

Day 4 SANLIURFA-HARRAN-ADIYAMAN (B-L-D)

Our scenic drive to **Adiyaman** this morning takes us via picturesque Harran. Lunch on route. Harran, the village with its curious domed dwellings referred in the Genesis XI.31.32:XII.4.5.It was here where Abraham spent several years of his life. Here was the site of the **Temple of Sin** (known also as the first University), famous throughout the ancient world for its star readers and savants. The importance of the moon and of astrology/ astronomy for the people of Mesopotamia can be inferred from the fact that their Magi (priests) studied in detail the phases of the moon, attempting to predict the future. It was probably from them that Thales of Miletus learnt to predict the eclipse of the sun. The GAP Project on Euphrates and Tiger is expected to realize 22 dam and 17 hydroelectric power plants. In the story of Adam and Eve, the Bible describes the original perfect home of the human race where God planted a garden out of which four streams flowed, the Pishon, the Gihon, the Tigris and the Euphrates. The Koran parallels the Biblical account. See on route The Assyrian Church of St Paul and St Peter. Dinner and overnight in Adiyaman.



Day 5 ADIYAMAN-NEMRUT-DIYARBAKIR (B-L-D)

We leave very early in the morning for **Nemrut** where King Antiochus I of Commagene built a colossal funerary sanctuary of 16 giant statues each 10m in height, a temple dedicated to himself, to the Greco-Persian gods and to his Persian ancestors. The East & West terraces have a central courtyard surrounded with colossal statues of lions, eagles etc. Colossal statues of seated figures are **Apollo, Hermes, Zeus** and **Hercules**. Sunrise from the top of **Mt. Nemrut** will be incomparable to anything you have seen before. Once there dominating the West and the East, the Megaalexandrian dream of Antiochus will look very natural to you. Lunch and then we continue to **Diyarbakir**. Dinner and overnight in Diyarbakir

Day 6 DIYARBAKIR-MARDIN (B-L-D)

Morning city sightseeing of Diyarbakir (the Old Amida) whose history stretches back to the Hurrian Kingdom of Mitanni (1500 BC), which was dominated by civilizations of **Urartu, Assyria, Persia, Alexander the Great** and **Seleucids**. Arabs conquered the city and renamed it **Diyar Bakir** (land of copper). In 1085 it was conquered by the **Seljuks** and then the Ottomans took over in 1515. Highlights will be the **Basalt Walls**, one of the finest existing examples of medieval military architecture, the **four old city gates**, the **Ulu Mosque** (the Great Mosque) and the **Church of St.Mary** (17th century). Lunch then in the afternoon .We will drive to **Mardin** (old Marida) located on the south slope of a mountain, to visit the **1500 year old Monasteries. Mor Yakup** and **Deyrul Zafaran**, old **Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate** as well as **Grand Mosque** and the typical, beautiful Houses of Mardin. Dinner and overnight in Mardin.

Day 7 MARDIN- MIDYAT-HASANKEYF-MARDIN (B-L-D)

After breakfast we complete our visits to Mardin and drive to Midyat.

Midiyat known also as Tur Abdin with its Aramic name is the epicenter of a centuries -old Christian Syriac Aramean enclave. The name of Midiyat was first in an inscription of the Neo-Assyrian King Ashur-Nasir-Pal II (883-859 B.C).

We will visit Churches, Monasteries as Mor Gabriel, Mor Stefanos, Mor Sarbels, old houses and historical streets of Midiyat where we will have lunch too. We will proceed to Hasankeyf a small village which could had been settled for perhaps as long as three millenia where we will admire the Sarp Citadel and many Mosques and Turbes as well as caves. We will return to Mardin where we will have dinner and overnight.

Day 8 MARDIN- ISTANBUL FLIGHT (B-L-D)

Transfer to Airport and flight for Istanbul. Lunch
Dinner and overnight in Istanbul

Day 9 ISTANBUL (B-L-D)

We spend a full day exploring Istanbul with visits to the St. Sophie the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, and the Hippodrome. Following lunch we visit the Suleymaniye Mosque and the Grand Bazaar. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel.

Day 10 ISTANBUL - (B)

Transfer to the airport



CAPPADOCIA THE GREAT

INTRODUCTION

Great in its natural, and unique beauty. The main architects are here Mother Nature, great to astonish and to protect.

Great also its History, the Hittites, the Persians from whom probably it gets its name, (land of beautiful horses) Alexander the Great, the Cappadocian Kings, Rome, Byzantium, the Seljuks and the Karamans.

Great also in its religious History with its Three great Cappadocian Fathers, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa and Gregory of Nazianzus. Great also with St. Basil of Caesarea (The Santa Claus of the East) bringing every Christmas a traditional joy to so many children.

Great also with its troglodytes churches, its underground monasteries and its actual hospitality.

Sinan also the Great Architect (see our Tour On the Steps of Sinan) is a child of Cappadocia born in Agirnas a village of Caesarea.

It has been also found interesting writings in karamanlidika a Turkish dialect written in Greek alphabet used by many turcophone Cappadocians. The two mentioned languages Turkish and Greek in a joint effort realized quite Great popular poems and lyrics.

"In the dome the dove is sitting:
"In the place of the hall the grain is growing:
"I have seen a light; for me it is enough"
(Karamanlis song translated by Dawkins)

CAESAREA: the actual Kayseri has an interesting history going as far as the Hittites and having been the residence of the Kings of Cappadocia. In the IV century the city became central to early Christianity when St. Basil the Great established an ecclesiastical center. We can see and visit some monuments, churches and mosques of different periods and enjoy an atmosphere dominated by the trade

THE CAPPADOCIAN CHURCHES: A very elaborate study has been done on these Churches which you will see on the itinerary. Every Church is related together with its architectural style and detailed explanations are given for the Frescoes. Anna G. Edmonds in Turkey's Religious Sites mentions that "there is a similarity in style between frescoes in Cappadocia and those in Trabzon or in Istanbul. The similarities carry over into the European tapestries of the same period. Perhaps there is a relationship between these frescoes and the work of the XVII century painter El Greco.



ITINERARY

Day 1 ISTANBUL –KAYSERI (B-L-D)

Early flight to Kayseri where will start our visit.

Kayseri the old Caesarea, which get its name from the Roman Caesar, Tiberius during the Roman conquest. However according to ancient records the city history goes as far as the Hittites and its first name was Mazaka then Eusebia under the rule of the Kings of Cappadocia and had a population of 400.000 .

Sultan Selim captured it in 1515 and made a part of the Ottoman Empire.

It is said that in the environs of Kayseri there were about 30 Monasteries. On the beginning of the XX century there was in the city seven armenian and one greek orthodox Church. We can see actually the Surp Azdvadzadzin (Virgin Mary) Armenian Church . The famous architect Sinan a son of Cappadocia build here in 1585 the Kursunlu Mosque which can be seen at the Park Avenue. After a short sightseeing we will leave Kayseri the home to St. Basil the Agios Vassilis the Santa Claus of the greek orthodoxy and St. Gregory the Illuminator who is reputedly the founder of the Armenian Orthodox Church and go to our hotel in Cappadocia for dinner and overnight.

Day 2 GOREME-ZELVE-AVANOS (B-L-D)

You should have been already impressed by the view of the famous valley of Cappadocia where mother nature has created an incredible strange colorful world of cones, columns and needle shapes from volcanic tuff, some of which are 100 ft high Here too are surrounded by this lunar spectacle of Fairy Chimneys natural caves where people were living and rock churches and monasteries. Over 3500 rock churches have been identified in the area.

GOREME -We start our visit with the Goreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia which have the honor to be included in the Unesco World Heritage Sites.

The monastic life started in the Valley in the IV century and continued until the XIII. Some of the principal Churches and Monasteries.

The Kizlar (Nuns) Monastery- To Monastiri ton Kalogriou- includes two churches with scenes from the life of Saint George. The dome of the cruciform Church is maintained by four columns

St. Basil Church-we see here frescoes representing the Christ., Virgin Mary. Saint Theodore. St George.

The Carikli(The Church with the Sandals) the name comes from the two footprints at the entrance According to a legend there are the footprints of the Christ. . It has been built beginning XIII century and includes in the ground floor a refectory.

The Karanlik (the Dark Church) The Skotini- was a monastic compound built in the XI century. It is a domed church with one main apse, two small apses and four columns. It was decorated with scenes from the New Testament.

The Church name possibly comes from a small oculus looking out of the narthex which only lets in a very small amount of light.



Yılanlı Kilise (The Snake Church) Called also Agios Onuphrius Church as greek. records mentions that it was dedicated to this Saint. The Church is a simple barrel-vaulted church with a low ceiling and long nave. This Church of the XI century has frescoes of Saints Theodore and St George slaying the Dragon, as well as of Emperor Costantine and his mother Saint Helena and Saint Onuphrius.

Azize Barbara Kilisesi(the Church of Saint Barbara) built in the late XI century it has a cross-dome with one central apse, two side apses and two columns Frescoes of Saint Barbara, St. George and St. Theodore are depicted in the walls.

Elmalı Kilise -The Apple Church- Eklissia tou Milou- Built around 1050 and has carved into four irregular pillars in the sign of a Greek cross with these pillars support its central dome. The paintings depict scenes of the saints, bishops and martyrs as well as of a Last Supper. The name if the Church is believed to refer to a reddish orb in the right hand of the Archangel Michael.

Tokatlı Kilise- The Church of the Buckle is the largest Church in Goreme. The main nave contains IX century frescoes in provincial style as well of the XI century where are depicted saints and scenes from the life of Jesus. The Buckle Church is formed of four chambers, the Old Church. The larger New Church, the Paracclasion and the Lower Church.

ZELVE- We continue our tour going to Avanos passing by the Valley of Zelve where here also we can see troglodyte Churches and a monastery complex. Zelve was an important settlement area during the the IX and XIII centuries where Christians moved during the Persian and Arab invasions.

The Zelve Monastery which was carved in the rock and the **Balikli(Fish)** and **Uzumlu (Grapes) Churches** are of an pre- iconoclastic times whereas the **Direkli(with columns) Church's** main decorations are iconoclastic -doctrine high reliefs crosses.

AVANOS-Avanos the old Venassa or Ouinessa is a quite old prehistoric area Zeus was venerated by the Persians as the God of the Sky (Ouranos) a cult transmitted to the Cappadocians. In 322 B.C Venassa was conquered by Eumenus a general of Alexander the Great and enjoyed a great prosperity.

Avanos has today an excellent household pottery and the local artisans carve alabaster the light-colored translucent stone.

An excellent shopping area known for its handicrafts like carpets, kilims, alabaster, onyx and pottery. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 IHLARA VALLEY AND DERINKUYU UNDERGROUND CITY (B-L-D)

IHLARA- After breakfast we drive to the Ihlara Valley (Peristrema) Ihlara Valley is a 10 miles long gorge cut into volcanic rock following eruptions of Mount Erciyes. The Melendiz Stream flow through the valley. The whole canyon is honeycombed with rock-cut underground dwellings and Churches from the Byzantine period. Some of the most important ones are:



The Kokar Kilise(The Smelly Church) is a late IX century Church and has a scene of shepherds playing bamboo ney-like flutes while below them are attentive stylized sheep. On each side of the lower parts of the vaulting there are frescoes depicting the Apostles standing and seated.

A striking representation of the Last Judgment can be seen in the IX Century **Yilanli Kilise (Church with snake)**. Other Churches are **Purenli Seki Klisesi (Church of the Terrace)** with frescoes classified archaic but with an amazing freedom of expression.

The Agacalti Kilise(Church under the Tree) quite different from the other Churches of the Byzantine world of the X and XI century and has a free cross architectural plan.

After our visit in Ihlara Valley we drive to Derinkuyu.

DERINKUYU - The Underground City This underground city extends several kilometers with small rooms and larger central squares where streets cross. The city could accommodate up to 20.000 people and had all the amenities of the Cappadocian underground complexes as storage rooms, refectories and chapels. We see here a religious school and a cruciform Church.

At the end of the visit we drive to our hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4 SINASOS - AND OPTIONAL BALLOON TOUR (B-L-D)

You may have a more relaxed day today with visit to Sinasos and a optional Balloon Tour.

SINASOS - Mustafa Pasa-A very colorful and one of the earlier locations where greeks lived in majority up to 1924. It is said that Sinasos was a center of culture and trade and that the best Greek was spoken here.

In the center of Sinasos-we see the greek-orthodox **Church of Saints Costantine and Helen** of the XVIII century as well as other **Churches of St. Basil** and of the **Archangels Michael and Gabriel** of 1850. A very interesting **Caravansaray** in the Square and the beautiful houses of the old upper class of Sinassos.

Optional Baloon Tour-Relatively a new highlight which permits to enjoy an unique view over the Cappadocia valley with its Chimneys and troglodyte Churches.

Free time and dinner and overnight at our Hotel.

Day 5 NEVSEHIR-ISTANBUL (B)

After breakfast we drive to Nevsehir Airport for our flight to Istanbul



ARCHEOLOGY, HISTORY AND NATURAL BEAUTY

LAND AND CRUISE

INTRODUCTION

In this itinerary combined with a Gulet Cruise we have included besides the very well known one sites many which are of the beaten track enabling the visitor familiar to Turkey to make new discoveries within an elaborated study and view over these coasts of Archeology,, History and Natural Beauty enhanced by the glamour of the cruise providing also bathing and relaxing.

ITINERARY

Day 1 IZMIR (L-D):

Arrival to Izmir visit this Metropolis called the Pearl of the Aegean, The Roman Agora the Museum, the Castle, the famous Quais and the Bazaar. Dinner and Overnight in Izmir .

Day 2 CLAROS-EPHESUS-KUSADASI (B-L-D)

Visit Claros and its famous sanctuary of Apollo continue to Ephesus to visit its impressive ruins , the Great Theater, the Library of Celsus, the Odeon, the Marble Road etc Then drive to visit the nearby old charming greek village of Sirince(Kirkinca) Overnight at Kusadasi

Day 3 PRIENE-MILETUS-DIDYMA-MARMARIS (B-L-D)

Priene which ruins are generally conceded to be the most spectacular surviving example of an entire greek city constructed of marble and intact except for the ravages of time. See the Acropolis, the Agora, Gymnasium and Roman Baths.

Miletus: which was the site of the Greek philosophical and scientific tradition (the Milesian School) with Thales followed by Anaximander and Anaximenes. Miletus was also visited by St. Paul and is also the birth place of Isidoros architect of St. Sophia of Istanbul. See the Sacred Way with the Ionic Stoa, the Theatre, Baths of Faustina etc

Didyma: The largest and most significant sanctuary on the territory of the great classical city of Miletus containing a Temple and Oracle of Apollo which was next to Delphi the most renowned one. We see the three giant Ionic columns of 60 feet tall remain intact from the 122 ones and other vestiges.

We drive to Marmaris, a reputed summer resort where we will spend a night in a nice hotel .

Day 4 EMERALD CRUISE (B-L-D)

We will embark on our gulet for the 8 days Emerald Cruise

The boarding starts at 15:30 from Marmaris Harbor. We will spend this first day on the boat with dinner and an overnight stay in Marmaris Port. Throughout its long history, Marmaris, which was built over the remnants of the antique Carian city of Phrykos, has been under the rule of many different civilizations. One of the city's most interesting sites today is the Marmaris Castle dating from 1577. Among the Ottoman period remains are a mosque and an 8-room, arched caravansari. Ancient ruins can be seen on Asar Hill, a small, low ridge located on the northern side of the city



Day 5 EKINCIK GULF-DALYAN (B-L-D)

Our cruise sets off towards the cove at Ekincik. Our yacht calls in to Caretta-Caretta (turtle) Beach where we enjoy a swimming break. After our swim we will enjoy the natural beauty of the delta as we cruise down Dalyan River. We will see on the Dalyan River the ancient Rock Tombs (4th-2nd century BC) which resemble the fronts of Hellenistic temples with two Ionian pillars and finally arrive at the mud baths to relax and be rejuvenated. We are transported back to our yacht where we set sail for the fishing village of Dalyan. Once here those guests who wish have the option of joining a tour to Dalyan. The town of Dalyan with rock tombs mud baths is situated in the center of a delta and a amazing ancient city Caunos. We will anchor in the cove at Ekincik where we will enjoy our dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6 ADALI BAY-MANASTUR-TERSANE ISLAND (B-L-D)

In consideration of the usually rough seas of Disibilmez and Kurtoglu that we have to cross, today we will set sail earlier than normal and set off for the world-famous Fethiye Bay. We will anchor at Adalı Bay for breakfast. We sail on to Manastir (Monastery) Bay where we will enjoy our lunch and a swim. This place is known as Cleopatra Bay or Sunken Bath Bay due to the beautiful underwater ruins of an old bath. We will anchor at Tersane Island for dinner and an overnight stay. This naturally protected harbor was used as the shipyard in Byzantine and Ottoman times.

Day 7 KZIIL ISLAND-FETHIYE (B-L-D)

After breakfast, we will cruise to Kizil Island for lunch and a swim. On this, the fourth day of our cruise, we will arrive in Fethiye Harbor around 16:00. Fethiye, ancient Telmessos, ranked as the most important city situated on Lycia's western border with Caria. It is believed that the city's name comes from Apollo's son Telmessos. Fethiye stretches in a crescent along the bay that is protected by 12 Islands. Guests are free to visit the city center if wished. We will anchor in the Fethiye Harbor for our dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8 OLUDENIZ(DEAD SEA)-GEMILER ISLAND (B-L-D)

In the morning we start off towards Oludeniz, where our yacht will anchor for lunch and a swim. We set off again for our next stop: Gemiler Island, where those of who wish may visit the Church of St.Nicholas located in the upper reaches of the island. Dinner and an overnight stay will be in the Gemiler Strait.

Day 9 YASSICA ISLAND-DOMUZ ISLAND-AGA LIMANI (B-L-D)

Today we set off on a cruise that will take us past uniquely beautiful islands until we reach our destination: Yassica Island. Afterwards enjoying our stop, we will set sail to Domuz Island for a swim. We finally anchor at Aga Limani Bay for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 10 KUMLUBUKU-CENNET ISLAND-MARMARIS (B-L-D)

Today, we set off early in the morning for our cruise to Kumlubuk Bay, where we will enjoy our breakfast. We will anchor at Cennet Island for our last swim and lunch. We now head back towards Marmaris and will put down our anchor at around 16:00 for our last overnight stay. Following dinner, guests are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the city center and enjoy some of this small city's very lively night life.

Day 11 MARMARIS (B) After breakfast, the guests gather their belongings and their memories as we bid farewell to our cruise. Marmaris disembark and transfer to the Airport for your flight to Istanbul giving connection to the one for abroad or extending your stay with a sojourn in Istanbul.



PONTUS- BLACK SEA TOUR

Day 1 ISTANBUL -ANKARA (L-D)

Morning flight to Istanbul, giving connection to Ankara. Arrival at Ankara. Transfer to the hotel. Start sightseeing tour in Ankara, the capital of modern Turkey, located in the center of Anatolia. Angyra was its old name and built by Midas the King of Frigia and was conquered by the Lidian, then Alexander the Great, and then the Galates. (there is Paul famous letter to them) The next rulers Byzantines had to fight with many invasions and finally in 1169 it became Seldjukid. Ankara until the exchange of populations had Greek inhabitants and was a mitropolis. There was immigration from Pontus and from Cappadocia due to the railway. Greek quarters were in the Castel Region, there were two churches, one monastery and four schools. Continue with the visit the famous museum of Anatolian Civilizations (also called Hitite Museum) and the Castle. Lunch at a local restaurant and then visiting the Mausoleum of Ataturk (Anitkabir), founder of the Republic of Turkey. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Ankara.

Day 2 ANKARA - SAFRANBOLU (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Safranbolu. En route lunch. Arriving to Safranbolu whose history dates back to 3000 BC. Once a city of Roman Province of "Paphlagonia", Safranbolu has hosted many civilizations including the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman Empires throughout its history. During the Ottoman era the town served as an important junction on the Kastamonu - Gerede (Bolu)- Istanbul route of the famous silk road. Safranbolu was at the same time a popular residence for Ottoman Royalty close to the Sultan and Grand Viziers. Safranbolu displays its extremely rich historical and cultural heritage through 1008 architectural structures displaying a good example of Turkish architecture, all preserved in their original environment. These structures include the public buildings such as Cinci Hodja Kervansaray and Cinci Hodja Hamam, Mosques of Koprulu Mehmet and Izzet Mehmet Pashas, The Tanneries Clock tower, Old hospital premises, The guild of shoe makers, The Incekaya aqueduct, The old city hall and fountains as well as hundreds of private residences. Rock tombs and tumulus just outside the city are also of interest. In the town, there were in 1838 about 250 Christian houses, in 1903 about 500 Greek houses. At Cambaz and Utku Streets there are 3 houses, which owners were Greek. In Kirankoy there is still an old Greek village, Agios Stefanos Church (now Ulu Camii), the Eski Camii also could be before a Byzantine Church. Safranbolu was placed in the world Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO in appreciation of the successful efforts in the preservation of its heritage as a whole. Safranbolu has deserved its real name for its houses. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Safranbolu.



Day 3 SAFRANBOLU – KASTAMONU- AMASYA (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Kastamonu, the old Byzantine city Castamon, a lovely city hidden in the midst of forests in Anatolia. The beauty of the 12th century Byzantine castle at the foot of the hill welcomes you. During the Ottomans, in their last period, about hundred years before our day, the Kastamonu Vilayet included the Kastamonu, Bolu, Kengiri (Çankırı) and Sinop Sancaks. Agricultural products as tobacco, cereals were the main products. There were many Greeks and Armenians. In Kuzkaya at Kastamonu the Antimon mine concession was given to Vassilaki Sarakioti and Sarkis Tavitiyan. It has to be noted in this time that many concessions were given to Greek Ottomans, particularly to the Galata Bankers of Istanbul too, p.e. the Eregli Sirketi (Societe d'Heraclee 1891) exploitation of the mines, building

of the port, railways in Zonguldak, (Black Sea). Founders of the company were Yanko Ioanides, Leonidis Zarifi etc. The 13th century Atabey Mosque and the Ibni Neccar Mosque are worth visiting. In the village of Kasaba you will have the opportunity to see one of the most elegant wood carvings of Turkey, on the Mahmut Bey Mosque. Continue to Amasya, en route lunch. Amasya is one of the provinces in Central Anatolia of Turkey which is distinct both with its natural setup and historical values it holds. It was the homeland of the famous geographer Strabo. Located in a narrow cleft of the Yesilirmak (Iris) river, it has a past of 3000 years during which many civilizations left priceless remains of their times. On the rock faces there are impressive rock tombs of the Pontus kings, which contribute very much to the attractiveness of the city. At night, when they are illuminated, the view is unforgettable. Also, a Citadel of Hellenistic – Byzantine Ottoman Period. Amasia was for 200 years the capital of Pontus. There are traditional Turkish mansions which have been well-preserved showing the best examples of Turkish architecture. The 19th century Hazeranlar Mansion has been restored perfectly and now it is of great interest with an art gallery on its first floor and an ethnographical museum on the second. The Archaeological Museum of Amasya has an interesting collection including the mummies of the Ilhanli rulers of Amasya. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Amasya.

Day 4 AMASYA - TOKAT - SAMSUN (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Tokat, wandering in the city is an opportunity to catch a glimpse of life at old times, with the many historical buildings at the numerous ancient sites. The most important figure here, is the Ottoman Citadel of 28 towers, founded on a rocky hill overlooking the town. The Garipler Mosque dating to the 12th century and the Ali Pasa Mosque of 16th century constitute other sights worth visiting. One of Tokat's finest buildings is the Gök Medrese (Pervane Bey Darussifasi) which was constructed in 1270. It was founded as a school of theology, and is now converted into a museum, housing archaeological finds from the area. Two other notable monuments in this region, are the Hatuniye Medrese of the 15th century, built by Sultan Beyazıt, and a Seljuk bridge spanning the Yesilirmak River, belonging to the 12th century. The Latifoglu Mansion is still another, which is a traditional architecture of a Turkish house of the 19th century, restored recently to its original state. Lunch and then continue to Samsun. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Samsun.



Day 5 SAMSUN -GIRESUN (B-L-D)

After breakfast visit of Samsun, the antique Amisos. Samsun is situated between two river deltas jutting out into the Black Sea, north of Turkey. West of the town the Kizilirmak (the Red River), one of the longest rivers of Anatolia, produced its fertile delta, East of the town the Yesilirmak (the Green River), a river that passes some remarkable towns on its way to the sea, did the same. According to ancient myths the delta east of Samsun was the land of the Amazons. (See note about Amazons, att.1) What we know for sure is that Greek colonists settled in the 6th century BC and established a flourishing trade with the people of the interior of Asia Minor. In the 3rd century BC Samsun came under the rule of the expanding Kingdom of Pontus. Initially the Kingdom of Pontus had been a part of the empire of Alexander the Great that broke up soon after his death in the 4th century BC. At its zenith the Kingdom of Pontus controlled the north as well as parts of central Anatolia and merchant towns on the northern Black Sea shores. Here, on 19 May 1919, a man stepped ashore who would create a Turkish state, change a society and even alter a language; this great man was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Visit the old Greek quarters (stone houses), see the Catholic Church and visit the Museum Continue to Giresun. Lunch en route. In the 2nd century BC, the Roman General Lucullus, who came to the Ancient Kerasos, saw a delicious fruit here, and carried its trees back to his country. It was there then that the cherry (Kerasus) giving Giresun its name, spread all over the world. The Acropolis of the original Greek settlement surrounded by the traces of a Byzantine Citadel hosts an attractive park. (See note about Giresun Island, att. 3) Dinner and overnight at hotel in Giresun.

Day 6 GIRESUN / TRABZON (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Trabzon. This morning our visit will include the beautiful Ayasofya Museum, once a 13th century Byzantine church and Panaya Hrisokefeli. Sightseeing in the city to see the old churches now mosques as Agios Eugenius, St Anna, St Andrea etc. Then the Castle, the Zagnos Bridge and the Atatürk Residence (ex Konstantin Kapagiannidis Mansion) Lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Trabzon.

Day 7 TRABZON -MACKA -SUMELA -RIZE -TRABZON (B-L-D)

After breakfast start tour with Sumela Monastery, situated in a very beautiful and natural setting, built in the 14th century is nestled into the side of rocks in a famous valley in Maçka, only 50 kilometers away from Trabzon. The setting is 1200 meters above the sea level. Two Greek monks, Barnaby and Sophronios started the original building. The 7th century Icon apparently painted by an anonymous Trabzonite (Trabzon) artist became the symbol of the monastery. Some say that the name "Sumela" comes from the Greek word "melas" which means "black" and it refers to the characteristic dark color of this icon. But others say that "Melas is the name of the mountain above the monastery, "sou" in the Pontian Greek dialect means "at the", so Sumela (Sou + Mela) means "at the Melas (mountain). The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin and the large monastery complex had 5 floors and a total of 72 rooms. The upper floor was used as a gallery and a lookout post. The whole building was full of frescoes and the wall paintings. The large part of the building was hewn out of the rock. It stands in front of a beautiful valley scenery and sharp rocky mountains behind. Lunch and then continue with Rize. Rize is, 75 km east of Trabzon, is built on a mountain slope and covered with tea bushes which look like puffy green pillows. The vegetation is so dense in Rize that it is virtually impossible to see ground. The shoreline and hinterland possess myriad shades of green. Rize is famous the world over for its flora and tea. There about 20 flowers that are unique to the Rize area. The inner regions coming right to the shoreline, with mountains and plateaus, complete the picture while traditional villages and plateau houses blend in with nature to make an enriching contribution. See interesting mosques and typical village houses, the Castle. Return to Trabzon for dinner and overnight.



Day8 TRABZON /ISTANBUL(B)

After breakfast departure for airport. Flight to Istanbul

ATT 1 // AMAZONS: Antique period writers are saying that Amazon's country was at the Thermidon. At the city Themiskyra probably on today's Terme environs, east of Carsamba. The geographer Strabo (64 BC-21 AD) describes the Amazons as a people of female warriors. In order to shoot easily with bow and arrow they had one of their breast removed. Amazon is derived from the old Greek and means 'without breasts'. The Amazons used men from neighboring peoples to reproduce themselves and male children were sent to neighboring peoples. The myths situate the period of the Amazons about 1200 BC. Fiction or non fiction, fact is that the Amazons' myth spread again under the conquerors in South America. Along world's biggest river a people of female warriors should live. The female warriors were never found but the river was named the Amazon.

ATT 2 // SAMSUN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM: The construction of Archaeology – Ethnography Museum in the Fair area in Samsun began in 1976 and the Museum was opened to visit on May 19th, 1981. The Museum consists of a central hall was made in times of Alexander Severus (AC 222 – 235), the Rome Emperor and was restored in Byzantine Times at the end of AC 5th century. There are various mythological scenes on mosaic base made symmetrically. There is a scene in the middle related to the Troia war including Akhilleus and Thetis; there are some portraits reflecting the seasons on the panels located on each four corner of this scene; and Nereids and sea creatures are described in the rectangular panels among the seasons. Other than these figured scenes, there is a scene on a rectangular panel describing a sacrifice. The remaining parts of the above the Amisos treasury, which was found during digs carried out by the Museum Directorate in a grave of Amisos City, is also being exhibited in the central hall. The jewelry (crown, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, buttons, cloth ornaments, rings, etc..) which belong to a man, a woman, and a female child are the most interesting works of the museum. These Works that belong to the Hellenistic Period reflect the art and workmanship of those times. The coins of Classical, Hellenistic, Rome, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman and Republic periods are also being exhibited in this hall.

The Works of Calcolithic, First Bronze Age, Hittite, Hellenistic and Rome periods found in Samsun and its environs are being exhibited chronologically in the hall located at right side of the central hall. The bronze, bone, stone and cooked soil works of Calcolithic, First Bronze and Hitite ages, which are fund in archaeological digs carried out by Istanbul University in İkiztepe tumulus of İkiztepe Village in Bafra, carry a specific importance. Bronze lance tip embossed at both sides is one of the samples that show high levels of İkiztepe people in metal art. The skulls, which had operations that belong to the First Bronze Age and found in İkiztepe, constitute an interesting part of the museum. The naked athlete (AC 1st century copy of the original specific to BC 5th century) being exhibited in this hall is one of the most popular works of the museum. Among the Works exhibited in the other hall, there are ethnographic works transfered to the museum from Samsun, velvet, napkins, sleeved short jackets, money and clock bags, hand script Korans, ornaments, weapons, kitchen materials, carpets, matting, etc.

ATT 3 // GIRESun ISLAND: Giresun Island is the only substantial island of the Black Sea coast, lies 3 km to the east. This is the Aretias Island of Antiquity, where a flock of birds throwing their feathers like murderous darts attacked the Argonauts as they tried to land to pay their respects to a certain sacred rock. A ruined Greek monastery that occupies the holy site is the goal of a popular pilgrimage, which still takes place on May 20th. Crowds of participants sail around the island in boats and deposit the pebbles which they have brought from the mainland.



BLACK SEA AND SOUTH EAST TOUR

Day 1 -ISTANBUL- ANKARA (L-D)

Morning flight to Istanbul, giving connection to Ankara. Arrival at Ankara. Transfer to the hotel. Start sightseeing tour in Ankara, the capital of modern Turkey, located in the center of Anatolia. Angyra was its old name and built by Midas the King of Frigia and was conquered by the Lidian, then Alexander the Great, and then the Galates. (there is Paul famous letter to them) The next rulers Byzantines had to fight with many invasions and finally in 1169 it became Seldjukid. Ankara until the exchange of populations had Greek inhabitants and was a mitropolis. There was immigration from Pontus and from Cappadocia due to the railway. Greek quarters were in the Castel Region, there were two churches, one monastery and four schools. Continue with the visit the famous museum of Anatolian Civilizations (also called Hitite Museum) and the Castle. Lunch at a local restaurant and then visiting the Mausoleum of Ataturk (Anitkabir), founder of the Republic of Turkey. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Ankara.

Day 2 ANKARA -SAFRANBOLU (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Safranbolu. En route lunch. Arriving to Safranbolu whose history dates back to 3000 BC. Once a city of Roman Province of "Paphlagonia", Safranbolu has hosted many civilizations including the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman Empires throughout its history. During the Ottoman era the town served as an important junction on the Kastamonu - Gerede (Bolu)- Istanbul route of the famous silk road. Safranbolu was at the same time a popular residence for Ottoman Royalty close to the Sultan and Grand Viziers. Safranbolu displays its extremely rich historical and cultural heritage through 1008 architectural structures displaying a good example of Turkish architecture, all preserved in their original environment. These structures include the public buildings such as Cinci Hodja Kervansaray and Cinci Hodja Hamam, Mosques of Koprulu Mehmet and Izzet Mehmet Pashas, The Tennaries Clock tower, Old hospital premises, The guild of shoe makers, The Incekaya aqueduct, The old city hall and fountains as well as hundreds of private residences. Rock tombs and tumulus just outside the city are also of interest. In the town, there were in 1838 about 250 Christian houses, in 1903 about 500 Greek houses. At Cambaz and Utku Streets there are 3 houses, which owners were Greek. In Kirankoy there is still an old Greek village, Agios Stefanos Church (now Ulu Camii), the Eski Camii also could be before a Byzantine Church. Safranbolu was placed in the world Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO in appreciation of the successful efforts in the preservation of its heritage as a whole. Safranbolu has deserved its real name for its houses. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Safranbolu.

Day 3 SAFRANBOLU / KASTAMONU / AMASYA (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Kastamonu, the old Byzantine city Castamon, a lovely city hidden in the midst of forests in Anatolia. The beauty of the 12th century Byzantine castle at the foot of the hill welcomes you. During the Ottomans, in their last period, about hundred years before our day, the Kastamonu Vilayet included the Kastamonu, Bolu, Kengiri (Çankırı) and Sinop Sancaks. Agricultural products as tobacco, cereals were the main products. There were many Greeks and Armenians. In Kuzkaya at Kastamonu the Antimon mine concession was given to Vassilaki Sarakioti and Sarkis Tavitiyan. It has to be noted in this time that many concessions were given to Greek Ottomans, particularly to the Galata Bankers of Istanbul too, p.e. the Eregli Sirketi (Societe d'Heraclee 1891) exploitation of the mines, building of the port, railways in Zonguldak, (Black Sea). Founders of the company were Yanko Ioanides, Leonidis Zarifi etc. The 13th century Atabey Mosque and the Ibni Neccar Mosque are worth visiting. In the village of Kasaba you will have the opportunity to see one of the most elegant wood carvings of Turkey, on the Mahmut Bey Mosque. Continue to Amasya, en route lunch. Amasya is one of the provinces in



Central Anatolia of Turkey which is distinct both with its natural setup and historical values it holds. It was the homeland of the famous geographer Strabo. Located in a narrow cleft of the Yesilirmak (Iris) river, it has a past of 3000 years during which many civilizations left priceless remains of their times. On the rock faces there are impressive rock tombs of the Pontus kings, which contribute very much to the attractiveness of the city. At night, when they are illuminated, the view is unforgettable. Also, a Citadel of Hellenistic – Byzantine Ottoman Period. Amasia was for 200 years the capital of Pontus. There are traditional Turkish mansions which have been well-preserved showing the best examples of Turkish architecture. The 19th century Hazeranlar Mansion has been restored perfectly and now it is of great interest with an art gallery on its first floor and an ethnographical museum on the second. The Archaeological Museum of Amasya has an interesting collection including the mummies of the Ilhanli rulers of Amasya.
Dinner and overnight at hotel in Amasya.

Day 4 AMASYA- TOKAT-SAMSUN (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Tokat, wandering in the city is an opportunity to catch a glimpse of life at old times, with the many historical buildings at the numerous ancient sites. The most important figure here, is the Ottoman Citadel of 28 towers, founded on a rocky hill overlooking the town. The Garipler Mosque dating to the 12th century and the Ali Pasa Mosque of 16th century constitute other sights worth visiting. One of Tokat's finest buildings is the Gök Medrese (Pervane Bey Darussifasi) which was constructed in 1270. It was founded as a school of theology, and is now converted into a museum, housing archaeological finds from the area. Two other notable monuments in this region, are the Hatuniye Medrese of the 15th century, built by Sultan Beyazit, and a Seljuk bridge spanning the Yesilirmak River, belonging to the 12th century. The Latifoglu Mansion is still another, which is a traditional architecture of a Turkish house of the 19th century, restored recently to its original state. Lunch and then continue to Samsun.

Dinner and overnight at hotel in Samsun.

Day 5 SAMSUN - GIRESUN (B-L-D)

After breakfast visit of Samsun, the antique Amisos. Samsun is situated between two river deltas jutting out into the Black Sea, north of Turkey. West of the town the Kizilirmak (the Red River), one of the longest rivers of Anatolia, produced its fertile delta, East of the town the Yesilirmak (the Green River), a river that passes some remarkable towns on its way to the sea, did the same. According to ancient myths the delta east of Samsun was the land of the Amazons. (See note about Amazons, att.1) What we know for sure is that Greek colonists settled in the 6th century BC and established a flourishing trade with the people of the interior of Asia Minor. In the 3rd century BC Samsun came under the rule of the expanding Kingdom of Pontus. Initially the Kingdom of Pontus had been a part of the empire of Alexander the Great that broke up soon after his death in the 4th century BC. At its zenith the Kingdom of Pontus controlled the north as well as parts of central Anatolia and merchant towns on the northern Black Sea shores. Here, on 19 May 1919, a man stepped ashore who would create a Turkish state, change a society and even alter a language; this great man was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Visit the old Greek quarters (stone houses), see the Catholic Church and visit the Museum Continue to Giresun. Lunch en route. In the 2nd century BC, the Roman General Lucullus, who came to the Ancient Kerasos, saw a delicious fruit here, and carried its trees back to his country. It was there then that the cherry (Kerasus) giving Giresun its name, spread all over the world. The Acropolis of the original Greek settlement surrounded by the traces of a Byzantine Citadel hosts an attractive park. (See note about Giresun Island, att. 3)

Dinner and overnight at hotel in Giresun.



Day 6 GİRESUN - TRABZON (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Trabzon. This morning our visit will include the beautiful Ayasofya Museum, once a 13th century Byzantine church and Panaya Hrisokefeli. Sightseeing in the city to see the old churches now mosques as Agios Eugenius, St Anna, St Andrea etc. Then the Castle, the Zagnos Bridge and the Ataturk Residence (ex Konstantin Kapagiannidis Mansion) Lunch at a local restaurant.

Dinner and overnight at hotel in Trabzon.

Day 7 TRABZON – MACKA- SUMELA – RIZE- TRABZON (B-L-D)

After breakfast start tour with Sumela Monastery, situated in a very beautiful and natural setting, built in the 14th century is nestled into the side of rocks in a famous valley in Maçka, only 50 kilometers away from Trabzon. The setting is 1200 meters above the sea level. Two Greek monks, Barnaby and Sophronios started the original building. The 7th century Icon apparently painted by an anonymous Trabzon artist became the symbol of the monastery. Some say that the name "Sumela" comes from the Greek word "melas" which means "black" and it refers to the characteristic dark color of this icon. But others say that "Melas is the name of the mountain above the monastery, "sou" in the Pontian Greek dialect means "at the", so Sumela (Sou + Mela) means "at the Melas (mountain). The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin and the large monastery complex had 5 floors and a total of 72 rooms. The upper floor was used as a gallery and a lookout post. The whole building was full of frescoes and the wall paintings. The large part of the building was hewn out of the rock. It stands in front of a beautiful valley scenery and sharp rocky mountains behind. Lunch and then continue with Rize. Rize is, 75 km east of Trabzon, is built on a mountain slope and covered with tea bushes which look like puffy green pillows. The vegetation is so dense in Rize that it is virtually impossible to see ground. The shoreline and hinterland possess myriad shades of green. Rize is famous the world over for its flora and tea. There about 20 flowers that are unique to the Rize area. The inner regions coming right to the shoreline, with mountains and plateaus, complete the picture while traditional villages and plateau houses blend in with nature to make an enriching contribution. See interesting mosques and typical village houses, the Castle. Return to Trabzon for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 TRABZON -ADANA (B-L-D)

Breakfast at hotel. After lunch departure for airport. Flight to Adana.

Arrival to Adana. Drive to Tarsus, the native town of St. Paul, see St. Paul and Cleopatra arches. Dinner and overnight in Adana.

Day 9 ADANA-ANTAKYA-ISKENDERUN (B-L-D)

After breakfast departure for Antakya. We proceed to **Antioch-On-The-Orontes**-a city thought to have been founded by Seleucos in 300 BC due to its geographical position. **Antioch** (or present day, **Antakya**) became a melting pot of the Hellenistic and Oriental words. Its prosperity and mild climate turned the Antiochenes into people who welcomed all kinds of new ideas. Due to these conditions it was not difficult for a new religion to gather plenty of adherents among the Gentiles of Antioch. The word "Christians" was first coined here. St. Paul, St Peter and Barnabas were very effective in converting the people to Christianity. Following the Romans The Byzantines gave a great importance to Antioch which became an active center of the Church of Orient. Your city sightseeing includes visits to the **Museum of Antioch** which houses a superb collection of mosaics found in Antioch, **Daphne**, **Seleucia Pieria** to see the two rock tombs, the Tunnel of Titus and **St. Peters Grotto** – a cave church known as the meeting place of the early Christians.

Lunch and then continue to **Iskenderun, the old Alexandretta**, founded by Alexander the Great after his Issos victory. In 1097, on the first crusade conquered by the crusaders Alexandretta was included in the principality of Antioch. Dinner and overnight in Iskenderun.



Day 10 ISKENDERUN-GAZIANTEP-SANLIURFA (B-L-D)

Drive to Sanliurfa, on the way short visit to **Gaziantep** and its museum to admire the new mosaic findings in **Zeugma** (the Seleucia Euphrates- one of the four major cities of the Kingdom of Commagene during the 1st century BC and Lunch . Drive to **Sanliurfa**, the old Edessa, a testimony of the Bible and of Alexander the Great, one of the oldest Babylonian cities, an important stage on the “**Fertile Crescent**” route from the Mediterranean shore to Upper Mesopotamia. Sanliurfa claims the distinction of being the birth place of Abraham. We will visit the **Crusaders Fortress**, the **Callirhoe Fountain** & the **Mosque of Halil Rahman**. Dinner and overnight in Sanliurfa.

Day 11 SANLIURFA-HARRAN-ADIYAMAN (B-L-D)

Our scenic drive to **Adiyaman** this morning takes us via picturesque Harran. Lunch en route. Harran, the village with its curious domed dwellings referred in the Genesis XI.31.32:XII.4.5.It was here where Abraham spent several years of his life. Here was the site of the **Temple of Sin** (known also as the first University), famous throughout the ancient world for its star readers and savants. The importance of the moon and of astrology/ astronomy for the people of Mesopotamia can be inferred from the fact that their Magi (priests) studied in detail the phases of the moon, attempting to predict the future. It was probably from them that Thales of Miletus learnt to predict the eclipse of the sun. The GAP Project on Euphrates and Tiger is expected to realize 22 dam and 17 hydroelectric power plants. In the story of Adam and Eve, the Bible describes the original perfect home of the human race where God planted a garden out of which four streams flowed, the Pishon, the Gihon, the Tigris and the Euphrates. The Koran parallels the Biblical account. See on route The Assyrian Church of St Paul and St Peter. Dinner and overnight in Adiyaman.

Day 12 NEMRUT-ADIYAMAN (B-L-D)

We leave very early in the morning for **Nemrut** where King Anthiochus I of Commagene built a colossal funerary sanctuary of 16 giant statues each 10m in height, a temple dedicated to himself, to the Greco-Persian gods and to his Persian ancestors. The East & West terraces have a central courtyard surrounded with colossal statues of lions, eagles etc. Colossal statues of seated figures are **Apollo, Hermes, Zeus and Hercules**. Sunrise from the top of **Mt. Nemrut** will be incomparable to anything you have seen before. Once there dominating the West and the East, the Megaalexandrian dream of Antiochus will look very natural to you. Lunch. Dinner and overnight in Adiyaman.

Day 13 ADIYAMAN-ISTANBUL (B)

After breakfast early departure for airport.
Flight to Istanbul.

ATT 1 // AMAZONS: Antique period writers are saying that Amazon’s country was at the Thermidon. At the city Themiskyra probably on today’s Terme environs, east of Carsamba. The geographer Strabo (64 BC-21 AD) describes the Amazons as a people of female warriors. In order to shoot easily with bow and arrow they had one of their breast removed. Amazon is derived from the old Greek and means 'without breasts'. The Amazons used men from neighboring peoples to reproduce themselves and male children were sent to neighboring peoples. The myths situate the period of the Amazons about 1200 BC. Fiction or non fiction, fact is that the Amazons' myth spread again under the conquerors in South America. Along world's biggest river a people of female warriors should live. The female warriors were never found but the river was named the Amazon.



ATT 2 // SAMSUN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM: The construction of Archaeology – Ethnography Museum in the Fair area in Samsun began in 1976 and the Museum was opened to visit on May 19th, 1981. The Museum consists of a central hall was made in times of Alexander Severus (AC 222 – 235), the Rome Emperor and was restored in Byzantine Times at the end of AC 5th century. There are various mythological scenes on mosaic base made symmetrically. There is a scene in the middle related to the Troia war including Akhilleus and Thetis; there are some portraits reflecting the seasons on the panels located on each four corner of this scene; and Nereids and sea creatures are described in the rectangular panels among the seasons. Other than these figured scenes, there is a scene on a rectangular panel describing a sacrifice. The remaining parts of the above the Amisos treasury, which was found during digs carried out by the Museum Directorate in a grave of Amisos City, is also being exhibited in the central hall. The jewelry (crown, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, buttons, cloth ornaments, rings, etc..) which belong to a man, a woman, and a female child are the most interesting works of the museum. These Works that belong to the Hellenistic Period reflect the art and workmanship of those times. The coins of Classical, Hellenistic, Rome, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman and Republic periods are also being exhibited in this hall.

The Works of Calcolithic, First Bronze Age, Hittite, Hellenistic and Rome periods found in Samsun and its environs are being exhibited chronologically in the hall located at right side of the central hall. The bronze, bone, stone and cooked soil works of Calcolithic, First Bronze and Hitite ages, which are fund in archaeological digs carried out by Istanbul University in İkiztepe tumulus of İkiztepe Village in Bafra, carry a specific importance. Bronze lance tip embossed at both sides is one of the samples that show high levels of İkiztepe people in metal art. The skulls, which had operations that belong to the First Bronze Age and found in İkiztepe, constitute an interesting part of the museum. The naked athlete (AC 1st century copy of the original specific to BC 5th century) being exhibited in this hall is one of the most popular works of the museum. Among the Works exhibited in the other hall, there are ethnographic works transfered to the museum from Samsun, velvet, napkins, sleeved short jackets, money and clock bags, hand script Korans, ornaments, weapons, kitchen materials, carpets, matting, etc.

ATT 3 // GİRESUN ISLAND: Giresun Island is the only substantial island of the Black Sea coast, lies 3 km to the east. This is the Aretias Island of Antiquity, where a flock of birds throwing their feathers like murderous darts attacked the Argonauts as they tried to land to pay their respects to a certain sacred rock. A ruined Greek monastery that occupies the holy site is the goal of a popular pilgrimage, which still takes place on May 20th. Crowds of participants sail around the island in boats and deposit the pebbles which they have brought from the mainland.



CLASSICAL SITES OF THE SOUTH-WEST

Day 1 IZMIR (D)

Evening arrival and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel

Day 2 IZMIR-PERGAMON-IZMIR (B-D)

After breakfast we will drive to **Pergamon**. We will visit the **Acropol**, the steepest theatre of the ancient world, **The Temple of Trojan** and the **Library**. From here we continue with visits to the ancient healing center of **Asclepion** and the **Red Basilica**, which is one of the **Seven Churches of the Revelation**. In the Asclepion special short lecture on Galenus based on the researches and articles prepared by Karavan for the planned International Congress on Galenus in Izmir in cooperation with the Aegean University. We will drive back to Izmir for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 3 IZMIR-SARDIS-IZMIR (B-D)

After breakfast, drive to **Sardis**, the capital of ancient Lydia which also ranked as one of the Seven Sister Churches and as a center of importance for various religious groups. Here we visit the temple of Cybele and Diana (which later became a church), the beautiful synagogue, and the gymnasium. Drive to Izmir, the Gas factory, the former British Railways Station and old houses, British Consulate, St John Anglican Church, the former Tobacco Regie-The former San Antonio-ex British Navy Hospital- The Fair Grounds. Visit the Arcas Museum lecture from the Curator Jean Luc Maeso - visit **Agora**, one of the greatest Roman Agora and Kordon the sea front the Famous Quais of Smyrna. Lecture by a levantine specialist based on the Secret Cultural Gems of Izmir - Levantine Culture written by our President Alex Baltazzi. <http://www.izmirkulturturizmi.com/en/levanten.html>. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 4 IZMIR-EPHESUS-SELÇUK (B)

After breakfast we will drive to the vast ruins of the ancient city of **Ephesus**. Our first stop will be at the **Basilica of St. John**, who came here with the Virgin Mary and wrote his Gospel. Once in the ancient city itself we will explore this ancient Roman city and visit the **Library of Celcius**, **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Theatre** and **Odeon** etc. Lecture by the Ephesus Museum Director. Drive the short distance to the **House of the Virgin Mary**, a site that includes a house and garden and the spot where she is believed to have spent her last years. We continue to Selçuk for the overnight.

Day 5 SELÇUK-PRIENE-MİLETOS-DİDYMA-SELÇUK (B)

After breakfast we will visit to Miletus, Priene and Didyma are among Anatolia's best preserved Ionian cities. Our first stop will be to **Priene** which ruins are generally conceded to be the most spectacular surviving example of an entire greek city constructed of marble and intact except for the ravages of time. See the Acropolis, the Agora, Gymnasium and Roman Baths.

Miletus: which was the site of the Greek philosophical and scientific tradition (the Milesian School) with Thales followed by Anaximander and Anaximenes. Miletus was also visited by St. Paul and is also the birth place of Isidoros architect of St. Sophia of Istanbul. See the Sacred Way with the Ionic Stoa, the Theatre, Baths of Faustina etc



Didyma: The largest and most significant sanctuary on the territory of the great classical city of Miletus containing a Temple and Oracle of Apollo which was next to Delphi the most renowned one. We see the the three giant Ionic columns of 60 feet tall remain intact from the 122 ones and other vestiges. Overnight at our hotel in Selcuk

Day 6 SELCUK (B)

Optional Sirince Village Tour. We will continue our visit with The village of Sirince .This pretty old Orthodox village, 12 km away from Ephesus and 30 km from Kusadasi, was once Cirkince ("ugly"). Indeed its habitants gave this name on purpose as they did not want to be bothered by foreigners nor to share the beauty of their village. Still after years, visitors understood that the village was not ugly at all and called it Sirince ("pretty"). As the village is located on the top of a mountain, anyone will enjoy the impressive wine yards' and peach trees' views on his way. Today the village is a perfect synthesis of Turk-Greek culture as of the 1920's: after the Independence War, people exchange between Greek and Turks has occurred and all those typical Greek houses, though they kept their original outside characteristics, have received the local layout inside. The most beautiful specimens are open to visitors. And even in the courtyard of one of them, one will discover a nicely restored Orthodox church. All the narrow streets of the village belong to the women, selling handcrafts of all kinds, olive oil. Another attraction of Sirince is its wine: try its taste in small cafés or in the former municipal school restored. Though Sirince is developing its tourism very quickly, it has been able to preserve its authenticity and the meaning of its name.

Drive to **Camlik** (old name Aziziye) which was an important station of Aydın British Railways in the past. We still can see some old mansions belonging to the British managers.
overnight at hotel

Day 7 SELCUK-APHRODISIAS-HIERAPOLIS-PAMUKKALE (B-D)

After breakfast, we will drive to **Aphrodisias**. We will visit to the Greco-Romen settlement which is remarkably well preserved. The ancient city is dedicated to the Goddess of Love, Aphrodite. Then we will drive to **Pamukkale "the Cotton Castle"** with its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside. After enjoying our visit to this site of natural beauty we go the the adjacent ruins of antique **Hierapolis** with its famous **Necropolis, Basilica, Theatre** and **Plutonium**. Lecture by ithe Director of the Italian excavations Prof. Francesco d'ANDRIA from the Universita dei Studi di Lecce who also last year discovered the tomb of St. Philip. <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/how-i-discovered-the-tomb-of-the-apostle-philip>
Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 8 PAMUKKALE-TERMESOS-ANTALYA (B-D)

We depart from hotel at and head for **Termessos** where you will admire the imposing Termessos ancient site and Gymnasium. We will also visit Ancient Theatre, Bouletution, Odeion Temples, Cisterms and Rock Tombs. Termessos was a Pisidian city built at an altitude of more than 1000 meters at the south-west side of the mountain Solymos (modern day Güllük Dağı) in the Taurus Mountains (modern day Antalya province, Turkey). It lies 30 kilometres to the north-west of Antalya. It was founded on a natural platform on top of Güllük Dagi, soaring to a height of 1.665 metres from among the surrounding travertine mountains of Antalya, which average only 200 metres above sea level. Termessos is one of the best preserved of the ancient cities of Turkey, constitutes an unusual synthesis of a large number of rare plants and animal species which are under protection in the Termessos National Park, concealed by a multitude of wild plants and bounded by dense pine forests, the site, with its peaceful and untouched appearance, has a more distinct and impressive atmosphere than other ancient cities. We drive to Antalya. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.



Day 9 ANTALYA-PERGE-ASPENDOS-ANTALYA (B-D)

After breakfast, short sightseeing in Antalya and visiting **Antalya Museum**. We will continue our tour with the visit of **Perge** and **Aspendos**. Perge is a grand exhibit of what an ancient Greek and Roman city looked like. Records date it back as far as the 4th BC. It was visited by Greek colonists after the Trojan War, by St. Paul and companions when it was one of the leading cities of Pamphylia and fell under the leadership of Alexander the Great later conquered. Byzantines. Aspendos is the major port city in the Roman period with the navigable river nearby. There is no doubt that Aspendos theatre most striking component is the stage building. On the lower floor of this two-storey structure, which is built of conglomerate rock, were five doors providing the actors entrance to the stage. The large door at the centre was known as the porta regia, and the two smaller ones on either side as the porta hospitales.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 10 ISTANBUL (B)

After breakfast transfer to Antalya Airport for flight to London via Istanbul.



ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATION TOUR

Day 1 IZMIR (D)

Arrival to Izmir . Dinner and Overnight in Izmir .

Day 2 IZMIR-PERGAMUM-IZMIR(B-L-D)

After breakfast we will drive to **Pergamon**. We will visit the **Acropol**, the steepest theatre of the ancient world, **The Temple of Trojan** and the **Library**. From here we continue with visits to the ancient healing center of **Asclepion** and the **Red Basilica**, which is one of the **Seven Churches of the Revelation**. We will drive back to Izmir for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 3 IZMIR-EPHESUS-SIRINCE-KUSADASI(B-L-D)

After breakfast we will drive to the vast ruins of the ancient city of **Ephesus**. Our first stop will be at the **Basilica of St. John**, who came here with the Virgin Mary and wrote his Gospel. Once in the ancient city itself we will explore this ancient Roman city and visit the **Library of Celcius**, **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Theatre** and **Odeon** etc. Drive the short distance to the **House of the Virgin Mary**, a site that includes a house and garden and the spot where she is believed to have spent her last years. We will continue our visit with The village of Sirince .This pretty old Greek village, 12 km away from Ephesus and 30 km from Kusadasi, was once Cirkince ("ugly"). Indeed its habitants gave this name on purpose as they did not want to be bothered by foreigners nor to share the beauty of their village.Still after years, visitors understood that the village was not ugly at all and called it Sirince ("pretty"). As the village is located on the top of a mountain, anyone will enjoy the impressive wine yards' and peach trees' views on his way. Today the village is a perfect synthesis of Turk-Greek culture as of the 1920's: after the Independence War, people exchange between Greek and Turks has occurred and all those typical Greek houses, though they kept their original outside characteristics, have received the local layout inside. The most beautiful specimens are open to visitors. And even in the courtyard of one of them, one will discover a nicely restored Orthodox church. All the narrow streets of the village belong to the women, selling handcrafts of all kinds, olive oil. Another attraction of Sirince is its wine: try its taste in small cafés or in the former municipal school restored. Though Sirince is developing its tourism very quickly, it has been able to preserve its authenticity and the meaning of its name.

Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi

Day 4 KUSADASI-IASSOS-MILAS-BODRUM (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to lasos to visit this new excavated area, with its Necropolis, Bouleterion, Temples, House of Mosaics, Funeral Monuments, Antiquarium et. Drive to Milas, lunch and visit the excavations and the Milas Museum with the tomb of the King Hecatominos.

Dinner and overnight in Bodrum

Day 5 BODRUM-APHRODISIAS-PAMUKKALE(B-L-D)

After breakfast short sighthseeing of Bodrum, the old Hallicarnassos of Caria ,St Peter Castle etc. Departure for Aphrodisias. The City of the Goddess Aphrodite, visit the ruins including the unique Stadium and the beautiful statues from the famous sculpture school of Aphrodisias. Lunch. Continue to Pamukkale. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.



Day 6 PAMUKKALE-HIERAPOLIS (B-L-D)

We start our visit at Pamukkale site of ancient Hierapolis and famous for as its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside, visit the new excavations of the marble road, the Theatre in the process of restoration, the Commercial Agora, the Nymphaeum Necropolis where it was discovered the tomb of St. Philip and basilica. Lunch and an opportunity to swim in the warm thermal waters Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale

Day 7 PAMUKKALE-SAGALASSOS-ANTALYA(B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Sagalassos, Conquered by Alexander the Great in 333 BC, Sagalassos flourished after joining the Roman Empire in 25 BC. The city was an export center for pottery and agricultural products throughout antiquity. Named the Metropolis of Pisidia, Sagalassos underwent a period of unprecedented building activity that began during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) and endowed the city with the monuments visitors see today. The city declined after earthquakes and a plague in the 600s. Sagalassos survives today in Aĝlasun, whose name is derived from the ancient city. Aĝlasun was established in the 13th century under the Selçuk dynasty, when a caravansaray and hamam were built near the current town square. It was a thriving center in the 16th century, when it hosted a regional market. Today at Sagalassos visitors can see an impressive ancient city square (agora) with a restored and functioning monumental fountain, gateway arches and 13m high honorary columns. The site features a huge Roman bath complex, library, urban mansion with more than 80-rooms, and theatre with seating for up to 9000 people, as well as other monuments from the city's 1000-year history. Drive to Antalya.

Dinner and overnight in Antalya

Day 8 PERGE-ASPENDOS-SIDE-ANTALYA(B-L-D)

After breakfast, short sightseeing in Antalya and visiting **Antalya Museum**. We will continue our tour with the visit of **Perge** and **Aspendos**. Perge is a grand exhibit of what an ancient Greek and Roman city looked like. Records date it back as far as the 4th BC. It was visited by Greek colonists after the Trojan War, by St. Paul and companions when it was one of the leading cities of Pamphylia and fell under the leadership of Alexander the Great later conquered. Byzantines. Aspendos is the major port city in the Roman period with the navigable river nearby. There is no doubt that Aspendos theatre most striking component is the stage building. On the lower floor of this two-storey structure, which is built of conglomerate rock, were five doors providing the actors entrance to the stage. The large door at the centre was known as the porta regia, and the two smaller ones on either side as the porta hospitals.

Side was the site of Pamphylia's largest port and was probably first colonized in the 7th BC. Coming from Cyprus St. Paul would have entered the ancient port en route to Perge. The great ruins are among the most notable in Asia Minor. They cover a large promontory where a wall and a mote separate it from the mainland. During medieval times, the wall and mote were repaired and the promontory houses a wealth of structures. There are colossal ruins of a theater complex built much like a Roman .

Dinner and overnight in Antalya



Day 9 TERMESSOS-ANTALYA(B-L-D)

We depart from hotel at and head for **Termessos** where you will admire the imposing Termessos ancient site and Gymnasium. We will also visit Ancient Theatre, Bouletution, Odeion Temples, Cisterns and Rock Tombs. Termessos was a Pisidian city built at an altitude of more than 1000 meters at the south-west side of the mountain

Solymos (modern day Güllük Dağı) in the Taurus Mountains (modern day Antalya province, Turkey). It lies 30 kilometres to the north-west of Antalya. It was founded on a natural platform on top of Güllük Dağı, soaring to a

height of 1.665 metres from among the surrounding travertine mountains of Antalya, which average only 200 metres above sea level. Termessos is one of the best preserved of the ancient cities of Turkey, constitutes an unusual synthesis of a large number of rare plants and animal species which are under protection in the Termessos National Park, concealed by a multitude of wild plants and bounded by dense pine forests, the site, with its peaceful and untouched appearance, has a more distinct and impressive atmosphere than other ancient cities. We drive to Antalya. Dinner and overnight in Antalya

Day 10 Istanbul (B)

After breakfast transfer to Antalya Airport for Istanbul.



WEST AND CENTRAL TURKEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

INTRODUCTION

The Italian Archaeological Missions are the most active missions in Turkey (see att. Map) and have done until now an excellent work and findings as the tomb of St. Philip in Hierapolis etc.

We have traced an itinerary including many of them and as indicated we are able on request to assure lectures by the Head of these Missions.

ITINERARY

Day 1 ISTANBUL-IZMIR (D)

Arrival to Izmir. Dinner and overnight in Izmir

Day 2 KYME-PERGAMON-IZMIR (B-L-D)

After breakfast a short sightseeing in Izmir. Drive to Kyme www.kyme.info to visit the new excavated area of the ancient capital of Aeolis. Visit the famous Harbour and its fortifications, the Theatre etc. **Lecture on request** by the head of the Italian archaeological mission Prof. Antonio La Marca of the University of Catania. After lunch continue to Pergamon, the capital of the powerful Attalids visit the Acropolis with its magnificent ruins and the famous Asklepion. Return to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

Day 3 IZMIR-EPHESUS-IASSOS-MILAS-BODRUM (B-L-D)

Early departure for Ephesus, and a visit of its imposing ruins. Lunch en route. Continue to Iassos to visit this new excavated area, with its Necropolis, Bouleuterion, Temples, House of Mosaics, Funeral Monuments, Antiquarium etc. Drive to Milas, lunch and visit the excavations and the Milas Museum with the tomb of the King Hecatomnos. **Lecture on request** by Marcello Spanu of the Università della Tuscia (Viterbo). Drive to Bodrum dinner and overnight.

Day 4 BODRUM-APHRODISIAS-PAMUKKALE (B-L-D)

After breakfast short sightseeing of Bodrum, the old Halicarnassos of Caria, St Peter Castle etc. Departure for Aphrodisias. The City of the Goddess Aphrodite, visit the ruins including the unique Stadium and the beautiful statues from the famous sculpture school of Aphrodisias. Lunch. Continue to Pamukkale. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 5 PAMUKKALE-HIERAPOLIS-PAMUKKALE (B-L-D)

We start our visit at Pamukkale site of ancient Hierapolis and famous for its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside, visit the new excavations of the marble road, the Theatre in the process of restoration, the Commercial Agora, the Nymphaeum, the Necropolis and the Basilica. **Lecture on request** by the Director of the Italian excavations Prof. Francesco d'ANDRIA from the Università di Lecce who also last year discovered the tomb of St. Philip. Lunch and an opportunity to swim in the warm thermal waters. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale



Day 6 (B-D) Fly from Denizli to Istanbul

Day 7 ISTANBUL (B-L-D)

Full day visit of Istanbul including, St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and the Archaeological Museum. After lunch, a visit to Suleymaniye, Kariye and the Grand Bazaar. Dinner and overnight.

Day 8 Departure (B)

Another Extension alternative;

Day 6 PAMUKKALE-KONYA (B-L-D)

After breakfast, an early departure to **Konya** with a visit to the **Sultanhan Caravansarai** on the way. After lunch arrival at Konya. A well-known religious city, center of the Sufism and of the whirling derviches. His story goes to the prehistoric age when the Hitite Empire was destroyed, the Phrygians build around 1200 AD a city in the location of the actual Konya. Later on, the Persians took it, but with Alexander's the Great conquest, the city became a possession of his General Lysimachus, then of the Romans and of the Byzantines. Konya known also with the name "Iconium" has been visited by St Paul and St Barnabas and was an important trading center of the silk road. The Turk Selçuks conquered it around 1087 and the Osmanlı in 1466. Today is the largest province of the Republic and a place of Muslim and Christian Pilgrimage. Lunch and Visit the Mevlana Mausoleum, 13th century whirling dervish monastery
Dinner and overnight in Konya

Day 7 KONYA-NIGDE –TYANA(TUWANA)-CAPPADOCIA (B-L-D)

Tuwana, a forgotten kingdom of Tuwana - a new discovery from a pre-classical age. A site mainly involving the beginning of the first millenium B.C. **Lecture on request** by Prof. Guido Rosada Università degli Studi di Padova. Lunch. Continue to Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia

Day 8 CAPPADOCIA (B-L-D)

After breakfast visit Uchisar with its natural fortress from which you have a very nice and general view on Cappadoce where nature has created an incredible strange colorful world of cones, chimneys, columns, and needless shapes from volcanic tuff, some of which are 100 feet high. Here too the famous Christian Troglodyte Churches with their historical frescoes. After lunch, continue to the Open Air Museum of Goreme and visit the Early Christian Rock Churches as the Paraklisi of Aya Varvara, the Eklisies Ton Spathion and to Stefanon, as well as the Skotini, Tis Miliyas, Ton Sandalion ecc. Continue to Zelve which was an important Christian center as from the IX to the XII century and then to Avanos. Visit the shopping area which is known for its handicrafts, like carpets, kilims, onyx and pottery. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 9 CAPPADOCIA (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Ihlara Valley, a canyon has been formed from the lavas of Hasan Dağ and the Melendiz Çay (the Old Potamos Kapaducus). The valley is 14 km long and there are many churches as Kokar, Yılanlı, Ağaçalı, with frescoes of Byzantine and East influence. After Ihlara, visit the Derinkuyu Underground City where early Christians hid

from prosecutors. Lunch. **Lecture on request** by Prof Maria Andaloro Università degli Studi della Tuscia di Viterbo on the mural paintings of the rock churches of Cappadocia.

Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 (B) Fly to Istanbul to connect your flight abroad or for a stay in Istanbul.



IZMIR LEVANTINE HERITAGE TOUR AND LEVANTINE SYMPOSIUM

We are considered the specialists. Our President Alex Baltazzi is the author of the Levantine Culture section in the Secret Cultural Gems of Izmir web <http://www.izmirkulturturizmi.com/en/levanten.html> a publication of the Municipality giving a detailed picture on the many visits and tours that can be organized by Karavan. Mr Baltazzi an expert on this subject is also writer of many articles in the Levantine Heritage site <http://www.levantineheritage.com/testi44.htm> and in the Izmir Encyclopedia which will be published soon.

LEVANTINE SYMPOSIUM

We have been the first to organize a very successful Levantine Symposium in 2010 in IZMIR and we are planning to organize the 2nd one in 2014 in Izmir as well as in Istanbul. See pls attached a preliminary advance program on Izmir and an image from the Symposium of 2010



Levantine Symposium, Izmir 2010



2ND LEVANTINE SYMPOSIUM OF IZMIR

**AN INFORMAL HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM IN
IZMIR (31 OCTOBER 2014)
with an optional visit to CHIOS (2 – 3 NOVEMBER 2014)**



**Who were the merchants of the Aegean region?
Where did they live? Who are their descendants? What is their legacy?**

Many people have heard of the Genoese *maonas*, or trading companies. The word *maona* is derived from the Arabic *maounach*, which is best translated as “help” or “helping each other.” The *maonas* were used very successfully by the Republic of Genoa to enlarge its dominions in the Levant from the 14th century onwards, and are amongst the earliest examples of modern European shareholding companies. This symposium will focus on the *maonas* and other trading and business networks in the Aegean region, as well as on the individuals who created them. Special emphasis will be placed on current research into the genealogy and social history of families with origins in Genoa, Chios, Smyrna and the Aegean Islands.

You are cordially invited to participate in a one-day Symposium and a series of organised visits to historical sites in Izmir and Chios. Individuals who wish to participate in the Symposium are asked to submit the title and a brief synopsis of their intended presentations by **31 January 2014 (see page 3)**.



2ND LEVANTINE SYMPOSIUM OF IZMIR

**AN INFORMAL HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM IN
IZMIR (31 OCTOBER 2014)
with an optional visit to CHIOS (2 – 3 NOVEMBER 2014)**

LANGUAGES OF CHOICE: ENGLISH AND FRENCH, WITH TURKISH IN IZMIR AND GREEK IN CHIOS

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Greece: George Poulimenos g.poulim@gmail.com

France: Jacques Caporal jacquescaporal@gmail.com and
Marie Anne Marandet marieannemarandet@hotmail.com

UK, The Commonwealth, USA: George Galdies george.galdies@btconnect.com and
George Vassiadis vassiadis@yahoo.co.uk

Switzerland, Italy: Jérôme Muniglia jmuniglia@yahoo.it

Turkey: alexaltazzi@karavantravel.com

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE EMAIL ANY OF THE ABOVE

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME:

| Date | Event |
|---------------------------|--|
| Thursday, 30 October 2014 | Arrival of symposium participants in Izmir (those participants who wish to arrive earlier may do so) |
| Friday, 31 October 2014 | Full-day Symposium in Izmir followed by an informal dinner |
| Saturday, 1 November 2014 | Half-day Izmir sightseeing |
| Sunday, 2 November 2014 | Tour of Urla, Alacati and Cesme followed by optional sailing to Chios |
| Monday, 3 November 2014 | Optional Tour of Chios Town and the Kambos |
| Tuesday, 4 November 2014 | Departure of Symposium participants from Chios and/or return to Izmir (those participants who wish to remain in Chios may do so) |



OTHER OPTIONAL PRE- AND POST-SYMPOSIUM TOURS:

| Date | Event |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 28 October 2014 | Buca and Bornova (from Izmir) |
| | |
| Wednesday, 29 October 2014 | Ephesus and/or Phocaea (from Izmir) |
| | |
| Monday, 3 November 2014 | Pyrgi, Mesta and Nea Moni (from Chios) |
| | |

PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATIONS AT THE IZMIR SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2014

PLEASE RETURN TO A MEMBER OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE BY 31 JANUARY 2014

Speaker name:

Speaker job title or affiliation:

Speaker contact details (email and telephone number):

Proposed title of presentation:

Proposed time (morning/afternoon):

Proposed duration (maximum 20 minutes):

Short description of content of presentation:

If you would like to suggest additional post-seminar/evening events, such as exhibitions or displays at venues such as the Izmir Arkas Museum, the French Cultural Center, or the Italian Cultural Center, please provide details here:



Any other comments/information:

TOURS

HALF DAY IZMIR

Pick up from your hotel and morning, visit the ancient Agora .Visiting The History and Art Museum of Smyrna to see the archeological remains of the wider region of Ionia through the centuries, crossing Alsancak, the old Punta with its two storey houses built by the Chiots masters, we will pass in front of the former San Antonio Hospital, the Anglican Church and British Consulate, the former Punta Railway Station, the Quais to see the remaining eclectic style houses as the Ataturk Museum(ex Spartali), the ex Guiffroy, Athanasoula, Lafont, houses, cafes etc, the Koumerkaki, the ex Rees, building, the Konak Pier of Eifel Bureau and Churches of Saint Polycarp and Santa Maria

FULL DAY BUCA-BORNOVA

we proceed to Izmir to visit the Izmir Cemetery and to Boudja for a short visit to the Station and to ex Rees estate, the remaining old Levantine villas and the Baptist Protestant Church and Cemetery. Then we will proceed to Bornova seeing the Catholic and Protestan Churches and the remaining old houses of the Levantines.



GREEK HERITAGE IZMIR AND ENVIRONS

Day 1 IZMIR(L-D)

Arrival to Izmir airport. Drive to “Karsiyaka”, the old “Cordelio”, the “Quais”, the ex “Petrocochino Club”, various quarters and then to Bayrakli, Mersinli to Punta (Alsancak) of Izmir. See the old quarters with the remaining 2 store houses still called today Greek Houses, the Quais, remaining mansions (ex Athanasoula, Lafont, etc...) Greek Consulate, NATO building where before were situated the Sporting Club and the Theatre, impressive building of French Consulate where close was the Theatre of Smirni. “The Koumerkaki”, the Tourism Ministry building ex National Bank of Greece, The old quarters of Fasoula, the church of “St. Policarpos”. Explanations about the sites which do not exist anymore; The Frango Mahalla, the Rue Franque, Aghia Fotini, Evangeliki School, the “Evergetes” of the Greek community. See the remaining two old Greek schools still serving today. “Atatürk Lisesi” (Kentriko Parthenagogion) with its Ionian columns, build by Karathanasopoulo and “Namik Kemal Lisesi” , the Nea Evangeliki Sholi. Proceed to today Basmane (railway station) to Ayos Vouclos church now Cultural Center which still stands but not used. Continue to Mount Pagos where Lissimakos, general of Alexander the Great, built the city, see the Castle and the spectacular view over Izmir. Proceed to Giro (donerciler) street for lunch. After lunch continue to Kemeralti, the shopping area with hundreds of small shops. Transfer to the hotel
Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 2 IZMIR –EPHESUS-VIRGIN MARY HOUSE-SIRINCE-IZMIR(B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to EPHESUS, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Its cult to Artemis and its Hellen civilization with Heraclites the “Skotinos” philosopher of “Panta Rei”. During the years of the Roman Empire, the Greek port of Ephesus became the greatest city in Asia Minor. Upon arrival at Ephesus follow your guide to enter this ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Discover innumerable monuments including the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre built in the Hellenistic period, which is still noted for its remarkable acoustics and where St Paul preached. Visit VIRGIN MARY’S HOUSE (Panaya Kapulu). After lunch in a local restaurant, continue to SIRINCE (the old Kirkindja), the village that was the subject of the famous book, “Ta Matomena Homata”, of the writer Dido Sotiriou. A paved road of 8 km leads to this attractive village set in the hills above Ephesus, surrounded by an idyllic landscape of vineyards and peach orchards. Sirince retains its traditional architecture almost wholly intact, thanks to landmark rules which have been implemented since the 1980s. Most houses in the village date from the 19th century. A former church – a reminder of Sirince’s Greek past – was renovated in recent years.
Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 3 IZMIR-URLA-ALACATI-CESME-IZMIR(B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to URLA (the old Vourla), lecture about the ancient city, Klazomeni and its famous philosopher –Anaxagoras, visit the Skala, Bati’s coffee house and the old houses. In the old times there was a school and a small church St Nicholas. Here also has a summer house, the Ephesus Mitropolitits Ioakim Efthivouli. Visit the house (now hotel) where was living Seferis. The oil production as well as the ambelia for raisins were important. Visit the up quarters with historical mosques. There were eleven quarters in the old Vourla, and on the 9 ones were living

Greeks. The most old churches where Mitropolit Church Panagia (Kara Panagia) Agios Yannis and Agios Yorgi. Famous was the Megalo Sholio (1760) and since 1908 there were 4 Greek Newspapers. Continue to ALACATI, visit the well kept historical center with its church “Panaya”, now a Mosque. Lecture about its construction (1833-1872) and



modern Alacati as a summer resort and surfing center. A short break for a coffee at the typical square, see the narrow streets with houses reminding Chios architecture, there were 3 Greek enories in Alacati, on the name of the three great churches – Panagia, Agia Triada and Agios Konstantinos. There were 85 little eklisakia and a Nuns Moni, Agios Nicholas. Continue to CESME. After lunch, stop at Dalyan - Aghia Paraskevi. Here was an important port and the Aghia Paraskevi's Captains were also famous. There were four churches. Agios Nikolaos-now Coast Guard Office, Agios Kostantinos-in restoration, Panaya Gournu-New mosque- Agia Saranta. Drive to the center, see the fortress of CESME, the Kervansaray, the fountains, the actual cultural center the ex Ayos Haralambos Church build in 1832 with 3 doors and 12 windows, there were 5 imposing Greek churches in Cesme; Agios Haralambos – Evangelismos (1835) – Agios Panteleimonas (1840) – Psariani Panagia (1873) – Agia Fotini (1881) and two Monasteries. 10,000 Greeks were living in Cesme. Wellknown was the Krini School now Namik Kemal School. At the end of the 19th century export of Cesme raisins was about 15,000 tons. Visit the Kato Panagia Quarters (today Ciftlik), where were living the best Seamen. There were three churches The Panaya (Kimisis tis Theotokou), The Agios Dimitrios and Agios Nikolaos by the harbor. The cemetery chapel was dedicated to Agios Ioanis and there were out of the village many xoklisia as Panagitsa and Agios Saranda. The trade of raisins and wine was quite prosperous. Lecture on Cesme, Reisdere and Lithri all now popular summer resorts of the old Erithrea Region.
Dinner and overnight at hotel Izmir

Day 4 IZMIR (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport



Karavan <travel™

NOTE: We are also considered the specialists- Mr Baltazzi is the co author of the Lexicon of Smyrneika and many of his articles in the Levantine Heritage site already mentioned reflects the greek heritage. Furthermore as we see from our Turkey tours as in Izmir, Istanbul, Cappadocia, Black Sea etc we are giving on our descriptions a particular importance on this cultural heritage.





Turkey Religious Sites

As it is mentioned by Anna Edmonds in her very interesting Turkey Religious Sites book of 250 pages "Turkey exotic, colorful, many-faceted, romantic, ever-old and ever-new, is the gateway and the key to the fabled East. It is in the context of its unique geographic location and its age-long history that its religious sites continue to be significant."

Sites from the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are numerous all around Turkey. However, I will limit myself to mention the most popular and significant Christian ones for which I received an education in my family and at the colleges which I attended followed by over 40 years experience as religious tours land operator in Turkey.



My favorite, if you permit the word, is my hand-tailored Grand Christian Tour of 16 Days which includes In the Footsteps of St.Paul, the missionary journeys of the tireless Paul in Turkey as well as the visit of his native town Tarsus. The Seven Churches of Revelation with the impressive and unique ruins of Ephesus Cappadocia with its troglodyte churches and the red-coned monastic complexes. Istanbul the Queen of the Cities which wisdom is represented by the marvel of the marvels the Basilica of St.Sophia. It includes also an optional extension to Patmos the island of Revelation. This tour could be a reference text for shorter duration tours at your convenience as p.e. Istanbul-Seven Churches and Cappadocia or Paul Tours of 10 days- cruise-land tours of various duration based on cruise itineraries. [Click here to see the full Grand Christian Tour itinerary.](#)

Karavan Tours, founded by Alex Baltazzi in 1969, is a leading tourist organisation with 6 offices in Istanbul, Izmir, Cesme, Kusadasi, Marmaris and Antalya. An expert of religious tours able to give the most efficient service in Turkey and in the neighborhood countries. Furthermore with its division Karavanmar agent of Carnival and Louis Hellenic Cruises is able to give further opportunities for religious cruise-land tours.

Alex Baltazzi, President

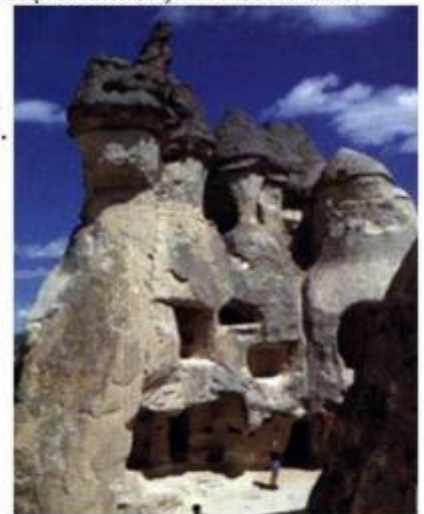
Karavan Tourism Travel Incentives

T : +90-232-464 98 92

F : +90-232-422 41 68

E : alexbaltazzi@karavantravel.com

W : www.karavantravel.com



An article for WRTA- World Religious Travel Association



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

SYRIA – TURKEY – GREECE – CYPRUS - ITALY

Day 1 DAMASCUS(L-D)

Flight to Damascus. Arrive at Damascus. (**Arabic:** دمشق, transliteration: Dimashq, also commonly known as **al-Shām**) is the capital and largest city of Syria. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world Al Fayyum, and Gaziantep. Its current population is estimated at about 1.67 million. The city is a governorate by itself, and the capital of the governorate of Rif Dimashq (Rural Damascus). Paul settled in Damascus after having claimed ("Acts 9:1-9") to have witnessed a vision where [[Jesus]] was on a road to the city. After staying three years in Damascus, he went to live in the Nabataean Kingdom (which he called "[[Arabia]]") for an unknown period, then came back to Damascus, which by this time was under Nabatean rule. After three more years ("Gal. 1:17;20"), he was forced to flee the city under the cover of night (Acts "9:23;25; 2 Cor. 11:32ff") after explosive reactions from Jews who opposed his teachings. He was lowered down from a window in the wall, down into a basket, and with the help of his [[Christian]] disciplines, made his escape at night and fled towards [[Jerusalem]]. Paul recounts in the [[Bible]] that it was through a window that he escaped from a certain death ("2 Cor 11,32-33"). Today is the [[Chapel of St. Paul]] which we will go to visit on Day 2. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 2 DAMASCUS(B-L-D)

Visit the St Paul and the historical sites. Isaiah 17:1 in the Hebrew Bible states that Damascus will become a heap of ruins: *"An oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins."* this is also stated in Jeremiah 49, Zechariah 9. Damascus has a wealth of historical sites dating back to many different periods of the city's history. Since the city has been built up with every passing occupation, it has become almost impossible to excavate all the ruins of Damascus that lie up to 8 feet (2.4 m) below the modern level. We will visit the Citadel of Damascus, located in the northwest corner of the Old City. And see Babkisan in the south east, from which tradition holds that St Paul made his escape from Damascus, lowered from the ramparts in a basket, this gate is now closed and a chapel marking the event has been built into structure. The *Street Called Straight* (referred to in the conversion of St. Paul in Acts 9:11), also known as the *Via Recta*, was the decumanus (East-West main street) of Roman Damascus, and extended for over 1,500 metres (4,900 ft). Today, it consists of the street of Bab Sharqi and the Souk Medhat Pasha, a covered market. The Bab Sharqi street is filled with small shops and leads to the old Christian quarter of Bab Tuma (St. Thomas's Gate). At the end of the Bab Sharqi street, we will reach the House of Ananias, an underground chapel that was the cellar of Ananias's house. And continue our visit with seeing mosques and churches as the Umayyad Mosque, also known as the Grand Mosque of Damascus, is one of the largest mosques in the world, and one of the oldest sites of continuous prayer since the rise of Islam. A shrine in the mosque is said to contain the head of John the Baptist. The mausoleum where Saladin was buried is located in the gardens just outside the mosque. We will visit the National Museum and see the 2nd century AD Synagogue that has been reconstructed, its walls are covered with talmudic injunctions and painting of human figures that are in scene from the scriptures. Dinner and overnight at Hotel.



Day 3 ANTAKYA – ADANA (B-L-D)

Transfer to Syrian boarder. Cross at Cilvegozu, which is in a distance of 50 kms to Antakya. Drive to Antakya, the ancient Antioch where Christians were first named and where St. Paul began his missionary journeys. Visit the Cave of St. Peter and the Museum of Mosaics. Lunch. Continue to Seleucia Pieria, the actual Samandag, where St. Paul and St. Barnabas set sail for Cyprus in their first missionary journey. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 4 ADANA – TARSUS – DERBE – LYSTRA – KONYA(B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Tarsus, the native town of St. Paul, see St. Paul and Cleopatra archs. Continue to Konya, visit en route, Derbe where St. Paul and St. Barnabas spoke and won many converts. After lunch, continue to Lystra, visited several times by St. Paul and then arrive to Konya. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 5 KONYA – ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA – PERGE – ASPENDOS – ANTALYA (B-L-D)

After breakfast, morning sightseeing of Konya the ancient Iconium where St. Paul and St. Barnabas used the Synagogue as their forum. We will visit the Mosque, the Museum of the Whirling Dervishes which house the Mauseoleum of Mevlana. After lunch drive to Antioch of Pisidia where St. Paul preached his first recorded sermon and was expelled from the city. Visit the ruins of the two Basilicas. Drive to Perge where St. Paul preached, visiting the Theatre and the Stadium. Continue to Aspendos with its famous Theatre. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 6 ANTALYA – COLASSAE – LAODICEA – PAMUKKALE (B-L-D)

After breakfast, drive to Colossae (Famous is St. Paul's letter to the Colossians) to visit the Byzantine wall and some remaining ruins. After lunch, continue to Laodicea one of The Seven Churches, visit the Odeon, the Theatre and Gymnasium, continue to Pamukkale (Hierapolis). Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 7 PAMUKKALE – HIERAPOLIS – MILETUS - KUSADASI (B-L-D)

After breakfast, visit Hierapolis with its Necropolis, Baths, Theatre and Philips Martyrium. After lunch, continue of Miletus, one of the principal Ionian cities and home of Thales which was twice visited by St. Paul, visit the very well preserved Theatre the Byzantine Fortress, the Delphinion, the Nymphanion, the Bouleterium and the Faustina Baths. Drive to Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 8 KUSADASI – EPHESUS – CRUISE – PATMOS (B-L-D)

After a very early breakfast visit the ruins of Ephesus one of the Seven Churches, the theatre where St. Paul preached to the Ephesians, the Library, the Odeon, the Double Church where the Third Ecumenical Council was held in 431 and the Marble Road. Visit St. John's Basilica. Transfer to the Port of Kusadasi to embark the ship. Lunch on board.

Embark on the Ship from the Port of Kusadasi the latest at 11:00.

Departure from Kusadasi at 12:00.

Arrival at Patmos at 16:00. – departure at 21:00



Patmos' main communities are Chora (the capital city), and Skala, the only commercial port. Other settlements are Grikou and Kampos. The churches and communities on Patmos are of the Eastern Orthodox tradition. In 2006, the island's historic center Chora, along with the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and the Cave of the Apocalypse, were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The monastery was founded by Saint Christobulus. Patmos is also home to the Patmian School, a notable Greek seminary. Patmos is mentioned in the Christian scriptural Book of Revelation. The book's introduction states that its author, John, was exiled to Patmos, where he was given (and recorded) a vision from Jesus. Earliest Christian tradition identifies this writer as John the Apostle. As such, Patmos is a destination for Christian pilgrimage. Visitors can see the cave where John is said to have received his Revelation, and several monasteries on the island are dedicated to Saint John.

Day 9 RHODES (B-L-D)

Arrival at 07:00 – Departure at 18:00

Drive along the picturesque south-eastern coastline, dotted with white-washed villages, to Lindos, one of the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. See how this entire city is guarded by medieval walls which were constructed by the knights of St. John in the 13th century. Within them stands the ancient Acropolis of Lindos, on the brink of a precipice 400 feet above the sea. From the Acropolis, marvel at the breathtaking views covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and St. Paul's bay, where the apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesus. One of the stage of the 3rd mission voyage of Paul mentioned by Luke in the acts. Proceed on foot uphill, to the great staircase leading from the Hellenistic Portico to the Acropolis and Temple of Athena. Should you wish to make your way up by mule, a fee must be paid to the local muleteer. After the guided tour of the Acropolis, enjoy some free time on your own in Lindos village before meeting up with your motorcoach. Return to Rhodes city and enjoy a panoramic drive through the new part of the city before continuing to Mount Smith to see the ruins of ancient Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo and Diagoras Stadium. Afterwards your motorcoach will drop you off at Porte d'Amboise, the start of the walking tour through the medieval city of Rhodes. Follow your guide through the northern part where once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Palace of the Knights and continue your walk down Chevaliers Road to meet up with your motorcoach at the Marine Gate and return back to the ship. A short visit to a ceramic factory is included.

Day 10 HERACLION, CRETE (B-L-D)

Arrival at 07:00 – Departure at 11:00

Crete is the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands where Paul remained in the Island long enough to found new churches which he confided to Titus. It is also the home of the great Minoan Civilization and the mythological home of Zeus. After a short drive through the town of Heraklion the tour will arrive at the Knossos excavations. Here, Sir Arthur Evan's archaeological discoveries revealed a civilization dating back to 4000 B.C., when a great empire flourished on the island of Crete. Based on the wealth of artefacts that were found, Evans theorized that this was the site of the ancient Minoan Kingdom. These findings will be viewed in detail, as your guide will lead you on a journey of discovery to learn of the sophisticated culture that flourished thousands of years ago on this island. The Palace, decorated with frescoes and shields houses the Hall of the Royal Guard, the Hall of the Double Axes, the King's Chamber with the alabaster throne, the Queen's Apartment, beautiful courtyards and shrines. Having visited this remarkable site your coaches will take you to the heart of Heraklion where you will be given some free time to explore its beauties combining the facilities of a modern city with the unique Greek islands' ambience. You will then re board your motor coach for the return journey to the Venetian lion-guarder port of Heraklion to



rejoin your ship. REMARKS Walking in the archaeological site of Knossos will be on uneven gravel surfaces. Passengers may not be allowed to enter the site with big bags/rucksacks

Arrival at Santorini at 16:30 – departure at 21:00.

Santorini is the most active center in the South Aegean volcanic arc thus what remains today is chiefly a water-filled caldera. The name Santorini was given by the Latin empire in the XIII century, and is a reference to Saint Irene. Before then it was known as “kalliste” (the most beautiful one) “strongyle” (the circular one) or Thera.

Driving along the road you will have the unique opportunity to admire the panoramic view of the Aegean sea and the neighbouring islands. A unique sight is the various layers of lava that can be seen on the face of the rock, each layer being another phase of the activity of the volcano. Built on the Caldera rim, Oia Village is an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Accompanied by your guide, explore the village walking along the cobblestone streets and the white washed houses with blue shutters where one gets the impression that they are a beautiful travel poster. The tour will then proceed to the town of Thira, an attractive town perched on the Caldera rim. Here, you will have time to stroll along the lanes of the little town or relax over a coffee as you gaze down upon Kamenes, the two black volcanic islets in the Caldera bay. A short cable car ride will take you down to the pier to rejoin the ship.

Day 11 PIRAEUS, ATHENS (B-L-D)

After breakfast on board, disembark from the Ship in the Port of Pireaus at 07:00.

ATHENS – CORINTH - ATHENS

Arrival in Piraeus, after meeting with the bus & guide, depart directly for Corinth, visit Old Corinth and see Bema seat and the Corinth Canal, Mycenae. In Corinth Paul meet Aquila and Priscilla who had been expelled from Rome (Acts 18.2) and preached in the Synagogue. Lunch in a local tavern & continue to visit, Epidaure theater & return to Athens. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 12 ATHENS (B-L-D)

After the breakfast depart for Athens City Tour and the Acropolis. Lunch in Anavyssos (fish menus) & visit temple of Poseidon in Sounion. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 13 CYPRUS (B-L-D)

Flight to Cyprus.

After breakfast transfer to Airport. Arrival. Meet / assist at the Airport and transfer to Paphos. Paphos is the place where Paul met Sergious Paulus, Proconsul of Cyprus (Acts 13;7). Lunch. On the way visit the Ancient City Kingdom of Curium. Coffee Break at “Petra tou Romiou”, birth place of Aphrodite. Next stop at the Yeroskipou village and visit the old church of St Paraskevi, which has five domes. Arrival at hotel for dinner & overnight.

Day 14 ROME (B-L-D)

Flight to Rome.

Arrival at Fiumicino Airport. Meeting with Tour Escort. Transfer by private coach to the Hotel. Accommodation and lunch.

In the afternoon transfer by coach to the Vatican (Terminal Gianicolo) and guided visit of St. Peter’s Basilica. Transfer back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight



Day 15 ROME(B-L-D)

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Transfer by private coach to Monte Oppio. From here you will start a walking tour with guide including the visit of Colosseum (outside), Arch of Constantine, the Imperial Forums, the Mamertine Prison where St. Peter and St. Paul were imprisoned. Panoramic view on the Roman Forum from the terrace below the Capitole, the Capitole Square and Venice Square.

Lunch at a restaurant.

In the afternoon guided visit to the Church of St. Paul “alle Tre Fontane”, the site of the martyrdom of St. Paul, and the Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls, which contains the tomb of the Apostle.

Transfer back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 16 ROME (B-L-D)

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Transfer by private coach to the Vatican (Terminal Gianicolo).

10.30 a.m.: Participation to the public Audience of the Holy Father (subject to his presence in the Vatican City).

If the group is not interested in attending the Papal Audience we could organize a guided walking tour of the city centre of Rome, including Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Pantheon and Piazza Navona.

Lunch at a restaurant.

In the afternoon guided visit to the Basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major.

Transfer back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 17 ROME – FLIGHT BACK HOME (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer by private coach with Tour Escort to Fiumicino Airport and departure.

NOTE: IN CASE WAR CONDITIONS CONTINUE IN DAMASCUS OUR TOUR WILL START FROM ANTAKYA TO BE REACHED BY AIR FROM ISTANBUL OR IZMIR



Karavan  travel™

Ricerche e scavi delle Missioni archeologiche italiane in Turchia





JEWISH HERITAGE

General Introduction

The Jews in the lands of the actual Turkey

The northern plain of the Fertile Crescent between the Tigris (Dicle) and the Euphrates (Firat) was home to people who contributed to some of the earliest development of Western civilization and of Hebraic insight into the nature of God. In the account in Genesis, Noah's family spread from the mountains across the land. It is presumed that some of these people settled the fertile plain of Anatolia (Today's Turkey)

The percentage of Jews in Anatolia in relation to the total population has never been great but the community has long played an important role in the commercial and intellectual life.

By the 2nd century AD there may have been one million Jews in Asia Minor, they were located in almost all the cities of any size. Romans continued to permit them their religious practices and beliefs.

Sultan Bayezit -II accepted thousand of Jews who were persecuted during the Inquisition in Spain.

1-JEWISH HERITAGE IN THE WEST TURKEY

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D)

Arrival Istanbul transfer from Airport to hotel dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL(B-L-D)

The Jewish presence in Istanbul dates back at least to the Byzantine period where there was a Synagogue in Balat on the Golden Horn that had been built by Jews from Ohrid in Macedonia.

We start our visit from Galata, the old Jewish quarter visiting the **New Shalom Synagogue** which is the central and largest Sephardic Synagogue in Istanbul. Then the Ashkenazi which is the only currently active **Ashkenazi Synagogue** in Istanbul open to visits and prayers and the **Kal Kados** with the **Jewish Museum**. The famous Jewish banker Camondo steps and the Banks street (the ex Voyvoda) where the numerous Jews in the XIX century were active in the Hans of this street and its environs with Banking, Insurance and trade..Lunch Continue to visit the Highlights of the city as St.Sophie, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace as well as the Bazaar.

Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Day 3 ISTANBUL(B-L-D)

Visit the Balat district where the Star of David can be seen on some buildings. See the XV century **Ahrida Synagogue** and the **Yanbol Synagogue** the second of the ancient Synagogues of Balat.

We continue to the Asiatic Coast to see Kuzguncuk a location which had an important Jewish community with two synagogues, the **Bet Yaakov** built in 1878 close to the Greek Orthodox Church and the **Bet Nisim Synagogue** of 1840 recently restored and the Nakkastepe Jewish Cemetery.

Dinner and overnight.

Day 4 ISTANBUL-BURSA (B-L-D)

Drive to Bursa the old capital of the Ottoman Empire which had a large Jewish community. We will visit the late XV century **Gerush Synagogue** (The Synagogue of the Exile) and the main highlights of the city as Ulu Mosque, Bazaar etc. Dinner and overnight



Day 5 BURSA-SARDIS (B-L-D)

After breakfast drive to Sardis. Visit the restored Synagogue which is one of the oldest Synagogues proving that there was a Jewish Community in the 3rd century. It is speculated that Sepharad could have been Sardis, where the native Lydian name is Sfard.

We will visit the other ruins as the Gymnasium, Temple etc Drive to Izmir dinner and overnight at our hotel.

IZMIR We see the first Jewish community in Izmir in the IV Century B.C.. Towards the XVI century Izmir becoming an important trade center the Jewish population increased considerably. There were in Izmir. 6 Synagogues in 1620. And in

Early XX century approximately 50 Synagogues and Midrashes were used effectively. Due to the immigrations to North and South America and Israel the Jewish community decreased actually to 1700 people.

The Synagogues of Izmir have some characteristics. They are built with a central plan. The Teva (stand) is situated in the center of four columns which support the ceiling of the synagogue and divides it into 9 sections. Later on the central plan was changed with a double Teva structure.

Day 6 IZMIR(B-L-D)

We will visit the Roman Agora and its neighborhood called in the past Juderia and the street called Havra(Synagogue in tr) actually a market street. All the old Synagogues are around here many need restoration within a joint project Municipality and the Community and then could be opened to the public for prayers. The Algazi (Kal de Arriva) of 1724 reconstructed in 1901.

La Signora Synagogue which according to popular belief was built by the famous lady Donna Gracia Nasi of the famous banker family of the Sultans. It was rebuilt in 1841.

The Shalom Synagogue of the 1620's considered to be the most authentic synagogue in Izmir has an interior like a typical Turkish house with its ceiling decorated with engravings, sofas etc.

The Hevra is a Synagogue of the XVII century but rebuilt many times. It is typical to Izmir with its central plan and has the shape of a galley inspired by the Ottoman galleys which brought the Jews from Spain.

Some other old relatively small Synagogues are at the surroundings of the Havra Street as **Etz Hayim** built initially in the Byzantine period and repaired lastly in 1851.

The **Portuguese Synagogue** of 1569 which burnt in 1976 and has just a front wall standing up.

The **Bet Hillal Synagogue** which was the former house of the haham Hayim Palaci and the Hahamhane, the Rabbinate of 1840 which needs and expects a restoration as like the Sabbatai Sevi's House being actually in ruins.

In the Ikicesmelik Caddesi(Avenue) we have one of the most beautiful Synagogue the **Bikur Halim** which was built in 1724 from a donation from Salomon de Ciaves a Dutch immigrant of Portuguese origin. The synagogue which was rebuilt in 1800 has a central Tevah ceiling decorated with flowers and fruit pictures and the columns are painted in green and yellow.

We will have lunch and visit the Karatas area where the Jewish bourgeoisie came to reside in the middle of the XIX century. Here we have the pleasure to see and visit the largest and most magnificent Synagogue of Izmir the

Beth

Israel which construction started in 1905 and opened to prayers in 1907 . The interior decoration has been completed in 1950.

The Synagogue was not built with a central plan as per the conventional Izmir style but has a double Tevah application and is covered by a dome. In the two floor interior it was used a beautiful mahogany by Italian masters.



We will then visit the 40 meters high **Asansor (Elevator)** which was let build by a jewish philanthropist Nesim Levi in 1907 in order to facilitate the access to the upper streets of the quarter accessible until then by climbing 155 steps.

You have access to the Elevator from the street called Dario Moreno who lived here before going to Paris. The jew Dario Moreno was a worldwide known musician and singer.

Close there is also the **Roj Ha Har Synagogue** the first to be build around 1890 in this quarter. This Synagogue has a central plan as the other Synagogues of Izmir.

Optional visit to the Jewish Cemetery.

Dinner and overnight in Izmir.

Day 7 IZMIR-EPHESUS-TIRE-IZMIR(B-L-D)

We will go today to visit Ephesus the magnificent greco-roman site featuring many hebrew signs. We will see the Great Theater where Paul preached, the Library of Celsus, Stadium etc.

Then we will drive to TIRE where lived in the past a large jewish community who left to Israel on the creation of the Israel State. Around the **Kaal Shalom Synagogue** today a business compact was the jewish quarter, the jewish school the Porteguese Market and the Hodja Kemal Caravanserail.

We will return to Izmir dinner and overnight.

Day 8 IZMIR-ISTANBUL (B-L-D)

After breakfast we will transfer to the Izmir airport for our flight to Istanbul.

<http://www.izmirkulturturizmi.com/en/sefarad.html>



JEWISH HERITAGE & BIBLELANDS
JHT / 3 - ISTANBUL & THE BIBLICAL EAST

Day 1 ISTANBUL (D)

Arrival Istanbul transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight

Day 2 ISTANBUL (B,L,D)

Visit Galata, the Old Jewish Quarter , the Galata Tower, the Neve Shalom Synagogue and the Ashkenazi Synagogue. Lunch . Continue to visit the highlights of Istanbul including S.Sophia , the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 3 ISTANBUL - MALATYA (B,L,D)

Visit the Balat district where the Star of David can still be seen on some buildings. See the 15th century Ahrida Synagogue and the Yanbol Synagogue. Lunch. Continue to the Asian coast to visit the Synagogue and Jewish Cemetery at Kuzguncuk and Uskudar. After dinner transfer to the airport for your flight to Malatya, Arrival Malatya transfer to the hotel for overnight.

Day 4 MALATYA - ARSLANTEPE - ADIYAMAN (B,L,D)

Departure after breakfast to visit the newly excavated prehistoric and Hitite ruins of Arslantepe including Public Houses, Palaces, Tombs and Temples. This Assyrian and Hitite settlement was part of the 13th century BC history of conflict between the Hitites and the Hurrians. Heth , the son of Canaan, is the presumed father of the Hitites, and several Hitite references appear in the Bible. Drive to Adiyaman for dinner and overnight at hotel

Day 5 ADIYAMAN - NEMRUT DAGI - URFA (B,L,D)

Excursion to Mount Nemrut , Nemrut or Nimrod in Biblical references, is both a mighty hunter before the Lord (Gen.10.9) and the first - named powerful ruler. Visit the sanctuary of 16 giant statues each 10 m in height. Continue to Urfa via Bozova to admire the Ataturk DAM. The GAP project on Euphrates and Tigris is expected to realize 22 DAM and 17 Hydroelectric power plants. In the story of Adam and Eve the Bible describes the Eden , where God planted a garden out of which four streams flowed, the Pishon, the Gimon , the Tigris and the Euphrates. Lunch. Dinner and overnight at hotel at Urfa.

Day 6 URFA - HARRAN - URFA (B,L,D)

In Urfa (the old Edessa) , history and legend have been woven together like no other place in the southeastern. Urfa claims the distinction of being the birthplace of Abraham. See the Throne of Nimrod, the Crusaders Fortress. Visit the sacred pools, tradition says that a pool was formed when Nimrod throw Abraham off the citadel hill above Urfa. Lunch Continue to Harran which is an important site for Judaism because it is considered to have been Abraham's home when he heard God's call. Today Harran is a small village distinguished by a cluster of bee - hive shaped houses, a 13th century fortress and ruins of a Temple. Dinner and overnight at Urfa

Day 7 URFA - BIRECIK DAM - ZEUGMA - GAZIANTEP (B,L,D)

After breakfast drive to Gaziantep see en route the Birecik DAM on Euphrates, continue to Zeugma and the Gaziantep Museum to see the recent magnificent findings from Zeugma (The Seleucia Euphrates) Lunch . See the fortress and the colorful bazaars. Dinner and overnight at Gaziantep.

Day 8 GAZIANTEP - ISTANBUL - EUROPE (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for departure.