

## Turkish Delight (with 3-day extension to Athens) – May 4 – May 21, 2012

This is trip #2 of the three trips planned with Globus for 2012. The 14-day land tour of Turkey will take us from Istanbul to Istanbul. Please go to the website below for more details. For your convenience, a tour itinerary is copied below. Since this is a very popular trip, the trip spaces of 44 have already been filled quickly with a relatively long waiting list. As Istanbul is not far from Athens, a trip extension to Athens for a 3-day stay is being planned.

**Turkish Delight** ( <http://www.globusjourneys.com/product.aspx?content=itin&trip=1QT> )

This trip will begin on May 4, 2012 and end on May 18, 2012 in Turkey. If the Athens extension is worked out, the trip will end on May 21, 2012.

The trip cost is \$1,781 per person. The cost of Globus travel protection Plus plan is \$169. We are considering doing our own air to allow some flexibility. The total trip cost will be \$2,750 - \$3,000 per person. The cost of extending the trip to Athens will be extra.



## Vacation Overview

This in-depth vacation is ideal for those who wish to see Turkey's many famous attractions. Your Istanbul stay includes visits to the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Seraglio, and the Grand Bazaar. Cross the Bosphorus into Asia Minor and continue to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, where guided sightseeing includes the Green Ottoman Complex and the Great Mosque. Via Gordion, where Alexander the Great cut the proverbial knot and opened the way to Asia, continue to Earth Tumulus. In Ankara, capital of the Turkish Republic since 1923, visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Explore the exotic Caravansary of Agcikarahan. In Cappadocia, visits to the early Christians' rock chapels and the underground city of Öykonak are included. Also visit the fascinating archaeological site of Hierapolis in Pamukkale. Discover the fascinating history of Ephesus, Troy, and the World War I Cemetery on your way back to Istanbul.

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey

After arrival at Atatürk Airport, check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start soaking up the unique atmosphere of this city built on two continents. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (Dinner)

### DAY 2 Istanbul

Founded by the Greeks as Byzantium more than 2,500 years ago, renamed Constantinople in 330 AD when Constantine the Great elected it the capital of the Roman Empire, and finally called Istanbul after the Ottoman conquest in the 15th century, the city on the Bosphorus always was and still is one of the most exciting places in the world. Its strategic location as gateway between Orient and Occident, the Islamic and the Christian world, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, predestined it for a turbulent history. Start your sightseeing at Emperor Justinian's HAGIA SOPHIA and Sultan Ahmet's BLUE MOSQUE, magnificent monuments to two competing world religions standing peacefully side by side. Next, turn to the TOPKAPI SERAGLIO, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Admire its exquisite collection of Chinese porcelain and the stunning Imperial Treasury, including the "Spoonmaker's Diamond." After a lunch break, tour the GRAND BAZAAR (arranged next morning if closed today) with its 4,000 tiny shops. The rest of the afternoon is free. For a taste of Turkish nightlife, join our optional dinner outing and discover the fascination of belly dancing. (Breakfast)

### DAY 3 Istanbul–Bursa

Set out today on your discovery tour of a country with the population of Britain and more than three times its size. Cross the Bosphorus and then follow the shores of the Sea of Marmara to the Gulf of Gemlik. Here you head inland towards the Uludag, also called the Mount Olympus of Mysia, a 7,700-foot skiing mountain. Bursa lies in its shade,

surrounded by lovely orchards and tobacco fields. Founded by the Greeks and hotly contested during the Crusades, Bursa had its heyday as the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. In the afternoon, visit the great monuments to this period: the ornate GREEN OTTOMAN COMPLEX and the GREAT MOSQUE (Ulu Camii) and the ancient Covered Bazaar. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 4 Bursa–Ankara

Motor into the heart of the Anatolian Highland. After a break at Eskisehir, whose meerschaum pipes are world famous, head for GORDION. Tour the excavations of the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Phrygia, where Alexander the Great cut the proverbial knot and thus opened the way to Asia. Hear about the legend of King Midas with the golden touch as you visit the ruler's great EARTH TUMULUS. Overnight in Ankara, capital of the Turkish Republic since 1923 and the country's second-largest city. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 5 Ankara–Cappadocia

Morning visit to the MAUSOLEUM OF ATATÜRK, the revered founder of the Republic, and the MUSEUM OF ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS with its unique collection of Hittite sun discs, stag cult figures and reliefs, and Phrygian metalwork. In the afternoon, head through the salt steppes and swamps of central Anatolia towards the volcanic plateau of Cappadocia, and stop south of the great salt lake Tuz Gölü in the fortress-like CARAVANSARY OF SULTANHANI. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 6 Cappadocia

Today, visit the unreal moon-landscape of Göreme with its ROCK CHAPELS carved by the early Christians and decorated with frescoes dating from the 6th to the 10th centuries. Next are the byzantine MONASTIC COMPLEX of Zelve, the TROGLODYTE VILLAGES of Avcılar and Cavusin, and the UNDERGROUND CITY of Özkonağ. Before returning to the hotel, enjoy the sweeping panorama at ancient Ortahisar. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 7 Cappadocia–Konya

West today to the land of the Whirling Dervishes and to Konya. The Iconium of antiquity occupies a fertile island in the arid Anatolian steppes. Man has lived here since the early Stone Age, and the town had its moment of glory as the capital of the mighty Seljuk Empire from 1078 to 1307. Today it thrives on agriculture and the manufacture of fine carpets. Afternoon sightseeing features visits to three outstanding Seljuk structures: the MEVLANA MONASTERY of the Dervishes, now a museum; the KARATAY MEDRESE (theological school); and the elegant INCE MINARET. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 8 Konya–Antalya

Drive west to Akşehir, then south across the Taurus Mountains into the luxuriant green forests, orchards, and olive groves on the hills sloping down to the sparkling blue

Mediterranean Sea. You enter an area only recently discovered by discerning European vacationers. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 9 At Leisure in Antalya

A full day to enjoy this Mediterranean paradise and to discover its antique treasures. If you wish, join an optional excursion to the Pamphylian cities of Perge and Aspendos. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 10 Antalya–Pamukkale

Morning drive inland across two mountain passes to Pamukkale. The name means “Cotton Castle” and refers to the spectacular white lime cascades formed by its hot springs. Visit the fascinating archaeological site of HIERAPOLIS, the thermal resort founded by a Pergamene king in 190 BC and greatly enlarged and embellished by the Romans. At the hotel tonight, a leisurely bath in a pool of hot thermal water might be just the way to relax. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 11 Pamukkale–Izmir

Follow the valley of the Menderes River to Ephesus, home of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus and later the capital of Roman Asia Minor. When St. Paul arrived here he was so awestruck that he asked: “Is there a greater city?” Visit one of the best-preserved ancient AMPHITHEATERS, then drive up to the CHAPEL marking the site where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Overnight in Izmir (Smyrna), Homer’s birthplace on the Aegean coast. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 12 Izmir–Troy Area

Start with visits to the PERGAMUM MUSEUM and the ASCLEPION, a shrine to the Greek god of medicine. Then, enjoy vistas of the Greek island of Lesbos as you follow the shores of the Bay of Edremit. Continue to TROY, the perfect place to brush up on Homer’s Trojan War, hollow wooden horse and all. Spend the night at nearby Canakkale. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 13 Troy Area–Istanbul

By FERRY across the Dardanelles back to Europe and the 20th century. Visit the World War I battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsula, where Allied troops, mainly Australians and New Zealanders, suffered heavy casualties in a disastrous campaign. Pay tribute to the heroes of those tragic months of 1915 at the ANZAC CEMETERY. Then, drive along the European shore of the Sea of Marmara back to Istanbul. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner with your traveling companions. (Breakfast, Dinner)

#### DAY 14 Istanbul

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)