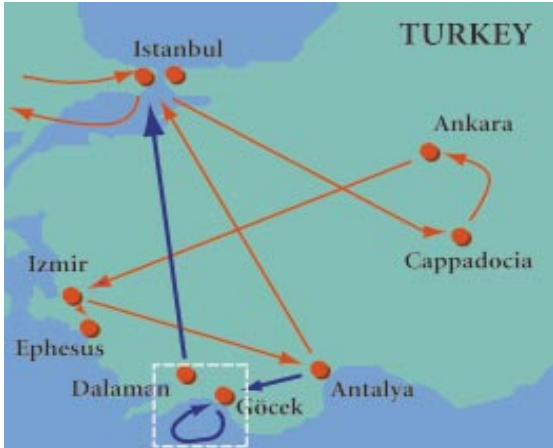


TURKEY

14 DAYS



Your journey begins in Istanbul, an exotic combination of East and West. Visit the Blue Mosque and the Palace of Sultans; shop in the Grand Bazaar, and cruise along the Bosphorus. Travel to ancient Cappadocia where volcanic formations resemble giant chimneys; some have been adapted into homes and even churches. There are more classical ruins in Turkey than Greece; go to Antalya and visit ancient Lycian cities that date back to the 5th century BC and to the ruins of one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire at Ephesus.

If you have more time to continue your travels, cruise the Turquoise Coast of Turkey on board the M/Y *Halas*. Spend your days sailing among the islands off the southern coast swimming and sunning; in the evenings, dine on freshly caught seafood and watch gilded sunsets from the comfort of your deck chair.

- Each departure limited to 20 guests
- Luxury hotels or best in each location
- Three a la carte meals a day (table d'hote, if unavailable), including beverages of your choice
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing, including entrance fees and special events as indicated in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- All gratuities included (also your tour manager's)
- Portorage of 2 suitcases per passenger
- Airport departure taxes

Day 1 (May 31, Wednesday)

USA – ISTANBUL

Depart USA on your overnight flight to Istanbul.

Day 2 (June 1, Thursday)

ISTANBUL

You are met upon your arrival in the world's only city built on two continents and brought by private car to your hotel, the **Four Seasons**, with the best location in the city – a short distance from the Hagia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace. Your accommodation exudes culture, history and charm. A renovated early 19th century Ottoman building, the original tiles and columns remain, as well as a Byzantine wall that borders the grounds. The plush interior is decorated with 19th-century furnishings.

This afternoon is free for you to relax and settle in. Your tour manager will be in the lobby to answer any questions you may have. This evening, join your travel

companions for a private cocktail reception and à la carte dining at the hotel in a glass-enclosed dining room, overlooking a paved courtyard that features international and local specialties. (D)

Day 3 (June 2, Friday)

ISTANBUL

This morning, you become more familiar with this ancient city where east meets west, old joins new, and rich and poor walk side by side. Opulent Ottoman architecture on an enormous scale stands over narrow, winding streets. The call to prayer emanates from thousands of mosques five times a day amid the crowded markets where street merchants and peddlers sell various items, such as gold, carpets and spices. Conservative veiled Muslims walk alongside sophisticated travelers.

You visit Topkapi Palace (home of the Sultans until 1853 and site of a wonderful collection of archaeological treasures) and the Hagia Sophia with its infamous Fountain of Ahmet III and the imperial Ottoman tombs. You see the Blue Mosque, with six slender minarets, a spacious courtyard, and a breathtaking interior - truly an architectural marvel. And you visit the Yerebatan Sarayi (known as the "Underground Palace" or "Basilica Cistern" to visitors). It is, by far, the largest and most impressive of the ancient Byzantine reservoirs in Istanbul. This evening, you dine à la carte

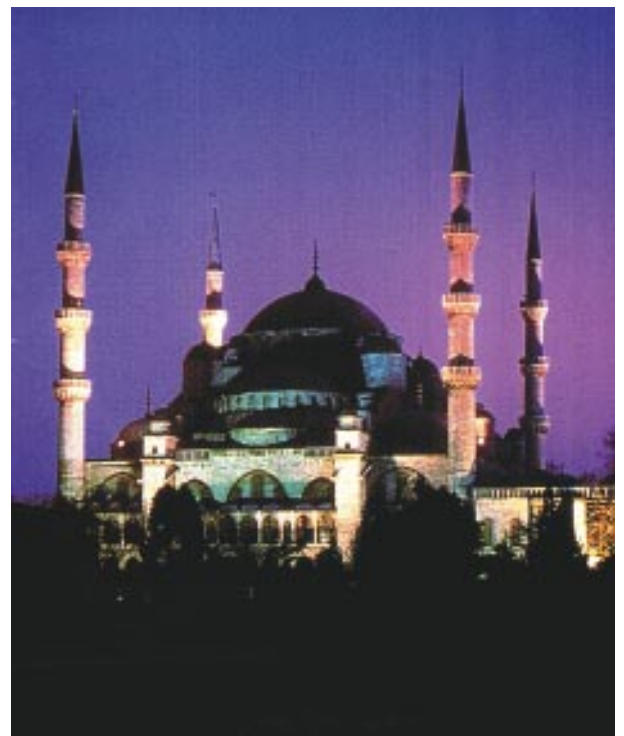
at one of Istanbul's fine restaurants. (B,L,D)

Day 4 (June 3, Saturday)

ISTANBUL

In the Sadberk Hanim museum, you see an impressive collection of antiquities ranging from the Bronze Age to Greek-Roman times as well as Ottoman arts, crafts, and costumes. Afterward, you view splendid palaces and summer houses from the boat as you cruise along the Bosphorus.

This afternoon you stop at a huge Byzantine stone building - the Grand Bazaar - one of the world's most famous markets. Originally the site of warehouses for merchants' stock, the area developed



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



Shopping at the Grand Bazaar, Istanbul

into a city (a network of streets and squares, with thousands of shops) within a city. You can shop for jewelry, shoes, clothing, furniture, and rugs and have the opportunity to relax in one of the many cafes or tea rooms. Try one of the favorite local refreshments – delicious cherry, peach or apricot juice. Tonight you dine à la carte at a local restaurant, selecting from some of the locally caught fish prepared in delicious dishes. (B,L,D)

Day 5 (June 4, Sunday)

ISTANBUL – ANKARA – CAPPADOCIA

Today, your journey takes you on a morning flight to Nevsehir in the ancient province of Cappadocia. Striking volcanic formations (“fairy chimneys”) stand in groups along valleys and ridges. The landscape was formed by a thick layer of volcanic ash that eventually hardened to form a soft rock called tuff. In the 17th and 18th centuries, inhabitants in this area carved their homes and churches out of this rock.

Nearby, you see an ancient multi-level town carved out of the earth to a depth of 250 feet – a warren of tunnels, rooms, staircases, and hallways - that is thought to be more than 3,000 years old. Throughout the centuries, Christians fled their homes above ground to this subterranean refuge to avoid attack. It is estimated that 5,000 – 10,000 people lived here for up to six months at a time.

Your hotel, the **Kapadokya Lodge**, is an architectural delight. Natural materials from the region have been used in a most attractive manner. The facilities include a heated, open-air swimming pool, a sunbathing patio, open buffet indoor and outdoor restaurants, a cozy bar with fireplace, a dance floor, a shopping area, and lovely fruit orchards. An impressive collection of original art decorates this charming resort. The splendid bazaar in one of the atriums offers local arts and crafts, including carpets. In the evening, you dine à la carte at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 6 (June 5, Monday)

CAPPADOCIA

Today, you have the opportunity to further explore this fascinating area. At Goreme, you see dozens of 100-foot-high, cone-shaped rocks into which cave houses were carved between the 5th and 12th centuries. Some are still inhabited by families, others are chapels; and a few have even become inns. Interspersed among these cones are many traditional rural dwellings. At the Open-Air Museum, you see what remains of the splendid frescoes, depicting biblical scenes, that once covered the walls of churches that were carved into caves and “fairy chimneys”.

In Uchisar, you stop at the citadel to see the astonishing panorama of the Ihlara Valley. Your journey takes you on to Cavusin with its particularly large “fairy chimney” and ancient Cavusin Church

that has some particularly well-preserved frescoes. In the village of Avanos, you see local potters working with the red, iron-rich Cappadocian clay as their ancestors have done since the beginning of time. The clay comes from the Kizihrmak (Red River) that flows through the town. (B,L,D)

Day 7 (June 6, Tuesday)

CAPPADOCIA – ANKARA

Today, you depart for Ankara, set at the northern edge of the central Anatolian Plateau. This site has been inhabited since the Stone Age and was once called Angora. When Turkey was declared a republic in 1923, Ankara replaced Istanbul (Constantinople) as its capital. European architects were engaged to design the wide boulevards and parks; there are, however, many areas reminiscent of provincial Turkey.

The old section around the citadel is known as Ulus and serves as the commercial center; pencil-thin, winding streets with wooden and mud-brick houses are characteristic of the area. The central district of the new section, called Yenisehir, has modern hotels, theaters, restaurants and government offices and embassies. You visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations that is housed in a restored 15th century Ottoman inn with covered bazaar adjacent. Here, you see astoundingly ancient artifacts that trace



Cappadocia's rock formations



Juice Vendor, Istanbul

the country's history back to the dawn of civilization.

You also visit the purely white Kocatepe Mosque – considered to be one of the world's largest and most beautiful. In the stunning interior, you can't fail to notice the gold sphere - surrounded by smaller spheres - hanging from the ceiling, and a model of the Medina mosque (a gift to the Turkish people from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia). In keeping with the tradition of renting space to merchants to pay for upkeep, the mosque's glass-covered courtyard is occupied with markets and shops.

You check into the **Sheraton Ankara**, the best accommodation in the city, with an excellent location along embassy row

and adjacent to an upscale shopping center. The multi-storied, circular lobby is a contemporary blend of marble and chrome with reproductions of Anatolian art. Your à la carte dinner this evening is selected from an award-winning menu in one of the hotel's restaurants. (B,L,D)

Day 8 (June 7, Wednesday)

ANKARA - IZMIR

After a leisurely morning, your journey continues today as you depart Ankara on a short flight to Izmir, on the Aegean coast. Long known as Smyrna, first settled in the 9th century

BC, it was one of the principal cities of Asia Minor during the 4th century BC. Severely damaged by earthquakes in 1688 and 1778, it remained a prosperous Ottoman port. Greek forces at the end of World War II, fires, and another earthquake caused additional damage to the city. Today, it is a western-style city (with wide boulevards and plazas around an arc-shaped waterfront), Turkey's third largest city, and its second largest port.

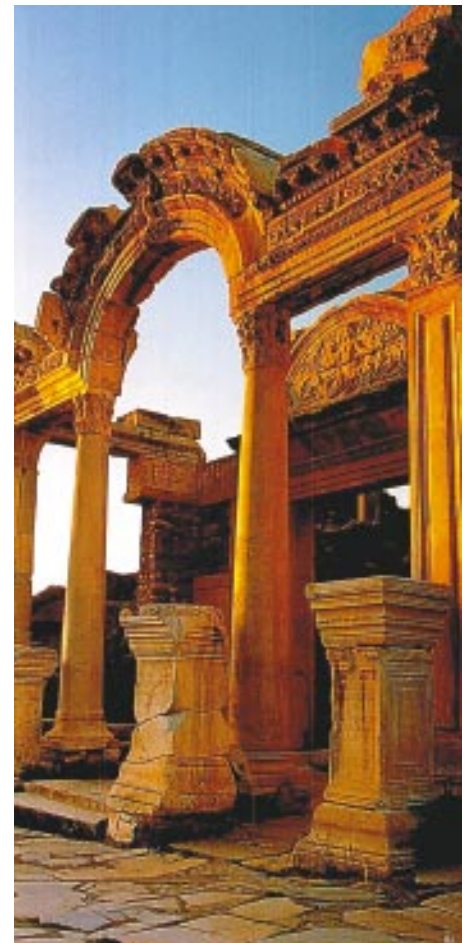
Your hotel here is the **Izmir Hilton**, just three blocks from the water, overlooking the Aegean. Gleaming chandeliers, gray marble, dark paneled walls and majestic palms decorate the lobby of this modern hotel. This evening, you dine à la carte in an elegant restaurant on the hotel's 31st floor, overlooking the city. (B,L,D)

Day 9 (June 8, Thursday)

IZMIR - PERGAMON - IZMIR

There are more classical ruins in Turkey than in Greece, and today you drive northward from Izmir to Pergamon's impressive ancient site overlooking the 150-year old Greek houses and centuries-old ruins of the city of Bergama. The most famous physician of the Roman Empire, Galen, made Pergamon a center of the cult of Asclepius (the Greek demi-god of healing). The Asclepion was both a temple and a place of healing, and legend claims that no patient left here unhealed; you see the remains of the marble colonnade, theater, and healing rooms here.

After a break for lunch, you also view the ruins of a Roman circus, a large gymnasium, several temples, and the House of Attalus; the amphitheater, with a capacity for 10,000, is most impressive. In ancient times, the library at Pergamon was second only to the one in Alexandria – it contained over 200,000 volumes. On the walk up to the Acropolis and the Royal Palaces, be sure to write down a wish and tie it onto a branch of the "wishing tree". Returning to Izmir, you make your dinner selections from the à la carte menu in the



Celsus Library, Ephesus

ACCOMMODATIONS

Istanbul – Hotel Four Seasons (3 nights)

Created from a century-old neo-classic Turkish building, in the core of this fabled city, this hotel is only steps from the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, and the Grand and Spice Bazaars. Luxurious guest rooms overlook the open courtyard.

Cappadocia – Kapadokya Lodge (2)

The Cappadocia Lodge Country Club is much more than simply a hotel; it is an architectural delight. Natural materials of the region have been used in a most attractive manner to create connecting atriums, lava rock benches, stone walls, and marble tables.

Ankara – Hotel Sheraton (1)

Izmir – Hotel Hilton (2)

Towering above the historic port city, the Izmir Hilton overlooks the Aegean Coast.

Antalya – Hotel Sheraton Voyager (2)

Enhanced by a mild climate throughout the year, the hotel overlooks a turquoise sea and sandy beach and is an oasis of luxury and relaxation. Elegant accommodations radiate out from a towering, futuristic atrium and are attentively appointed to pamper guests with superlative comforts.

Istanbul – Hotel Four Seasons (1)

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE TELEPHONE TOLL FREE: 1-888-377-8023

hotel's restaurant, offering local specialties. (B,L,D)

Day 10 (June 9, Friday)

IZMIR – EPHESUS – IZMIR

This morning, your journey takes a southerly direction as you drive to Ephesus to see the ruins of one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. They are so extensive and well preserved that you will find it easy to imagine the daily life of the 250,000 people who lived here 2,000 years ago. Notice the remains of the Vedius Gymnasium and a stadium near the main entrance; and then walk down the magnificent, colonnaded marble avenue to the center of the site. You see the dazzling Grand Theater; stop in the Commercial Agora (the main plaza) and see the reconstructed Library of Celsus. At the Terrace Houses, where the wealthiest and most prominent families once lived, you see the mosaic floors and superbly preserved wall frescoes, and you visit the renovated Temple of Hadrian with its intricately carved façade. The colossal Temple of Artemis – one of the Seven Wonders of the World - was built entirely of marble and was four times as large as the Parthenon in Athens. It was the largest building in the ancient Greek world.

This afternoon, relax at your hotel; there is a plethora of activities here – an indoor pool, tennis and squash courts, a well-equipped health club, sauna, bowling, mini-golf, and billiards. Later, join your travel companions for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 11 (June 10, Saturday)

IZMIR – ANTALYA

This morning, you fly via Istanbul to the “jewel of the Turquoise Coast”, the city of Antalya. Set atop a cliff, overlooking a crescent-shaped bay, with the backdrop of the Taurus Mountains, it was founded as a seaport; in classical times, it was known as Lycia, and later, as Pamphylia. During the Middle Ages, it was an important embarkation point for troops heading for Palestine during the Crusades. You visit the Antalya Museum, one of Turkey's most impressive, and see



Bosphorus

exhibits from pre-historic times up to the formation of the Turkish Republic, including the first currency, artifacts from the Archaic era, and relics from nearby sites at Aspendos, Perge, and Side.

Rows of citrus trees and flowering tropical shrubs line the drive leading to the long stucco building that is your hotel – the **Sheraton Voyager**. The atrium soars to the full height of the building; and a wall of glass reflects the groomed multilevel tropical gardens with waterfalls, streams, and small bridges. Relax by the tiered outdoor pools in the hotel's landscaped garden. And later, join your fellow travelers for dinner at the hotel where the à la carte menu features delicious Turkish and Continental dishes. (B,L,D)

Day 12 (June 11, Sunday)

ANTALYA – PERGE – ASPENDOS – ANTALYA

There are many ancient Lycian cities in the countryside outside Antalya, and you have the opportunity to visit some of them today. You see Perge, a city settled in 1200 BC, which was not attacked by pirates because of its inland location; it survived through the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine ages. You visit one of the best-preserved stadiums in all of Anatolia here. It had a capacity for 12,000 people; and the rooms below the stadium seats are thought to have been used as shops. There is also a spectator theater from the 2nd century AD as well as a great many statues, pillared streets, sarcophagi, a basilica and an acropolis.

After lunch, you also go to Aspendos, dating back to the 5th century BC, with a very impressive Roman amphitheater, which is still being used today. In addition to the theater, you see miles of aqueducts and a basilica.

This afternoon, you take the opportunity for shopping or sightseeing in the old town of Antalya or to swim in the pools at the hotel before a festive dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 13 (June 12, Monday)

ANTALYA – ISTANBUL

This morning, you fly back to



Carpet weaver, Cappadocia

Istanbul and have the remainder of the day at leisure to shop at the bazaar and explore some of the smaller stalls for special purchases to bring home. You make your a la carte dinner selections at the dining room of your hotel, the **Four Seasons**. (B,L,D)

OR (JOURNEY EXTENSION) ANTALYA – GOCEK

Those of you who have chosen to continue your journey, by including the cruise, are driven to the Mediterranean fishing village of Gocek in time for a delicious dinner on board the ship, the “Halas”. (B,L,D)

Day 14 (June 13, Tuesday)

ISTANBUL – USA

Your journey comes to an end as you are escorted to the airport for your return home. (B)

DATES	
Depart-WED (from USA)	Return-TUE
May 31	Jun 13
2001 Dates:	
May 30	Jun 12
COST PER PERSON	
Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 4,280
Single supplement	\$ 1,260
Domestic Airfare	\$ 315
International Airfare (New York)	\$ 865
<i>All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.</i>	