



ISTANBUL, CAPPADOCIA and EPHEBUS
for
McCOLL CENTER for VISUAL ART

• VIP CLIENTS OF SUSIE GROSS • CWT VACATIONS •

October 2013

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Day 1:

Arrival at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport where you will connect to your flight to Izmir.

Flights depart for Izmir approximately every hour.

Upon arrival in Izmir, you will be met and escorted to your hotel.

This evening, enjoy dinner at the Aqua restaurant.

Check in at the Swissotel Grand Efes. This well-located hotel is close to the seaside Kordon Promenade and offers a swimming pool as well as excellent spa facilities.

• You will be staying in an executive room with sea view.

You will be on your own for dinner. We suggest one of the hotel's restaurants, Aquarium or Equinox or head out to the Kordon Promenade.

Overnight: Swissotel Grand Efes – executive room with sea view.

Day 2:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Enjoy a full-day tour with your expert guide and transport.

Explore the ancient city of Ephesus - whose renowned ruins are among the most extensive in the world. In its heyday, Ephesus rivaled Rome in its splendor.

Visit the Gymnasium, Odeon, Prytaneion, Nymphaion, Domitian Temple, Thermal Baths, Octagon House, Celsus Library, Agora, Serapeum, Arcade, and Double Church. The Temple of Artemis is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.



VIRTUOSO



Morocco

Spain

Portugal

Turkey

Southern Africa

Day 2 (continued):

Explore the terrace houses situated on the slopes of Mt. Coressus. The houses, occupied from the 1st to 7th centuries AD, offer a fascinating look at family life during the Roman period. The houses were abandoned after Arab raids during the 7th century and slowly fell into decay. They were preserved over time by soil from landslides.

- *Lunch at Selcuk Kofteci, a favorite for its local specialties.*

Visit the Ephesus Museum in nearby Selcuk.

If you wish, visit the House of the Virgin Mary, where Mary is said to have lived for eleven years and died, and the Grotto of the Seven Sleepers. The Basilica of Saint John is a very important pilgrimage site as it is believed to contain the remains of the Apostle John.

Continue to the small mountain village of Sirince, whose main road is lined with stalls selling everything from local produce, olive oil and fruit wines to kitschy souvenirs.

- *Enjoy dinner back at the Swissotel Grand Efes in Izmir.*

Overnight: Swissotel Grand Efes – executive room with sea view.

Day 3:

Breakfast at your hotel.

You will be escorted to the airport for your 10:00 AM departing flight to Istanbul aboard Turkish Airlines TK 2313.

Upon arrival, scheduled for 11:10 AM, connect to your 12:20 PM flight to Kayseri.

You will be on your own for lunch.

1:45 PM arrival aboard Turkish Airlines TK 2012, where you will be met by your expert guide.

Today, you'll begin exploring the stunning landscape of Cappadocia, whose soft volcanic rock has eroded into stunning rock formations, fairy chimneys and picturesque valleys. The region also has a fascinating history dating back to early Christian times.

See the remarkable rock formations in Devrent Valley, several of which are shaped like animals. Nearby, the fairy chimneys in Pasabag Valley are some of the most region's most striking.

Check in at Argos, a carefully restored historical property on the site of an ancient monastery. The beautifully landscaped grounds enhance the stunning views of Pigeon Valley and Mt. Erciyes.

- You will be staying in a Deluxe room.
- *The group will enjoy dinner at Seten in Goreme, a favorite among locals.*
- This evening, enjoy a Mevlana performance of Whirling Dervishes at a 13th-century caravanserai outside of Avanos.

Overnight: Argos – Deluxe room.



Day 4:

Breakfast at your hotel.

- *If you like, we would be pleased to make a morning reservation for a one hour hot air balloon ride (payable upon receipt of services; approximate price is 175 Euro per person).*

Enjoy a full-day tour with your expert guide and transport.

Begin at Sinasos, Mustafapasha in Turkish. The former Greek village continues to thrive today. In contrast the nearby village of Soganli is so quiet and undisturbed it's as if the village has been frozen in time.

- *For lunch, enjoy authentic Anatolian cuisine at Old Greek House in Sinasos.*

Depart for the vast underground city of Kaymakli, a virtual city buried beneath the surface of the earth designed to shelter and protect up to 15,000 civilians against the Arab raids of the 7th century.

Continue to the stunning Pigeon Valley and take a stroll through this fantastic landscape. See the natural citadel of Uçhisar, strategically cut into an entire mountainside, with a 60 ft. rock-carved Byzantine fortress on top.

- *Enjoy dinner at Ziggy's Café, a modern version of the ancient caravanserai where travelers and locals connected.*

Overnight: Argos – Deluxe room.

Day 5:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Enjoy a full-day tour with your expert guide and transport.

Begin your day in Goreme Valley, an open-air museum comprising dozens of early Christian chapels and churches carved from the soft stone and covered with millennium-old frescoes.

- Visit the restored "Dark Church" at Goreme – just opened to the public after years of painstaking restoration of the frescoes.

- *Enjoy lunch at Dayinin Yeri in the town of Avanos.*

Explore Avanos, set on the banks of the Kizilirmak (also known as the Red River) the longest river in Turkey. The abundance of red clay found within the river gives the region's renowned pottery its distinctive color.

This afternoon, you will be escorted to Kayseri's airport for your 5:20 PM flight to Istanbul aboard Turkish Airlines TK 2015.

6:50 PM arrival in Istanbul where you will be met and escorted to your hotel.

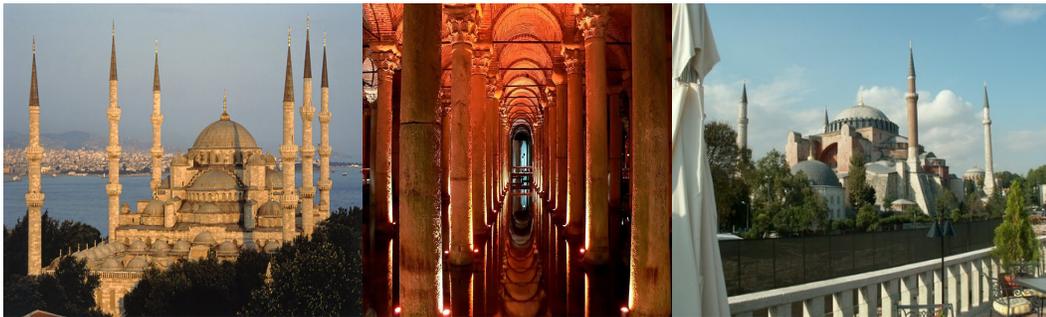
Day 5 (continued):

Check in at the Pera Palace, an historic hotel that has been beautifully restored to its former grandeur. The hotel is located in the vibrant Beyoglu district, within walking distance to many of the city's best art galleries and Istiklal Caddesi, the most famous street in Istanbul.

- You will be staying in a Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

Tonight, meet in the lobby of the Pera Palace and walk across the street for a cocktail reception and dinner at Mikla atop the Marmara Pera. The restaurant boasts spectacular views of Beyoglu and beyond.

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.



Day 6:

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of the vibrant neighborhood of Beyoglu. Visit the Pera Museum housed in what was once a former Victorian hotel. The main collection features Orientalist paintings, Ottoman tiles and old weights, while also hosting top-notch traveling exhibitions by the likes of Picasso, Botero and Chagal. Begin at the top and work your way down through the various spaces.

Discover engaging Istiklal Caddesi (pedestrians only), Istanbul's most famous street. Explore the surrounding neighborhoods that are undergoing a process of gentrification. The street stretches from Galata uphill to Taksim Square.

- Head up the Galata Tower, which has dominated Beyoglu's skyline since the 14th Century and still offers some of the best panoramic views of the city.

Continue to SALT, an innovative institution that made its debut on Istanbul's art scene in 2011. The non-profit organization is funded by Galata Bank, with the hopes of becoming Turkey's largest cultural institution.

- *Lunch at SALT's Bistro, where the menu features classic Italian and Mediterranean dishes as well as modern takes on Turkish classics.*

Head to the Misir Apartments. The top floor is home to the trendy bar and nightclub 360, while some of the city's best galleries are below. Here, you will visit the following:

- Galerist, which has hosted fashion designer Huseyin Caglayan's photography projects, stylish hyper-realistic paintings by Taner Ceylan, and other hip and modern exhibitions.
- Galeri Nev takes a more considered approach than its neighbor combining art history with modern Turkish art.

Day 6 (continued):

- The mission of CDA-Projects is to provide a platform for established and emerging contemporary artists who specialize in painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video and new media. Artist-led programs and exhibitions with independent curators are common at CDA-Projects, whose goal is to be more than a profit-focused gallery.

Other stops may include Cicek Pisaji, Arter, Yapi Kredi Kultur Merkezi and Garaj, a contemporary performance art space.

- *Enjoy dinner at Karakoy Lokantasi, behind the gentrified docks at Karakoy. After dinner, head down the street to Karakoy Gulluoglu, a world-famous baklava bakery.*

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

Day 7:

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning, enjoy a half-day tour in Istanbul's old city, Sultanahmet, with your expert guide and transport.

Begin at the magnificent Hagia Sophia. Built at the command of the Emperor Justinian during the Golden Age of Byzantium, Hagia Sophia was the greatest church in Christendom for centuries.

Explore the mysterious and surreal 6th-century cistern under the streets of ancient Constantinople. Supported by over 300 columns and still filled with water, it is so extensive that the means of transport was once small boats.

Continue at the magnificent Santa Kariye, an 11th-century church with Byzantine mosaics and frescoes considered to be among the world's most important.

- *Lunch at the elegant Asitane Restaurant adjacent to Santa Kariye.*

This afternoon, you'll visit the special exhibits at various art galleries, beginning in the Tophane area of the city.

- Galeri Mana is housed in a converted wheat mill dating back to the 19th century. The 400 sq. meters of exhibition space features a mix of Turkish and international artists at various stages of their career. Turkish-American curator Suzanne Egeran helped establish the gallery.

- Considered one of the one of the most exciting art spaces in Istanbul, Rodeo is known for its high-quality art and international avant-garde awareness. Here you'll find everything from original installations comprised of dozens of related water colours to re-contextualised, ready-made pieces taken from old books and photo albums. Know where to look and you might hear about extremely cutting-edge performances, like multidisciplinary artist Cevdet Ere, rubbing a carpet hung on the wall.

- Continue to Gallery Apel, for a cocktail reception at the gallery's Bienal exhibition. Gallery Apel features various Turkish and Ottoman exhibitions, often with themes that relate to daily life such as "neighbors" and "weddings and celebrations".

Return to the hotel to rejuvenate before dinner.

- *This evening, enjoy dinner and entertainment at Al Jamal in Macka.*

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

"In a place where not everything runs like clockwork, it was reassuring to be in the reliable hands of experts like Heritage Tours."

- Diversion (January 2001)

Day 8:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, you'll visit the 13th Istanbul Bienal, which will be held from September 14-November 10, 2013. In its 25 year history, the Istanbul Bienal has attracted top international talent including numerous gifted curators such as Dan Cameron (formerly of the New Museum), Rene Block (former galleries and museum director), and for last year's affair, Adriano Pedrosa and Jens Hoffman. The conceptual framework for the 13th Bienal will be announced in the fall of 2012 by curator Fulya Erdemci.

- *Head to the shores of the Bosphorus for lunch at Istanbul Modern.*

Explore Istanbul Modern, a huge former warehouse at the water's edge. This is Istanbul's most prominent contemporary gallery which laid the groundwork for the city's emerging contemporary art scene. A permanent exhibition takes visitors through the history of modern Turkish art.

Rest and rejuvenate at your hotel before meeting in the hotel lobby to drive to Sultanahmet for dinner.

Located on the third floor of Armaggan Nuruosamaniye, the Armaggan Gallery's objective is to support and raise awareness for Turkish artists in a range of fields. Its inaugural exhibitions featured work by Turkish artists who have exhibited at SOFA Chicago and SOFA New York.

- *Dinner at Nar Restaurant on the fifth floor of the Armaggan. The restaurant offers a beautiful respite from the hectic Grand Bazaar nearby and features regional dishes, some prepared in the stone oven that is the focal point of the dining area.*

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

Day 9:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, you'll explore more of Istanbul's most celebrated sites with your expert guide and transport.

Begin at Topkapi Palace, the legendary palace of the Ottoman Sultans and now one of the finest museums in Turkey.

- Your visit includes the once secret harems where the vast concubines of the sultans were kept.
- Explore the outstanding Treasury Museum at the Topkapi, which is filled with spectacular pieces from the period of the sultans.

Adjacent to Topkapi Palace, visit the Istanbul Archaeology Museum, whose façade was inspired by the Alexander Sarcophagus and Sarcophagus of the Mourning Women, both housed inside. The Kadesh Peace Treaty, the oldest known peace treaty in the world, is another favorite as is the Tiled Pavilion, one of the city's oldest Ottoman structures displaying beautiful ceramics.

- *Enjoy lunch at Sera Restaurant in the garden at Yesil Ev.*

Discover the Blue Mosque - one of the major monuments of Old Istanbul – with six minarets and famous turquoise tiles.

Stroll through the Hippodrome - the center of Byzantine civic life for 1000 years, including coronations, Roman chariot races and more than one royal execution.

Day 9 (continued):

The stunning Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, housed in a 1524 palace of Ibrahim Pasha, is renowned for its collection of Turkish carpets, illuminated Korans, miniatures and colorful tiles.

Return to the hotel to rest and refresh before dinner.

- *This evening, enjoy dinner at Le Fumoir on the rooftop terrace of the Hotel Georges.*

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

Day 10:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Enjoy a full-day tour with your expert guide and transport.

Begin at the outstanding Santral Museum in Istanbul. Housed in what was a vast electrical generating plant at the foot of the Golden Horn, the museum includes modern Turkish art as well as rotating shows.

Continue to the Rustem Pasha Mosque. The mosque is an architectural gem in the midst of Istanbul's bustling Tahtakale market. It is small but beautifully proportioned, and the interior is covered in some of the most exquisite Iznik faience (colored tiles) ever produced.

- *Lunch at Hamdi famous for its delicious kebabs.*

A stone's throw away is the famous Spice Bazaar. This colorful, covered bazaar has shops selling all sorts of exotic goodies.

Then, discover the largest covered marketplace in the world - the Grand Bazaar in the heart of old Istanbul, with over 3,000 shops.

Return to the hotel to refresh before your farewell dinner.

Embark on a cruise up the Bosphorus Strait. Enjoy a leisurely exploration of this historic waterway between Europe and Asia (two hour cruise). From the water, you'll spot many sites you'll recognize, such as the Galata Tower, and many you may not be familiar with like the Rumeli Fortress and the Ortakoy Mosque.

- *The cruise will conclude in Tarabya, where you will disembark your boat and cross the street to Therapia Restaurant. Enjoy the views of the Bosphorus Strait up to the Black Sea while the efficient staff serves up delicious cuisine including seafood mezze and fresh fish dishes.*

- **Optional Upgrade:** *This evening, you will be transported across the Bosphorus Strait to the Asian side of Istanbul. Enjoy dinner at the home of a leading Istanbul socialite who is a Ph.D. in Ottoman art and a designer for Turkey's most famous high-end design brand. His home is one of the most beautiful private residences in Istanbul. He bought the wooden Ottoman-era mansion, originally a hunting lodge, as a ruin and spent six years painstakingly restoring it, completing it in 2011. It has been featured on the cover of Turkey's most prominent cultural magazine.*

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

| Know thyself.

Thales of Miletus

Day 11:

Breakfast at your hotel.

Day at leisure to explore the wonders of Istanbul on your own. You may wish to revisit the Bialal or shop for mementoes for your trip.

An escort will be available to assist with arranging the various excursions. Transportation is also available for the group.

You will be on your own for lunch and dinner.

Overnight: Pera Palace – Deluxe Golden Horn view room.

Day 12:

Breakfast at your hotel.

You will be escorted to the airport for your departing flight.

Bon voyage!

Included in your tour:

ACCOMMODATION:

Eleven nights accommodation (double occupancy).
Breakfasts at hotel every morning.
Lunches and dinner as mentioned above (beverages not included).

SPECIAL HERITAGE TOURS PRIVATE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES:

Two-hour cruise on the Bosphorus Strait; transfer included (Day 10).

PRIVATE TOURS:

Ephesus: Full-day tour with expert guide and transport (Day 2)
Cappadocia: Full-day tours with expert guide and transport (Days 4-5).
Istanbul: Full-day walking tour with expert guide (Day 6).
Istanbul: Full-day tours with expert guide and transport (Days 7-10)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Transfers as appropriate from Izmir airport – hotel.
Transfer: Izmir hotel – airport.
Transfer: Kayseri airport – Cappadocia hotel.
Transfer: Cappadocia hotel – Kayseri airport.
Transfer: Istanbul airport – hotel.
Transport available throughout the day (Day 11).
Transfers as appropriate from Istanbul hotel - airport.

OTHER SERVICES:

All admissions as noted while with expert guide.
Value Added Tax and all service charges.
Assistance from our in-country office as needed.
Bottled water available on your motor coach.

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL:

All the intangibles that come with the connections, knowledge, passion and experience of one of the premier travel providers to Turkey.

Not included:

Sightseeing/admissions when not with an expert guide.
Meals other than breakfast, unless specified in included list.
Transport unless listed above.
Gratuities.
Visa fees (for US citizens, \$20 payable on arrival).

“THE HOTTEST...THE BEST...THE NEXT”

- TRAVEL AND LEISURE

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CUSTOMIZED TRIP WITH ACCESS TO
VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE AND PLACES."

- DEPARTURES MAGAZINE