

# 2024

## HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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### TURKEY FAMILY ADVENTURE

with five nights aboard traditional *gulet* sailboats

June 25–July 7, 2024

With **Alison Frank Johnson**, Professor of History



HARVARD  
Alumni Travels





Above left: Walking toward the Blue Mosque in Istanbul  
Cover: The Library of Celsus in Ephesus

## Crossroads of Civilizations

From its importance as the western terminus of the great Silk Road to its key political and cultural influence in the Eastern Mediterranean from the time of the Ottoman's and Byzantine world, Turkey continues to be an important player at the crossroads of civilizations. Examine the country's ancient and modern treasures, from the magnificent Blue Mosque in Istanbul to the Greco-Roman site of Ephesus, to its exciting cosmopolitan art enclaves. Then cruise the Mediterranean's Turquoise Coast in privately chartered gulet yachts for five nights—with swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and a full youth program on board\*.

Travelers will also have the option of a four-night post-trip extension in Cappadocia and Ankara.

*\*The youth program will be determined by actual ages of registered guests and may include such activities as: keeping a journey log, knot-tying lessons, felt making, ancient and modern history, sea songs, and backgammon (a favorite table game in Turkey).*

## Study Leader



**Alison Frank Johnson** is professor of history at Harvard University and a resident faculty at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES). She also serves as chair of the department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard.

She specializes in the history of German-speaking Europe and the Habsburg Monarchy in the modern period. She has written about environmental and economic history, natural resources, the death penalty, the Mediterranean slave trade, and popular religiosity, among other diverse topics.

## Activity Level 3:

### A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. The schedule will include some long days, with early wake-ups and activities scheduled throughout the day and into the evening. Participants should be fit and in active good health. Walking tours can last as long as three hours, covering up to two miles on some days, often in the warm sun with intermittent shade. Much of the walking will take place at archaeological sites, often on hilly and uneven terrain, and in older quarters, where streets are often cobblestoned. Some buildings do not have elevators, and you may occasionally encounter stairways without handrails.



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Inside Hagia Sophia; Gulets at anchor



## Schedule by Day

TUESDAY–WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25–26

### U.S. / ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Depart the United States on independent overnight flights to Istanbul, Turkey.

Upon arrival, a local representative will meet you and assist you with your airport shuttle to your hotel. In the evening, gather in the hotel lobby for introductions and a welcome reception.

GRAND HYATT (R)

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

### ISTANBUL

Begin the day at Topkapi Palace, the principal residence of the Ottoman sultans from the 15th to the 19th century. The palace is now a museum featuring vast collections of jewelry, costumes, and ceramics. Visit the Imperial Armory, displaying centuries of Ottoman weaponry, and the Byzantine Church of St. Irene, located in the first courtyard of Topkapi. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the nearby Archaeological Museum and Museum of the Ancient Orient, home to spectacular pieces from ancient Babylon, Persia, and Mesopotamia. Also see the iconic Hagia Sophia (“Divine Wisdom”) Mosque, the world’s largest place of worship for hundreds of years, and a source of architectural inspiration from the 6th Century through modern times. Continue to the famous Grand Bazaar, first open for business in 1455 and

expanded many times over the centuries, now an enormous labyrinth of covered streets lined with thousands of shops. Board a private boat for a sunset cruise on the Bosphorus this evening, an unforgettable excursion between two continents (Europe & Asia).

GRAND HYATT (B, L, R)

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

### ISTANBUL

After breakfast and a morning lecture, participate in a felt-making workshop with a master craftsman. The process of felt making is amongst the oldest and most basic forms of crafting textiles, done by hand in Turkish nomadic tribes, where rugs, tents, and clothing are regularly made. Visit the Hippodrome, the ancient stadium that held 100,000 spectators. Continue to the Blue Mosque, named for the blue Iznik tile work that decorates its interior. Walk to the Nakilbent Cistern, an amazing 6th-century underground water tank accessed through an authentic Turkish handicraft shop, for a private whirling dervish performance. In the evening, enjoy a traditional *meyhane* dinner at a local restaurant.

GRAND HYATT (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

### DALAMAN / FETHIYE / EMBARK GULETS

Enjoy time at leisure until an afternoon flight to Dalaman. Upon arrival, transfer to Fethiye for a walking tour of the town. Tonight, anchor either at Aquarium Bay or Turunc Pinari Bay, depending on the weather and sea conditions. Aquarium Bay is popular due to its crystal-clear water and colorful landscapes. Boats and gulets from nearby harbors often come to swim and snorkel. Turunc Pinari Bay is one of the clearest and bluest bays in the area. It is only accessible by boat and is considered a hidden paradise nestled in the valley between hills descending steeply to the sea.

ABOARD GULETS (B, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

### HAMAM BAY (CLEOPATRA’S BATH)

After breakfast, sail to the stunning Bedri Rahmi Bay, named after a famous Turkish artist and one of the most important inlets of the gulf. Continue to Hamam Bay, also referred to as Cleopatra’s Bath. The Egyptian queen was said to bathe here twice a week, even on her honeymoon. It’s name comes from the ruins of a Byzantine bath in a warm water cove in the crater lake. Those who wish can see the and nearby Greco-Roman ruins with a three-hour trail walk full of thyme, eucalyptus, pine, and oleander bushes.

ABOARD GULETS (B, L, D)





*The Castle of St. Peter in Bodrum, surrounded by the harbor; An ancient Roman road in Ephesus*



MONDAY, JULY 1

### **AGA LIMANI**

Move from Hamam Bay to Dis Gobun. After breakfast in Gobun Bay, set sail to the hidden Bay of Aga Harbor. Today is at leisure for swimming, kayaking, hiking, and sunbathing. There is an underwater spring feeding the area, so the waters are clean and clear and a bit cooler. For views up and down the coastline, there is a short but tough trail leading to the top of a nearby plateau.

ABOARD GULETS (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, JULY 2

### **EKINCİK COVE / KAUNOS**

Cruise to Lydae to visit hilltop Roman and Byzantine ruins. Make a dry landing on a rocky, gravel beach and take a very rocky path leading steadily uphill for about 1 mile to the ruins and a lovely view. Return to the gulets for lunch on board while cruising to Ekincik Cove, the only protected anchorage on this stretch of coast, and one of the breeding grounds of the threatened Caretta Caretta turtles. Cruise up the Dalyan River to the ancient site of Kaunos, an important seaport that dates to the 10th Century B.C. and see the impressive Lycian tombs carved into the cliff face above. Drop anchor tonight near the mouth of the Dalyan River.

ABOARD GULETS (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

### **KADIRGA COVE / MARMARIS**

Cruise toward Marmaris with stops to swim, snorkel, and kayak at Kadirga and Kumlubük Bays. Gather for a “farewell gulets” dinner on board this evening.

ABOARD GULETS (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JULY 4

### **MARMARIS / DISEMBARK / BODRUM**

Disembark in Marmaris and drive to Bodrum. Visit the Castle of St. Peter, now home to the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, jutting far into the harbor with colorful yachts and sailing vessels of all kinds docked just outside its walls. The towers and battlements of the castle dominate the town as a reminder of its storied past. It was built in the 1400's by the Knights of St. John, who plundered the nearby Mausoleum, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, for the marble and stones used in the construction of the castle. Also see the Mausoleum, the greatest achievement of Carian King Mausolus, who moved his capital from Mylasa to Halicarnassus (now Bodrum). The evening is at leisure to dine at one of the many restaurants in town.

MAGNA MANASTIR (B, L)

FRIDAY, JULY 5

### **BODRUM / EPHEBUS / KUSADASI**

After breakfast depart to Kusadasi. En route, visit Ephesus, one of the most beautiful cities of the ancient world. Much has been done to restore the white marble streets, theaters, baths, gymnasium, market, and beautifully carved library. Also visit the House of Virgin Mary where, according to legend, she spent her last years. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, tour the Ephesus Archeological Museum in Selcuk. Continue to Kusadasi in time for dinner at the hotel.

CHARISMA HOTEL (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JULY 6

### **KUSADASI**

Enjoy a day in Guzelcamli National Park with options to bike, hike, or kayak. After a swim from the beach and a picnic lunch, return to Kusadasi. Celebrate with a farewell outdoor barbeque dinner with views of the sea.

CHARISMA HOTEL (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JULY 7

### **IZMIR / HOME**

After breakfast, transfer to the Izmir airport for a 1-hour flight to Istanbul. From there, either make international connections to return home or board a domestic flight for the optional extension to Cappadocia.

(B)

## Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the duality of Istanbul: its fascinating history and its vibrant, contemporary side.
- Cruise the exquisite Turquoise Coast for five nights aboard privately chartered *gulet* yachts. Swim, snorkel and kayak in the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Take in the beauty of Ephesus, where the Greco-Roman world comes alive at Europe's most complete classical metropolis, and where St. Paul preached on his second missionary journey.
- Explore the Underwater Archeology Museum and take part in a scavenger hunt at the Castle of St. Peter in Bodrum.
- Visit Ekincik Cove, one of the breeding grounds for the threatened Caretta Caretta Turtles, and learn about what is being done to protect them.
- Experience a Whirling Dervish ceremony in the 6th century Nakilbent Cistern in Istanbul
- Enjoy a full youth program throughout the journey



## Rates per Person

	DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>CHILDREN 17 AND YOUNGER</b>	<b>\$8,495</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>ADULTS 18 AND OLDER</b>	<b>\$8,995</b>	<b>\$11,995</b>

The third person in a triple hotel room receives a \$400 discount (there are no triples on gulets).



Above: Kusadasi at dusk; Above-right: Whirling Dervishes; Back cover: Ephesus

**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE** All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including six hotel nights and five nights aboard *gulets* • Two on-tour flights: Istanbul/Dalaman and Izmir/Istanbul • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Shared transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to the *gulet* captain and crew, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome and farewell dinners • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager and youth coordinator throughout the program



**AIR ARRANGEMENTS** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.



BOOK ONLINE  
TO REGISTER



# Trip Registration is Easy

## Step 1

Visit: [alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/turkey-family-2024](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/turkey-family-2024)

## Step 2

**Click** the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

## Step 3

**Look** for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

*All bookings are conducted online only.*

*Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).*



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