

# HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



## LEGENDARY TURKEY

OCTOBER 5-19, 2021

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:** Istanbul, Ephesus, Turquoise Coast, Antalya

- Begin with four nights in magnificent Istanbul, where highlights include the Spice Market, the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sofia, Topkapi Palace, and a private Bosphorus cruise.
- Discover Pergamum, one of Turkey's most spectacular ancient sites
- Boarding a privately chartered gulet yacht, take a distinctive three-night "Blue Voyage" along the exquisite Turquoise Coast, visiting the Sunken Baths of Cleopatra and secluded coves, and swimming, snorkeling, and hiking.
- In Antalya, tour the acclaimed Archaeological Museum, then encounter Perge's outstanding Grecian ruins.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** Level 3

**STUDY LEADER:** Frances Gallart Marques, Frederick Randolph Grace Curatorial Fellow at the Harvard Art Museums

**ACCOMMODATES:** 12–21 guests. *This is a Harvard exclusive program.*

#### PRICING:

Air inclusive from Boston, New York City, or Washington, D.C. (including airline taxes and fees):

- \$ 5,292 per person double occupancy
- \$6,087 single occupancy

Land Only:

- \$ 4,395 per person double occupancy
- \$ 5,190 single occupancy

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner*

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

#### DEPART U.S. FOR ISTANBUL, TURKEY

This evening depart the U.S. on flights to Istanbul.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

#### ARRIVE ISTANBUL

After arriving in Istanbul, meet the tour director and transfer to the hotel located near Taksim Square, the heart of modern Istanbul. Please note that as guests' arrival times may vary greatly, no group activities or meals have been planned for this day. You are free to explore the area around the hotel or simply relax after your overseas flights.

Dinner tonight is on your own.

Overnight: *Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

#### ISTANBUL

Spend your first day in Istanbul touring the legendary city. This morning, walk along the lively, pedestrian Istiklal Street, lined with boutiques, galleries, restaurants, and late Ottoman-era buildings.

We then take a panoramic drive along the historic walls of Istanbul's Old City, before traveling to the Spice Bazaar area, overlooking Istanbul's Golden Horn (the main inlet feeding into the Bosphorus), to visit two landmark mosques. First, visit Rustem Pasha, a small, intimate mosque with exquisite Iznik tiles set in beautiful floral and geometric designs. Then see the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century imperial mosque which ranks as one of Istanbul's best-known sights. The mosque features a massive central dome and splendid tilework, and its four 250-foot minarets preside over the city.

From here, take a short walk to Istanbul's renowned Spice Bazaar, with exotic spices, nuts, and dried fruits from around the world. After lunch on our own here, we take a private

cruise on the Bosphorus, one of the most strategically significant waterways in the ancient world, and still the dividing line between Europe and Asia.

Late this afternoon return to the hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Turkish fare at a local restaurant.

Overnight: *Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus* (B, D)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

#### ISTANBUL

This morning, cross over Galata Bridge and tour Old Istanbul, home of splendid mosques and palaces. Visit the ancient Roman Hippodrome with its 3,500-year-old obelisk and continue on to the marvelous Blue Mosque, topped by six slender minarets. Inside is one of the world's great collections of blue Iznik tiles (20,000 of them), along with 260 stained glass windows.

Next, visit the renowned Museum of Turkish & Islamic Art housing artifacts from the Ottoman (14th to 20th centuries), Seljuk (11th to 13th centuries), and earlier periods beginning in the 8th century. In the restored Palace of Ibrahim Pasha, the museum displays both everyday items and ancient pieces of art including carvings of wood, glass, and stone.

After enjoying lunch together at a local restaurant, continue on to famed Hagia Sophia, which was the world's grandest Christian cathedral when it was built in 537 CE. It was converted into a mosque in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, then operated as a museum for nearly 100 years before being re-opened as a mosque last year.

Return to the hotel late this afternoon and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Overnight: *Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus* (B, L)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

#### ISTANBUL

This morning, visit Topkapi Palace, dramatically set on a promontory with remarkable views over the Bosphorus. This vast palace, the home of Ottoman sultans for

400 years, once housed as many as 4,000 royals, courtiers, and hangers-on. Among other magnificent artifacts on display here, see priceless paintings, jewel-encrusted swords, and delicate porcelains.

Next, visit the Basilica Cistern, the marble-columned underground chamber that provided water to Istanbul in antiquity. Fed by nearly 12 miles of aqueducts and supported by 336 columns, the cistern once held more than 21 million gallons of water, and provides the setting for the climactic scene in Dan Brown's novel *Inferno*.

The next stop is the vast Grand Bazaar, one of the world's largest covered markets. Some 5,000 shops and stalls compete for shoppers' attention, selling jewelry, pottery, leather, Turkish delicacies, and much more. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration. You have your choice of many excellent restaurants for lunch and dinner on your own.

Overnight: *Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus (B)*

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10** ISTANBUL / GALLIPOLI / TROY / ASSOS

Early this morning, begin the full day of travel southward from Istanbul. Your first stop is Gallipoli, set along the northern coast of the Aegean Sea, where in 1915 Allied troops were defeated by the Turkish army led by Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal, better known as Ataturk. Pay your respects to the large number of those who gave their lives here as you visit ANZAC Beach Cemetery.

Next, travel across the Straits of the Dardanelles to Troy, once believed to have existed only in Homer's epic poem. Heinrich Schliemann discovered the real Troy in the 1870s. Excavations have revealed the remnants of at least nine civilizations here dating back 5,000 years. After an exploration of the ruins and relics here, continue on to Behramkale, ancient Assos, where you will spend the night.

Overnight: *Assos Eden Gardens (B, L, D)*

## **MONDAY, OCTOBER 11** ASSOS / PERGAMUM / IZMIR

This morning, depart for Pergamum, once one of the richest small kingdoms in Asia Minor and where one of the world's largest collections of books was housed. After stopping for lunch along the way, visit the magnificent Acropolis, which contains the ruins of Pergamum's acclaimed 200,000-volume library, so large it challenged the world's greatest library in Alexandria, Egypt. In fact, the Egyptians were so afraid that Pergamum would attract scholars away from Alexandria that they cut off the area's supply of papyrus, forcing the invention of pergamen (Latin for parchment) made from animal hides rather than papyrus reed.

Along with the library, the Acropolis boasts a great theater seating 10,000 and the marble-columned Temple of Trajan. Below the theater lie the ruins of the Temple of Dionysus and the Altar of Zeus in a marvelous setting shaded by evergreen trees. Much of Pergamum has been lovingly restored; it is now considered one of the premier ancient sites in Turkey.

After touring, travel to Izmir and check into the hotel, where the group dines together tonight.

Overnight: *Swissôtel Grand Efes (B, L, D)*

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12** IZMIR / EPHEBUS

Today visit Ephesus, perhaps the world's best-preserved ancient city. In Roman times, Ephesus was the provincial capital of Asia, with a population of 250,000 at the height of its glory. An important Christian community arose here, and Ephesus was visited by St. Paul, who later wrote one of his epistles to the Ephesians. Perhaps its greatest claim to fame is the fact that Ephesus once housed the Temple of Diana, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today the magnificently preserved ruins attract visitors from across the globe.

A full day of touring here includes the immense theater that holds 24,000 people and is still used today. Walk along the Sacred Way, where the rich once lived and where an

ingenious water and sewer system was constructed beneath paving stones of marble. See the Temple of Hadrian, a Corinthian-style building with the head of Medusa on the porch to keep away evil spirits, and admire the Library of Celsus, which once held 12,000 ancient scrolls.

Following the visit of Ephesus proper, visit the acclaimed Terrace Houses, the “houses of the wealthy” located on the slopes of Bulbul Mountain. These hillside excavations provide a revealing look at family life during the Roman period.

Stop for a late lunch in the beautiful, rustic village of Sirince before returning to Izmir late this afternoon for an evening at leisure. From your well-located hotel you have your choice of several local restaurants all within a short walking distance.

Overnight: *Swissôtel Grand Efes (B, L)*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 IZMIR

We have a full day of explorations in Izmir, starting with a visit to the Kemeraltı Bazaar. Much more than just a market, this lively district covers a wide area of Izmir and contains the Hisar Mosque (the city’s most significant Ottoman landmark) and a host of streets and alleys peppered with shops selling all manner of goods.

We also see the Agora of Izmir, originally built by the Greeks in the 4th century BCE; and picturesque Urla harbor, carved out of a peninsula jutting out into the Aegean Sea.

After lunch together at a local restaurant in Urla, we head to a nearby winery for a tour and tasting, then return to our hotel this afternoon in time for dinner together tonight.

Overnight: *Swissôtel Grand Efes (B, L, D)*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 IZMIR / GÖÇEK

Today we continue our journey south, stopping along the way at Sultankoy rug cooperative to see a demonstration of the

ancient art of carpet weaving. Then we break for a fresh and organic al fresco lunch using ingredients from Sultankoy’s own farm and orchards. After lunch, we head to Dalyan, an environmentally protected area where we board a small skiff for a trip through an intriguing maze of channels. At the Lake of Koycegiz, we see our first Lycian rock tombs perched high on the hills above us. These relics, which stretched along the Mediterranean coast from Koycegiz in the west to Antalya in the east, are the few remaining artifacts of this great culture. We continue on to Göcek, arriving late this afternoon in the serene port town set at the most inland point of the Gulf of Fethiye. Here we board our eight-cabin *gulet*, a replica of a traditional Turkish fishing boat.

Today’s *gulets* are built with modern comforts in mind, containing small but cozy cabins with private bath and shower, public areas, and broad decks in an area approximately 85 feet long and 21 feet wide. Beautiful craftsmanship combined with ancient artistry makes the *gulet* the perfect vessel in which to cruise the waters of the Turquoise Coast. After settling in to our cabins, we enjoy our first dinner on board, prepared by the ship’s crew with fresh local ingredients. If the weather cooperates, tonight may be a fine evening to join others sleeping on deck under the stars.

Overnight: *Gulet Yacht (B, L, D)*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 CRUISING - AGA LIMANI / CLEOPATRA BATHS

Our route for the next few days is along the coastline that Mark Antony is said to have given Cleopatra as a wedding gift. Named for the brilliant color of its waters, the Turquoise Coast is nature’s gift to all those who travel here. The swimming is glorious, in crystal clear waters that afford views into the depths.

With the scent of eucalyptus perfuming the air, and forested mountains as our backdrop, we begin our “Blue Voyage” by traveling this morning to the hidden cove of Aga Limani where an optional hike of approximately three hours along an herb-scented trail brings us to

Lydea, a little-known Greco-Roman site. The hike concludes at the Sunken Baths of Cleopatra, built in a breathtaking inlet by Mark Antony for the last Egyptian pharaoh. Please note that parts of this hike can be strenuous, and the trail has a fair amount of gravel and rock; be sure to consult with your tour director if you have concerns about your ability to participate safely on this hike. Those who prefer a less strenuous day may wish to stay on board the *gulet* as it sails to the Sunken Baths to meet up with the hikers. There's plenty on board with which to keep occupied, including games, cards, or simply admiring the lovely scenery.

Overnight: *Gulet Yacht (B, L, D)*

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16** **GEMILER ISLAND / KAYAKOY**

Today, sail to your next anchorage, Gemiler Island, where you disembark for a tour of the 6th-century Byzantine monastery here.

After lunch on board, disembark and drive to the Greek "ghost town" of Kayakoy, deserted after World War I and the Turkish War of Independence. Residents abandoned approximately 1,000 stone houses here. Explore the town and its two churches, which still retain some of their painted decoration and mosaic floors.

Later, return to your *gulet* for dinner together and remain anchored in Gemiler tonight.

Overnight: *Gulet Yacht (B, L, D)*

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17** **FETHIYE / DISEMBARK / ANTALYA**

This morning, sail to Fethiye, where you disembark, bid farewell to the *gulet* crew, and board a motor coach for the drive through the Taurus Mountains to Antalya. Reach this seaside city and bustling hub of the "Turkish Riviera" in time for lunch. This afternoon, visit the acclaimed Archaeological Museum, whose exhibits highlight the history of the Mediterranean and Pamphylia regions of Anatolia.

Dinner tonight is on your own and the evening is at leisure.

Overnight: *Akra Barut (B, L)*

## **MONDAY, OCTOBER 18** **ANTALYA / PERGE**

This morning, set off for a tour of the once-thriving Roman city of Perge, which reached its pinnacle during the era of Alexander the Great. Among the outstanding ruins here are the ancient shopping arcade, the awe-inspiring 12,000-seat stadium, and a 15,000-seat theater.

Later, return to Antalya for a walking tour of the Kaleici (Old Town), with its stone walls, Old Harbor, and winding lanes. View the impressive Hadrian's Gate with its three arches, built to honor Emperor Hadrian for his visit in 130 CE and the Yivli Minaret, whose fluted column is a symbol of the city.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before gathering for a farewell dinner at a local Turkish restaurant.

Overnight: *Akra Barut (B, D)*

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19** **DEPART FOR U.S.**

Transfer to the airport early this morning for your connecting flight to the U.S. (B)

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## **OPTIONAL EXTENSION:** **CAPPADOCIA & KONYA**

OCTOBER 19 -23, 2021

## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19** **ANTALYA / KONYA**

Guests who are joining the optional extension to Cappadocia will have a motorcoach transfer via historic Konya.

First, we travel east of Antalya for a visit to the Theatre of Aspendos, the world's best-preserved Roman theatre. This 12,000-seat semicircular structure was built in 155 CE, and provides an incredible opportunity to sit on the same stones as the ancient Greco-Roman citizens of this area once did. Then travel through the Taurus Mountains to historic Konya, enjoying lunch at a mountainside restaurant along the way.

Upon arrival in Konya, we visit the Mevlana Museum, home of Turkey's renowned Whirling Dervishes – a mystic order whose members dance wildly to free themselves from earthly bondage. This museum is actually the mausoleum of Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi (known as Rumi or Mevlana), a 13<sup>th</sup>-century Persian Sufi mystic whose legacy, influence, and poetry extend worldwide. For years, an order of dervishes had their lodge in this complex, until the building was converted to a museum in 1926. Now housing Rumi's sarcophagus, the museum also contains some of the mystic's writings, including the *Diwan-e Shams-e Tabrizi*, a 40,000-line collection of lyric poetry considered one of the finest works in Persian literature.

We then check into our hotel, and are free for dinner on our own tonight.

Overnight: *Hilton Garden Inn (B, L)*

## **WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20-22 CAPPADOCIA**

This morning we travel on to Cappadocia in central Turkey. Renowned for its awe-inspiring natural rock formations – which were utilized for everything from housing to churches and even complete underground villages – Cappadocia is as magical today as it was when early farmers discovered the fertile powers of the volcanic ash that covered the area thousands of years ago. Cappadocia became a haven for the first Christians, who ultimately carved more than 3,000 churches in the porous rock, painting many of them inside with splendidly preserved scenes from the Old Testament.

For the next three days, explore more of this unique region. Tour the rock churches of the Goreme Valley, including the open-air museum with 8th-century murals; and the refuge of Kaymakli, which was constructed over a period of centuries and provided a safe haven for Turks during times of war and conflict. A maze of tunnels reaching four stories deep, this underground city held as many as 3,000 people who were able to breathe thanks to a ventilation system that allowed fresh air into the complex structure.

Also visit the vast Zelve Valley complex of caves laced with dwellings, churches, and public spaces where villagers lived until just 50 years ago; and marvel at the fairy tale chimneys at Pasabag; and the troglodyte villages of Cavusin and Uchisar.

During a stop in the charming town of Avanos watch local craftspeople as they practice their arts, which include fashioning beautiful hand-colored pottery; and weaving rugs of natural colored wool, a regional specialty that has been perfected by the Turks over many hundreds of years and continues to be passed down from generation to generation.

We enjoy two dinners at our hotel during our time here, and one dinner at a local restaurant.

For those who wish, an optional early morning balloon ride may be available on Thursday (at additional cost), space and weather-permitting. The ride offers an unparalleled view of the lunar-like landscape and may be reserved on-site during your stay. At the time of printing, the cost of the balloon ride is approximately \$300 per person.

Overnight: *Yunak Evleri Hotel (B, L, D)*

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 RETURN TO U.S.**

Early this morning transfer to the airport for your connecting flight to the U.S.  
(B)