TURKEY  CLASSICAL, BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN

APRIL 21 – MAY 8, 2017  TOUR LEADER: JUDY ROBERTS
Overview

Turkey has for centuries been a crossroads of religions and cultures, connecting the East with the West. Layers of Neolithic, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history have endowed it with a wealth of unique historical and archaeological sites, often found in places of breathtaking natural beauty.

This 18-day journey takes us on a comprehensive but unhurried tour through Turkey’s rich past. We begin in Istanbul, one of the great cities of the world, visiting many of the beautiful religious and historical sites both in the city and surrounding districts. Leaving Istanbul, we visit the unique landscape of Cappadocia, then head on to the Aegean coastal towns of Kuşadası and Assos before we conclude our tour in Istanbul. Spending three nights in most destinations, we explore some of the best Greek and Roman sites on the Aegean, as well as glittering Byzantine mosaics and the fine mosques and palaces of the Ottomans.

Some highlights

- Seven nights in Istanbul with visits to the major Byzantine and Ottoman sites, including the Hagia Sophia, the magnificent Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, as well as a day exploring the modern city and the Asian side
- The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations in Ankara
- Three nights in Cappadocia with its extraordinary ‘moonscape’ of caves, clefts and chimneys in the soft volcanic rock
- The painted cave-churches at the Göreme Open Air Museum
- The outstanding Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük
- The stunning site of Aphrodisias
- The travertine terraces and site of Hierapolis at Pamukkale
- Three nights in Kuşadası, our base for visiting some of the extraordinary sites along the Aegean, including the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best preserved classical cities in the ancient world
- The acropolis and Aesclepiion at Pergamum
- The lovely archaeological site and the unspoilt old town of Assos
- The archaeological site of Troy
- The Gallipoli Peninsula, including Anzac Cove and Lone Pine

Tour Leader

Judy Roberts holds a BA in Archaeology and Ancient History and Honours in Classical Archaeology from the University of Sydney. She has lived and travelled extensively in Europe and beyond, particularly through Greece and Turkey. Judy has been involved with the University of Sydney excavation at Paphos, Cyprus. She has special interests in religion and food, both ancient and modern.
TOUR PRICE

The tour price is $8,470 per person, twin share accommodation. The supplement for a single room is $1,990 per person. A non-refundable deposit of $500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- Istanbul-Ankara flights with Turkish Airlines
- Land travel in Turkey by private coach
- All accommodation in selected four and five star hotels
- Porterage of luggage in and out of hotels
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners in hotels and restaurants as indicated in this itinerary
- All entrance fees to sites mentioned in this itinerary
- Services of tour leader throughout the tour
- Qualified local guides throughout the tour
- Illustrated background talks on classical, Byzantine and Ottoman history, society and culture
- Tips to local guides, drivers and restaurants

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- Return international airfares Australia-Istanbul
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated as included in this itinerary
- Visa fees
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls and internet usage

AIR TRAVEL OPTIONS

The tour price quoted is for land content only. For this tour we recommend Etihad, Emirates or Singapore Airlines, all three fly into and out of Istanbul regularly. Please contact us for further information on competitive Economy, Business, or First Class airfares.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure hotel/airport transfers are included for all passengers booking their flights through Academy Travel. Please contact Erin Laffin for further details.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place on this tour please contact Erin Laffin at Academy Travel, on 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email erin@academytravel.com.au

Above: a mosaic in the Hagia Sophia depicting the Theotokos (Virgin Mother and Child)
Below: the Library of Celsus at Ephesus, fit for an important Roman provincial capital
All breakfasts included. Included lunches and dinners are indicated by the letters (L) and (D).

**FRIDAY APRIL 21**
**ARRIVE ISTANBUL**

Passengers arriving in the afternoon can join the group transfer to our hotel in the historic heart of Istanbul, Sultanahmet. After time to check in and freshen up we meet in the hotel bar for early evening welcome drinks followed by dinner in the hotel. Overnight Istanbul (D)

**SATURDAY APRIL 22**
**THE BYZANTINE CITY**

Today begins with a walking tour of Istanbul’s Byzantine past, exploring the cathedral-sized Basilica Cistern and the Hippodrome. We then visit the Mosaic Museum displaying mosaics from the Great Palace complex. After a welcome lunch at an excellent local restaurant, we spend time at the Church of St Saviour in Chora viewing its famous 14th-century mosaics and frescoes, evidence of a late flowering of Byzantine art. We then tour the fifth-century walls built by Emperor Theodosius II. These walls defended Constantinople for over a thousand years until the city fell to the Ottomans. We visit the Postern Gate where the walls were breached, and the Golden Gate through which the Byzantine army once marched. Later this afternoon we have an optional visit to a hamam. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Istanbul (B, L)

**SUNDAY APRIL 23**
**THE HAGIA SOPHIA**

This morning we visit the beautiful Hagia Sophia, considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture. Constructed as a church on the orders of Emperor Justinian, the Hagia Sophia was the religious focal point of the Eastern Church for nearly 1000 years before being converted into a mosque following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It is now a museum. We also visit the Blue Mosque, built in the early 17th century and famed for the Iznik tiles which decorate its interior. We then stroll through and sample the delights of the Spice Bazaar before heading to the Bosphorus for an afternoon ferry cruise. After our cruise we visit the Sadberk Hanım Museum, a private museum with an excellent collection of antiquities and works of art. We share dinner tonight in a restaurant located on the Bosphorus, in fashionable Ortaköy. Overnight Istanbul (B, D)

**MONDAY APRIL 24**
**THE OTTOMAN CITY**

Today we visit the vast and intriguing Topkapi Palace, once home to the Ottoman sultans and now to important collections of precious objects and works of art. Our visit includes a tour of the Harem and the Treasury. We enjoy lunch in a restaurant in the outer gardens of the Topkapi Palace. This afternoon we visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum with its rich collection of antiquities, including the sarcophagi recovered from the Necropolis of Sidon. There is an optional visit to the Grand Bazaar late in the afternoon. Overnight Istanbul (B, L)
TUESDAY APRIL 25
ISTANBUL – ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA
We transfer this morning to the airport for our flight to Ankara. On arrival we visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and the Ataturk Memorial. This afternoon we drive to our cave hotel in Ürgüp, our base for the next three nights to explore Cappadocia. Dinner is in the hotel. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26
EXPLORING CAPPADOCIA
Early this morning there is the option of a balloon ride over the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia. A designated UNESCO World Heritage site, Cappadocia’s unique landscape has been shaped by volcanic activity, erosion and the hand of man. Today we visit the Göreme Open Air Museum. This extensive complex of rock-cut cave-churches was carved out by Orthodox monks between AD 900 and 1200. Decorated with beautiful frescoes, they represent a uniquely Cappadocian artistic style. We have lunch in nearby Avanos, where the local ceramic trade is characterised by the use of red clay from the nearby river and dates back to the time of the Hittites. Our visit to the town includes a stop at a terracotta factory. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L)

THURSDAY APRIL 27
UNDERGROUND CITY AND CARAVANSAERAI
Today’s varied itinerary begins at the cave city at Kaymakli, a cave-city which was largely excavated by Christian communities in the 6th and 7th centuries. We then follow the scenic back roads via Taşkınpaşa to lunch at the village of Mustafapaşa. This afternoon we visit Kara Mustafa Paşa Kervansarayi, a remarkable complex built in 1667 for the Ottoman Vizier and comprising of a large barracks, a bath house, a mosque and a road with a row of shops still in use. We later attend a performance of the famous Whirling Dervishes, a mystical dance performed by members of the Sufi sect of Islam. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant. Overnight Cappadocia (B, L)

FRIDAY APRIL 28
ÇATALHOYÜK
This morning we make our way to Çatalhöyük, an important Neolithic settlement, first discovered in the late 1950s and under renewed excavation since 1993. Here, our guided tour includes the museum and the archaeological site. Continue to Konya, centre of 12th- and 13th-century Şelçuk architecture and famous for the Tomb of Mevlana which we visit before checking into our hotel. Overnight Konya (B, PL, D)

SATURDAY APRIL 29
PAMUKKALE
We leave Konya and make our way to Pamukkale. This geological wonder has formed amazing white travertine terraces down the mountainside, with pools and gushing therapeutic water that was used in the Roman spa city of Hierapolis, the ruins of which we visit. Overnight Pamukkale (B, L, D)
SUNDAY APRIL 30
APHRODISIAS

Depart for Aphrodisias, a Roman city famous for its fine remains and patron saint Aphrodite, the goddess of love. In the afternoon we continue on to Kuşadasi, our base for the next three nights. Dinner tonight is in our hotel. Overnight Kuşadasi (B, L, D)

MONDAY MAY 1
EPHESUS

This morning we explore one of the largest and best preserved classical cities of the ancient world. A Greek, then Roman and Byzantine city, Ephesus boasts some exceptional ruins in a beautiful setting. A short drive from Ephesus is Meryemana, a chapel on a site considered by some to be the last home of the Virgin Mary. After lunch near the village of Sirince, we visit the excellent Ephesus Museum displaying artefacts from the archaeological site. On the way back to Kuşadasi we stop briefly at the Artemesion, the site of the famed Temple of Artemis. Overnight Kuşadasi (B, L)

TUESDAY MAY 2
DIDYMA – MILETUS – PRIENE

Continuing our exploration of Turkey’s classical, Hellenistic and Roman past, today’s excursion takes us south to the sites of Priene, Miletus and Didyma. Though less well known than Ephesus, these ruined cities and the Sanctuary of Apollo at Didyma, provide clear evidence of the region’s prosperous past and occupy delightful settings. We lunch in Didyma and return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Overnight Kuşadasi (B, L)

WEDNESDAY MAY 3
KUŞADASI – PERGAMUM – ASSOS

We leave Kuşadasi for Assos today. Much of the day is spent at Bergama, site of the ancient city of Pergamum. The spectacular acropolis was home to the famed Altar of Zeus before its removal to Berlin. Remains of temples, palaces, a library and a theatre make it a wonderful place to visit. We then visit the ruins of the famous medical centre, or Aesclepiion, that operated like a cure centre, treating people in a variety of ways. From Bergama, we make the trip north to the small waterfront village of Assos, arriving in the late afternoon. Dinner is in the hotel. Overnight Assos (B, L, D)

THURSDAY MAY 4
EXPLORING ASSOS AND TROY

Assos is a finely-sited ancient city, with views across the Aegean to the Greek island of Lesbos. This morning we explore the fifth-century BC Temple of Athena and the surrounding acropolis. Unlike the large resort towns of the Aegean, planning laws have meant that the old village of Assos has remained unchanged for almost a century. After lunch we visit Troy, one of civilization’s most celebrated archaeological sites. Immortalised by Homer, the site was first excavated by Heinrich Schliemann in the late 19th century, and work continues to this day. We return to Assos in the afternoon. Overnight Assos (B, L)
FRIDAY MAY 5
GALLIPOLI
A 90-minute trip north from Assos takes us to the Dardanelles, the legendary and strategically important strait connecting the Mediterranean with the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. Across the strait is the Gallipoli Peninsula, which we spend most of the day exploring in the company of local guide Kenan Celik, a world expert on the Gallipoli Campaign and World War I. Our itinerary includes the moving sites of Anzac Cove, the remnants of trenches and the Lone Pine Memorial and Cemetery. A picnic lunch is included. This afternoon we return to Istanbul, arriving in the early evening. Overnight Istanbul (B, PL)

SATURDAY MAY 6
ASIAN ISTANBUL
This morning we cross the Bosphorus to the Asian side of Istanbul and explore the lively area of Kadiköy. After lunch at a restaurant famed for its use of traditional ingredients and dishes from a broad geographical area, we take the ferry back to the European side. The afternoon is at leisure. Overnight Istanbul (B, L)

SUNDAY MAY 7
EUROPEAN ISTANBUL
This morning we explore the eclectic area around Taksim Square and Beyoğlu and visit the Pera Museum, a private art museum and gallery. The afternoon is at leisure but we meet again this evening for our farewell dinner at an excellent restaurant featuring contemporary Turkish food. Overnight Istanbul (B, D)

MONDAY MAY 8
DEPART
In the early afternoon a group transfer is available from our hotel to Istanbul Airport for those joining return flights to Australia.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL & STOPOVERS
We are more than happy to arrange additional travel either before or after the tour dates. Stopovers on the outbound or return flight are also possible for those wishing to break their journey. Please contact Erin Laffin on (02) 9235 0023 to discuss your requirements.

Top to bottom: Excavations continue at the site of Troy, but it is Homer’s tales of mythical heroes such as Achilles which continue to capture our imagination; a later conflict has left its own legacy as poppies bloom on the Gallipoli Peninsula; and the European influence can be seen around the eclectic areas of Taksim and Beyoğlu
TURKEY
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HOTEL INFORMATION

ISTANBUL, SURA DESIGN (7 NIGHTS)
Centrally located in Sultanahmet district, this design hotel features a palace-like interior. Its luxurious rooms are soundproofed, offer free WiFi, and are air conditioned. Electric kettles are standard. Some rooms overlook the garden. www.surahotels.com

CAPPADOCIA, TAFONI EVLERI (3 NIGHTS)
A boutique cave hotel made up of six original 18th-century houses restored in 2011 to give 13 distinctive rooms. Antique doors and cupboards and local travertine marble feature in the restoration. www.tafonievleri.com. NB: We are still in the process of confirming this particular hotel so there is a possibility that we may confirm a similar cave style hotel in the area. The itinerary will be updated when a definite confirmation is received.

KONYA, HICH HOTEL (1 NIGHT)
This hotel is perfectly located in walking distance of city’s historical sites and next to the Mevlana Museum. The 200 year old Turkish architecture has 13 fully restored rooms. www.hichhotel.com/home

PAMUKKALE, DOGA THERMAL HOTEL (1 NIGHT)
A new and modern spa hotel and resort located 7kms from the site and Pamukkale. Comfortable, well equipped rooms provide the perfect rest stop for our one night stay. www.dogathermalhotel.com/

KUSADASI, CHARISMA HOTEL (3 NIGHTS)
One of the newest hotels in Kusadasi with balconies standard throughout, offering sea views over the Aegean. The hotel has its own private beach. www.charismahotel.com

ASSOS, KERVANSARAY HOTEL (2 NIGHTS)
A collection of three small hotels in historic buildings right on the waterfront at Assos. www.assoskervansaray.com

* Hotels may be subject to change (to another hotel of equivalent quality). Any changes will be advised to all clients booked on the tour.

WEATHER ON TOUR

April/May is a pleasant time to visit Turkey. Temperatures are starting to warm up, but the evenings are still cool. Temperatures range from daily minimum of 8 to daily maximum of 18-22 degrees, with an average daytime temperature of temperature of 18 degrees. It will be a little warmer on the Aegean coast than other places, and a little cooler in the evenings in inland Cappadocia.

Images left: a room at the Sura design hotel, Istanbul; one of the 13 rooms at the Tafoni Evleri Cave Hotel in Cappadocia; views over the Aegean from the Charisma Hotel in Kusadasi and a room at the hotel; and the Kervansaray Hotel at Assos
PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TOUR

PHYSICAL RATING ★★★

It is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on this tour. To give you an indication of the level of physical fitness required to participate on our tours, we have given them a star grading. Academy Travel’s tours tend to feature extended walking tours and site visits, which require greater fitness than coach touring. We ask you instead to consider carefully your ability to meet the physical demands of the tour.

Participation criteria for this tour

This Grade Two tour is designed for people who lead active lives and can comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day on most days, including longer walking tours, challenging archaeological sites, climbing stairs, embarking and disembarking trains and/or boats, and a more demanding tour schedule with one night stops or several internal flights.

You should be able to:
- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 4-5 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- tolerate uncomfortable climatic conditions such as cold, humidity and heat
- walk up and down slopes
- negotiate steps and slopes on archaeological sites, which are often uneven and unstable
- get on and off a large coach with steep stairs, train or boat unassisted, possibly with luggage
- move your luggage a short distance if required

A note for older travellers

If you are more than 80 years old, or have restricted mobility, it is highly likely that you will find this itinerary challenging. You will have to miss several activities and will not get the full value of the tour. Your booking will not be accepted until after you have contacted Academy Travel to discuss your situation and the exact physical requirements of this tour. While we will do our best to reasonably accommodate the physical needs of all group members, we reserve the right to refuse bookings if we feel that the requirements of the tour are too demanding for you and/or if local conditions mean we cannot reasonably accommodate your condition.
ABOUT ACADEMY TRAVEL
Each year Academy Travel organises around 50 journeys to Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and the Americas, each focusing on a distinctive historical, artistic or cultural theme. The aim of every Academy Travel journey is to combine the pleasures of independent travel with the benefits and shared enjoyment of a group. Academy Travel is an Australian-owned travel company, founded in 2004. The company’s staff includes both academic experts and travel professionals with over two decades’ industry experience. We also have our own office in Rome which organises our tours in Western Europe. This means we have direct control over the selection of hotels, restaurants, coaches and local guides, guaranteeing superior quality.

CAREFULLY PLANNED ITINERARIES
All itineraries feature a carefully thought out balance of walking tours, gallery and museum visits, scenic excursions, dining and performances.

LIKE-MINDED GROUPS
Share your journey with fellow travellers who are in tune with your way of seeing the world. A maximum of 20 participants – not too small and not too large – creates a convivial atmosphere.

LONG STAYS
Perhaps the most appealing feature of our program. No whistlestop tours, no 7.00am departures, day after day. In most destinations we enjoy three or four nights to really get to know the place.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES
A private viewing of the Sistine Chapel or the Museum of Modern Art in New York? Tickets to a sold-out performance of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra? Many of our tours feature top-flight events not usually offered on group tours.

EXPERT TOUR LEADERS
Our tour leaders combine academic expertise with a genuine passion for the places you visit. Under their expert guidance you see rather than just look, hear rather than just listen and understand rather than just observe. Your travel experience is transformed.

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION
With extensive printed tour materials, including detailed tour notes, destination guides, and daily programs, you’ll build up a coherent understanding of the country you’re visiting, not just a fragmented set of facts. These materials are also available in electronic format.
BOOKING FORM

A YOUR DETAILS

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PROOF OF IDENTITY Please provide a photocopy of the photo page of your passport together with this booking form.

ROOMING PREFERENCES I am travelling: [ ] on my own [ ] with a friend or family member.

I/we would like: [ ] a room for sole occupancy [ ] a twin-bedded room [ ] a double-bedded room

I have no specific dietary requirements or allergies I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies

B YOUR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

MEAL REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES Please indicate below if you have any special dietary requirements. Appropriate meals will be requested for you on all flights and group meals based on this information.

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MEDICAL CONDITIONS Please indicate below if you have any serious health issue that may affect your travel insurance coverage, your physical capacity to undertake some activities on tour or may otherwise need to be considered by the tour leader/manager during the tour.

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C. YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

- I/we wish Academy Travel to arrange air travel from Australia. Economy Class. Business Class.
- I/we will organize our own air travel.
- I/we are undecided about air travel. Please contact us to discuss the available options.
- I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date:
- I intend to take part in the extension tour offered in the itinerary (if applicable).

D. YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF BOOKING CONDITIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

DEPOSITS
A deposit of $500 per person is required to confirm your booking on a tour. Final payment of the tour fee, insurance and any additional travel will be due 60 days before departure.

CANCELLATION FEES
If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:
- More than 60 days before departure: $500*
- 60-45 days before tour start: 25% of total amount due
- 44-15 days before tour start: 75% of total amount due
- 14 days or less before departure: 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be credited to another Academy Travel tour within 12 months of the original tour you booked.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR
We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Academy Travel requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. We offer a comprehensive policy with a reputable insurer if required.

PASSPORT AND VISA
A valid passport is required for all international travel. If you do not hold an Australian passport you may require a re-entry permit. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. We will advise you of all passport and visa requirements, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet passport and visa requirements before you depart.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE CHANGE?
If the number of participants in a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates Academy Travel reserves the right to amend the advertised price. If this occurs you will be given the option of canceling your booking and obtaining a full refund. If an Academy Travel tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all monies paid.

WILL THE ITINERARY OR AIRLINE CHANGE?
Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Academy Travel make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make slight amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

FINAL PAYMENT
Full and final payment for the tour, airfare travel, insurance and any additional travel you book is due 60 days before departure. Payment may be made by bank deposit, cheque, cash or credit card. Please note there is a surcharge for payments made by credit card. Academy Travel reserves the right to decline the booking or terminate the holiday of any traveller.

E. DEPOSIT PAYMENT

A non-refundable $500 deposit is required for each person listed on this booking form. Please indicate which method you have chosen to pay your deposit:

- Number of passengers:
- Amount of deposit: $
- Paid directly by cheque (Please make cheques payable to Academy Travel)
- Paid by credit card (Please complete details below)

MasterCard       Visa       American Express

Card Number:     Expiry date:     Name on card:

3 or 4 digit security code:    Amount: $    Date:

F. HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

Please select one or more where appropriate:

- I receive the Academy Travel Brochure/Newsletter/Emails
- I saw an advertisement in... please specify
- I attended a lecture at... please specify
- Browsing the internet
- A friend recommended Academy Travel
- Other... please specify

G. SEND

Please send your completed booking form to:

Academy Travel
GPO Box 5057
Sydney NSW 2001
or fax it to (02) 9235 0123

Additional booking forms can be downloaded from our website: academytravel.com.au