



2014 Teacher Study Tours Quotes - Group 1

“It’s been a come and see! Amazing and inspiring. Not only were teachers fascinated by the exquisite architectural edifices, the beautiful colorful designs, but also the marvelous archaeological findings, beautiful decorative gift shops, luscious hotels and very tasty food.”

- Bridget Asana, Laurel High School, Maryland

“The Turkish Cultural Foundation study tour was both an exhausting and exhilarating trip at the same time. Thousands of years of history and culture were experienced. All materials, tours, experiences, and guides were professional, personable and knowledgeable. This once in a lifetime opportunity was a blessing and honor – thank you for the experience.”

- Dr. Misty M. Swanger, Jonathan Alder Local Schools, Ohio

“Çok, güzel, mükemmel: There are no words to describe the feeling one gets when seeing certain sites where certain people have lived in harmony for thousands of years. This should inspire us of the present to do better. The language, the beauty, and the people are unique, however all live together. Thank You!”

- Lawrence Jurosic, Belmont High School, Ohio

“This study tour was so much more than a study tour. We participated in a spiritual, cultural, and historical feast in a most magnificent and mysterious setting.”

- Flavia Favali, Bladensburg High School, Maryland

“This tour was inspiring in so many ways. It was more than an educational experience. At each step, I was amazed and motivated to share all I have learned and experienced with my students. I will forever see the world anew because of my time in Turkey.”

- Linda Cooper, Billings Middle School, Washington

“This tour is an enormous gift: a gift of engaging information, changing perspectives, gorgeous sights and sounds, cultural richness and valuable friendships. Thank you so much for an experience I’ll never forget and knowledge I’ll always appreciate.”

- Jenni Conrad, Hamilton International Middle School, Washington

“This two week whirlwind immersion into the culture and history of Turkey has given me a perspective that I would not have otherwise had. I am coming away with a lot to reflect upon and feel I’ve gained a much deeper understanding of the people, culture, and history of Turkey. Thank you TCF!”

- Susan Steinman, Rio Grande School, New Mexico

“Imagine a place where each day is filled with sites, places, and people who have ruled empires. A place where Christianity began, ancient civilizations thrived and traditions and customs were formed. Multiply all of your expectations by 10; now you have seen Turkey! The most fascinating tour I’ve ever taken.”

- Cynthia Jones, Bell Haven Pre-k – 8, Ohio

“This is more than a tour of Turkey. The Turkish Cultural Foundation Teacher Study Tour program provides a clear and deep examination of Turkish culture and history because it provides highly qualified bi-lingual staff to interpret all aspects of Turkish life and land. Traveling or studying independently would require years of time to equal what TCF does in two weeks.”

- Henry Shaw, Lynnwood High School, Washington

“The tour was exceptionally well done. The planning and logistics made it easy to simply concentrate on taking in all the wonderful aspects of Turkey’s people and culture.”

- Bill Hilt, Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools, Ohio

“This study tour opened my eyes to the vast cultural treasures of Turkey, with its numerous layers of great civilizations and its contributions to western civilization. It gets far less credit than it’s due! We visited sites dating back 10,000 years to Neolithic men, to the Hellenistic period, the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. My students may be surprised to learn that many literary giants are from this land we now know as Turkey.”

- Kathleen Murphy, Laurel High School, Maryland

“A crash course in Turkey that is both enlightening and enjoyable. My understanding of both historic and current events in visiting Turkey and this region have significantly improved because of my attendance.”

- Jesse Thomas, Penta Career Center, Ohio

“This trip to Turkey has broadened my horizons more than any other experience in my life. Turkey is a diverse society in cultural, historical and modern ways and truly represents much of the world. I have gained new insights and ideas that will make my classroom and life more interesting and engaging for all who know me.”

- Jordan Reser, Adriel School, Ohio

“This enriching experience has flooded my mind with exciting ideas for lessons. I was prepared for the richness of culture – it was exceeded! I was prepared about the warmth of the Turkish people (also exceeded), but I was not prepared for how at home I felt. I aspire to return to this wonderful country, my new friends and share my experiences with others within my own family and community in the US.”

- Jennifer Klück, César Chavez Community School, New Mexico

“This Turkish Cultural Foundation Teacher Study Tour was amazing! I was provided a rich amount of knowledge on the ancient history and culture of Turkey, as well as the current state of the country. The experience of traveling through Turkey with 22 other U.S. Teachers and two Turkish teachers turned us into a small family! It is an opportunity that I will never forget, it was definitely life changing! I can’t wait to share my new found knowledge with my students! Thank you so much TCF and Orhan!”

- Catrina Jackson, Valerie Pre-k – 6, Ohio

“The Teacher Study Tour to Turkey was a truly amazing experience! The Turkish Cultural Foundation did a fantastic job of keeping our days filled with experiencing Turkey first hand. From the major tourist “must do’s,” to visiting local artists, eating at traditional restaurants and seeing live performances we truly experienced the beauty and complexity of Turkey. I know I will never forget my time here and will spread what I have learned to my students, family, and friends for years to come.”

- Katie Hayes, Salmon Bay School, Washington

“What an incredible experience! This two week immersion in the art history and culture of Turkey was eye opening. The beautiful memorial at Gallipoli, the cave dwellings, the ruins, the arts, the rich history – my mind is exploding. I’m looking forward to reviewing my photos and reliving each moment. This has been a fascinating trip on so many levels! I can’t wait to come back and see and learn more!

- Patricia Nies, Kiser Pre-K – 8, Ohio

“The depth of knowledge and hilarious wit of our tour guide Orhan made this learning experience an enjoyable adventure. Hats off to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for providing a forum where teachers can connect with peers from around the United States to enrich our ideas about teaching and learning while gaining new insights into the rich history and culture of Turkey. It’s one thing to learn about Turkey from books, lectures, films, and the news. It’s quite another to be immersed in the culture, meet the people, see the landscape in all its beautiful diversity, and be actually present in the sites where Hittites, Romans, ottomans, and modern day Turks have all lived. Being here really gave me a sense of the layers of history in a way that will help me bring it to life for my students.

- Karen Sherwood, University Prep, Washington

“My Native American students will be very excited to hear of ancient pots so like theirs, carpet designs with the same designs and spirits as theirs, Cappadocia so like our Tent Rocks. I am grateful that I can be the means of their being introduced to the rich Turkish Culture which has so much to resonate with them.”

- Carlene Carey, Santa Fe Indian School, New Mexico

“Traveling through Turkey on TCF’s Teacher Study Tour has awakened a passion to learn so much more about this country of spectacular beauty, hospitality and culture. The tour was a perfect balance of historical venues and briefings on Turkey’s role in the modern world. This was accomplished in the company of curious, intelligent teachers and the superb leaders of TCF. Nothing could have prepared me for the emotions of experiencing this journey.”

- Sally Roof, Kiser Pre-k – 8, Ohio