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Turkish  
Cultural  
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## FALL 2007 TOUR

September 15 -30, 2007

### TOUR OF ISTANBUL - THRACE - MARMARA

#### 9 Days

September 15 -23, 2007

ISTANBUL – EDIRNE – CANAKKALE - BURSA – IZNIK – ISTANBUL

#### Day 1 15 September 2007 / Saturday

##### ISTANBUL

Arrival in Istanbul, transfer to your hotel. Boat trip on the Bosphorus. Welcome cocktail and dinner. Overnight at our hotel.



#### Day 2 16 September 2007 / Sunday

##### ISTANBUL

After breakfast, we will visit the Turkish Cultural Foundation Istanbul Office. Then we will depart for full day tour of Istanbul. Istanbul embraces two continents, one arm reaching out to Asia, the other to Europe. In the city's heart, the Bosphorus Strait, connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and creates the famous Golden Horn. The former capital of three successive empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman - today Istanbul honors and preserves the legacy of its past while looking forward to its modern future. We will visit St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome and Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts. Late afternoon drive to Uskudar cross the Bosphorus Bridge, there you will have a chance to see a performance of an artist practicing an ancient Turkish art of "Ebru" (Marbling). After dinner, overnight at our hotel.



#### Day 3 17 September 2007/ Monday

##### ISTANBUL

After breakfast, departure for full day Istanbul tour. Our city tour will start with the Topkapi Palace. On a finger of land at the confluence of the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara stands the Topkapi Palace, that maze of buildings that was the focal point of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 19th centuries. In these opulent surroundings, the sultans and their court lived and governed. During the tour, lunch will be served at Konyali Restaurant, which is located inside the palace overlooking the marvelous Bosphorus. In the afternoon, our tour will continue with visits to the Suleymaniye Mosque. Then we drive to Fener & Balat area, the group will visit the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, The Ahrida Synagogue, Surp Hiresdagabad Armenian Church. Dinner at Asitane Restaurant in Edirnekapi. Live Turkish classical music called fasil will accompany the authentic Turkish kitchen tastes. Overnight at our hotel.



## Day 4 18 September 2007 / Tuesday

### ISTANBUL

Our excursion begins with a walking tour of the old town; visit to the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Then we will have the chance to listen to the “Mevlit” a Turkish versed hymn that praises the Prophet Muhammed at the Sokullu Mehmet Pasha Mosque in Kadirga. In Eminonu visit the Egyptian Bazaar (Spice Market). After lunch, we will visit the the Dolmabahce Palace. Dinner at a fish restaurant by the Bosphorus. Overnight at our hotel.



## Day 5 19 September 2007/Wednesday

### ISTANBUL – EDIRNE – CANAKKALE (DARDANELLES/GALLIPOLI)

After breakfast, we will depart for a day trip to Edirne, the second capital city of the Ottoman Empire. Our walking tour will include masterpieces of Turkish architecture, the Selimiye, and Sultan II. Bayezid Külliyesi/ Complex Health Museum, which was awarded as the best European Museum in 2004 by the European Union. We will enjoy listening to Turkish music, used for therapeutic purposes performed by a ney play. We will walk through the Arasta Bazaar of Edirne and visit historical bridges over the Meric River. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Edirne serving traditional dishes. After lunch, we drive to Canakkale. We will visit Anzac Cove, 57th Infantry Regiment Cemetery and Memorial, Chunuk Bair, Çanakkale Martyrs Memorial, Lone Pine Cemetery & Memorial. Dinner. Overnight at our hotel.



## Day 6 20 September 2007 / Thursday

### CANAKKALE-BURSA

Early morning departure to visit Troy. After lunch, drive along the Marmara Sea to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. We will visit Bursa Ethnographic Museum. Dinner. Overnight at our hotel.



## Day 7 21 September 2007 / Friday

### BURSA

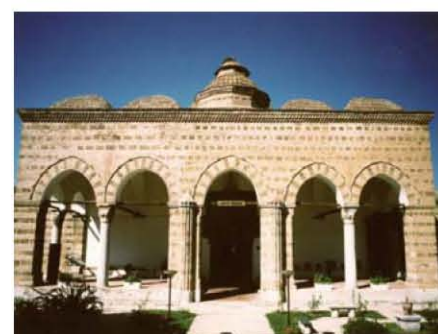
Bursa is rich in religious monuments, mosques, and tombs (turbes), traditional Turkish baths and was a center of Ottoman silks, a tradition still enduring, as well as home to the famous “Turkish towel”. It is also the hometown of the famous Traditional Turkish shadow theatre, Karagoz and Hacivat. Our visits will start with the beautiful Green Mosque and Tomb, and continue with the Great Mosque, Koza Han, the home of the silk trade, and Osman Gazi and Orhan Gazi Tombs, the founders of the Ottoman Empire. After these visits, our guests will view a Hacivat/ Karagoz play at the Karagoz House. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Bursa.



## Day 8 22 September 2007 / Saturday

### BURSA – IZNIK - ISTANBUL

After breakfast, we depart for Iznik, famous with its Lake, visit Green Mosque, St. Sophia. The town has witnessed many civilizations which have left their marks on every corner. It's was the Center of tile production in the 16th century, producing tiles for famous architectural landmarks. The Tour will visit to the Iznik Foundation, an organization reviving the tradition of the Turkish tile “Cini” ([www.iznikvakfi.org](http://www.iznikvakfi.org)). After lunch we proceed to Istanbul. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Istanbul.



## Day 9 23 September 2007/Sunday

### ISTANBUL – HOMEBOUND or ISTANBUL – CENTRAL TURKEY

After breakfast, transfer to airport for homebound flights.  
OR After breakfast, departure for Central Turkey Tour

# HOTELS

City	O/N		Web
ISTA	4		www.hilton.com.tr
NBUL	night		
CANA	s 1	<b>Hotel</b> Hilton	www.kolinhotel.co
KKAL	night	Istanbul (5*)	m
E	2	Kolin Hotel (5*)	www.celikpalasotel.
BURS	night	Çelik Palas	com/uk/default.asp
A	s 1	Hotel (5*) Polat	www.polatrenaissan
ISTA	night	Renaissance	ce.com/isten/defau
NBUL	s	(5*)	lt.asp

All Meals/Beverages on the Tour included

## TOUR OF CENTRAL TURKEY – 9 Days

September 22 -30, 2007

ISTANBUL – BEYPAZARI – ANKARA – AMASYA – TOKAT - SIVAS –  
KAYSERI – CAPPADOCIA – KONYA –ISTANBUL

### Day 1 22 September 2007 / Saturday

#### ISTANBUL

Arrival in Istanbul, transfer to your hotel. Welcome cocktail, dinner and overnight at our hotel.

### Day 2 23 September 2007 / Sunday

#### ISTANBUL – BEYPAZARI - ANKARA

After breakfast, we depart for Beypazari, Ankara. Beypazari is a small town, a great place for a day trip. We will enjoy the fascinating traditional market, the picturesque row of old Ottoman houses and local delicacies. We will continue our drive to Ankara. Dinner. Overnight at our hotel.

### Day 3 24 September 2007 / Monday

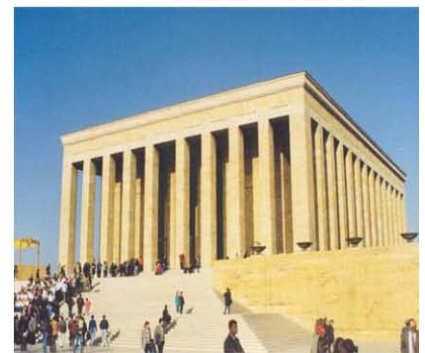
#### ANKARA

After breakfast, we discover Ankara, once a Hittite town, then a Roman city, and now the capital of Turkey. The city has been continuously inhabited since the Bronze Age. The very fine Museum of Anatolian Civilizations details the ebb and flow of cultures that have passed through the area, from the Hittites, the Phrygians, Lydians and Persians to the Galatians, Romans, Byzantines, Seljuk Turks and Ottomans. A small provincial town until Mustafa Kemal Ataturk named it the capital of the new Republic on October 13, 1923, Ankara developed very quickly. In the morning we will visit the great Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic. Our city tour will feature the world famous Museum of Anatolian Civilisations. Lunch will be taken during our visit to the Ankara castle. After lunch, the group will enjoy a traditional Turkish Folk dancing presentation. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Ankara.

### Day 4 25 September 2007 / Tuesday

#### ANKARA – AMASYA - TOKAT

After breakfast, our first stop is Amasya, a city between the Black Sea and inner Turkey, which lies at the center of a region of fertile plains crossed by the Yesil, Çekerek, and Tersakan rivers. The ruins of the citadel on the rock face of the cleft shelters 2000 year old water-channels, 1000 year old bridges, a mental hospital, an Ottoman Palace and a secret underground passageway. On the rock faces, impressive rock tombs of the Pontus kings attest to the ancient history of the city. Lunch will be taken at Harsena Konak Restaurant for a sampling of regional cuisine. In the afternoon, we depart for Tokat. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Tokat.



## Day 5 26 September 2007 / Wednesday

### TOKAT – SIVAS

After breakfast, we will start for the city tour of Tokat. Tokat has been home to many Anatolian civilizations and was an important center for Anatolian Seljuks. A walking tour will take us through the old town, visiting Gokmedrese, Hatuniye Mosque, Tas Han, the Handicrafts Bazaar, the Latifoglu House and other historical houses. Then we continue to Sivas. Dinner at the hotel in the accompaniment of a Turkish Folk Music ensemble. Overnight at our hotel in Sivas.



## Day 6 27 September 2007 / Thursday

### SIVAS – KAYSERI – NEVSEHIR – CAPPADOCIA

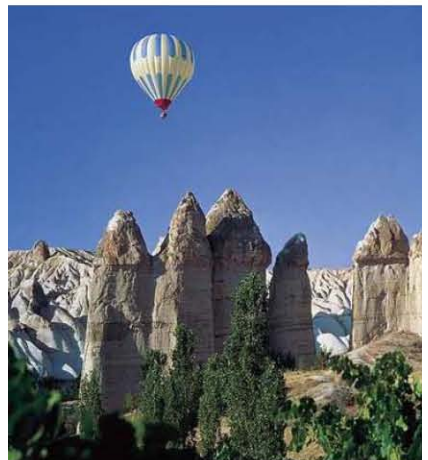
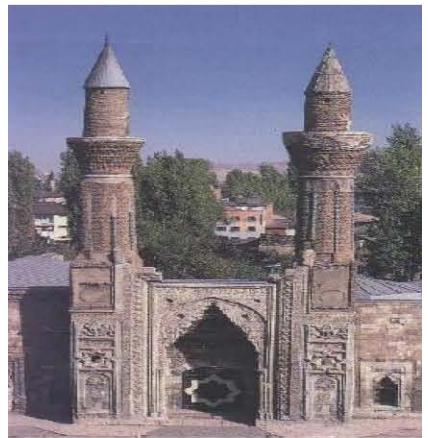
After breakfast, we depart for the city tour of Sivas. Situated at an altitude of 1275 m, Sivas is the highest city of the Central Turkey Region, and the most mountainous one with numerous peaks. At the junction point of the Persia and Baghdad caravan routes, Sivas was once a busy commercial center. We visit the Great Mosque, Gok Medrese and the Buruciye Medrese, the Sifaiye Medrese, the Cifte Minareli Medrese, and Ataturk Congress&Etnography Museum. Then the group will enjoy some of the finest Seljuk buildings and walk around the typical market. We will also visit the Kangal Dogs Farm, which are named after a dreary small town near Sivas. After these visits, we drive to Kayseri, one of the most important trade centres of Anatolia over history. The setting is spectacular, with the mountains of Erciyes and Kara in the background. The city is also well known for its textile and carpet industry, and has impressive monuments that reflect its rich history. Cifte Medrese, Seljuk era Medrese, Mahperi Hunat Hatun Complex, Surp Krikor Lusarovis Armenian Church, a street market next to Citadel are the most important sights to see during the tour. Lunch will be taken during at a typical Kayseri restaurant where famous “Manti” will be served. We will visit the market, where the group has a chance to taste Turkish “pastirma” and “sucuk”. Then we continue to visit Kayseri Covered Market, which is one of the four biggest covered markets of Turkey. We depart for Nevsehir which is the capital of the Cappadocia region. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia.



## Day 7 28 September 2007 / Friday

### CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast, a perfect starting point for exploring will be the open air archeological museum. Cappadocia has some interesting remains from the Seljuk period, such as the castle which stands at the highest point of the city and has one of the most interesting and spectacular landscapes in the world. About three million years ago, the volcanoes of Mt. Erciyes and Mt. Hasan covered the surrounding plateau with volcanic tuff as a result of their violent eruptions. The natural effects of wind, water and rain eroded this area into a spectacular, surrealist landscape of rock caves, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines in colors ranging from warm tones of red and gold to cool tones of green and gray. The places to see first are Byzantine Churches in Urgup and Goreme. The churches of Elmalı, St. Basil, St. Barbara, Yılanlı, Karanlık, Carikli, and Tokali are of particular interest and their frescoes are very well preserved, many pilgrims still visit these churches. Cappadocia is also the center of a wine producing region. Lunch will be served at Hanedan Restaurant. After lunch, we will visit Fairy Chimneys in Pasabagi. Then guests may choose to go on an optional tour of the underground city of Ozkonak which were carved as refuges from persecutors during the early Christian Era. In Avanos, famous for its pottery we will visit a pottery workshop. At the end of the tour, we transfer to our special hotel carved into the rocks and take dinner time at the hotel. After dinner, we will move to Sarihan Kervansaray for a special presentation of the Whirling Dervishes of the Mevlevihane. Overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia.



## Day 8 29 September 2007 / Saturday

### CAPPADOCIA – KONYA

After breakfast, we will visit Sultanhan and Obruk Caravansaries on our way to Konya which was the capital of the Seljuk Turks in the 13th Century. Konya was taken from the Byzantine Empire by the emerging Seljuk Turks in 1072 or 1081 and soon became the capital of the Seljuk sultanate. Renamed Konya, it reached its greatest prosperity under their rule and was accounted as one of the most brilliant cities of the world. This city that hosts the Mevlana museum is also known for its theological school of whirling dervishes. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant in Konya, After lunch, we finish the tour of Konya with the Mevlana Tomb & Museum, Karatay Museum, Ince Minareli Medrese and Alaadin Mosques. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Konya.



**Day 9 30 September 2007 / Sunday**

KONYA – ISTANBUL - USA

After breakfast, transfer to airport. Flight to Istanbul and connect to homebound flights.



## HOTELS

City	O/N	Hotel	Web
ISTA NBUL	1 night	Polat (5 Renaissa *) nce	www.polatrenaissance. com/isten/default.asp
ANKA RA	2 night s	Sheraton Ankara (5*)	www.sheraton.com
TOKA T	1 night	Buyuk Tokat Oтели (4*)	www.buyuktokatoteli. com
SIVAS	1 night	Büyük Sivas Hoteli (4*)	www.sivasbuyukotel.c om
CAPP ADOC	2 night	Kaya Hotel (social)	www.atamankayaotel.c om

All meals and beverages on the Tour included