

TST 2012 GROUP 2

Ms. Carolyn Grimaldi

Willard Alternative High School; Missoula, Montana

Mind-opening. Pre-conceived notions will be challenged as you gain a fuller, more-complete and informed opinion of the complex country that is Turkey. The ancient world is always a presence as you witness a modern and changing landscape. Turkey is a place I hope to return to and will forever be a part of my life.

Ms. Cynthia McBride

Chief Joseph Middle School; Bozeman, Montana

Sitting or standing where someone else was 6,000 years ago leaves me speechless. Walking down the road at Ephesus toward where the Aegean Sea was, I could imagine the bustling of the civilization. This was a mind-boggling experience!

Mr. Jeremy Lizotte

Troy; Troy, Montana

I would never have dreamed of such a wonderful trip. It will take weeks to process the wonders of this trip.

Ms. Marilyn Edie

Davidson River School; Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

This travel and teacher experience altered my two-dimensional knowledge. All those mosaics, mosques, antiques, and ruins of which I've known for decades became three-dimensional and I'm never turning back!

Mr. Phillip Jones

West McDowell Junior High; Burnsville, North Carolina

In 1997- I spent 2 weeks in Turkey- This trip reinforced my image of Turkey- planting trees, using wind and solar power, as well as energy saving in hotels and tourist sights. Turkey is advanced, cosmopolitan, and its citizens were amazing. We could emulate Turkey's green energy programs.

Ms. Misti McDaniel

RS Middle; Ellenboro, North Carolina

Before this trip, I was not aware of the depth of Turkey's history and culture. Participating in the Turkish Cultural Foundation's Study Tour for Teachers allowed me to deepen my personal knowledge of Turkey while expanding the breadth of information I provide my students. Thank you, TCF, for the experience of a lifetime.

Ms. Elaine Arvidson

J.W. Bailey Middle School; Saugerties, New York

The Turkish people are welcoming, warm, and wonderful.

Ms. Andrea Tejedor

Highland Falls - Fort Montgomery CSD; Monroe, New York

I learned so much about the history, culture, language, art and geography of Turkey. Each day was savored with a hidden surprise that revealed new insights that helped me to understand the development of this extraordinary nation.

Ms. Lauren Collet

Arlington High School; Tivoli, New York

This trip has been the most amazing experience. If only I could sign up again?! It was exciting from start to finish, and the Turkish members of our tour were a tremendous part of our enriching and unforgettable experience.

Ms. Sarah Szumnarski

Kiser PK-8; Dayton, Ohio

It is difficult to put into words my feelings at the end of this study tour. These have been the best two weeks of my life- my time in Turkey was amazing! The hospitality of the Turkish people and the TCF was extraordinary and I can't wait to share my experiences with my friends, family, students and colleagues. I am so lucky to have had this life-changing experience and am forever indebted to the Turkish people and the TCF.

Mr. Charles Vaughan

Richland Northeast High School; Columbia, Ohio

Each day was full of new wonders. This was the most wonderful experience on which I will reflect for years. The Turks are very friendly and proud of their culture and country. I certainly will visit again.

Ms. Jennifer Getty

Cumberland Valley HS; Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

The beauty of Turkish hospitality is indescribable. The intimacy I experienced throughout the past two weeks will be cherished for the rest of my life.

Ms. Sheila Fair

Cumberland Valley HS; Manchester, Pennsylvania

The welcoming spirit of the Turkish people and the rich culture and geography that they shared

with us will be both a part of my life forever and my students’.

Ms. Jane McCarter

Harrisburg School District; Neville, Pennsylvania

The richness of the Turkish culture is now in the forefront of my mind and I’m grateful for this new awareness. It will be great to share what I’ve learned to my students as well as my family.

Ms. Nina Mastrangelo

Atalya Elementary; Santa Fe, New Mexico

I can only imagine how many people I need to thank for this amazing journey across Turkey and through time. It was such a gift to be able to focus on the history, geography, and art while knowing I had transportation, dining on regional cuisine, lodging, and a knowledgeable guide. All this truly did create a trip of a lifetime that I can share with family, friends, colleagues and students. This trip was a wonderful full-immersion. Thank you, tesekkür ederim ve allahismarladik.

Ms. Andria Liesse

Capshaw Middle School; Santa Fe, New Mexico

This trip was the adventure of a lifetime – truly. I have fallen in love with places before, but Turkey has stolen not only my heart, it has captured my soul. I’ll leave her with more questions than answers. My first question – Why didn’t they teach us this in school? I had no idea that this amazing country has to offer. Consider me a devoted classroom ambassador. Turkey has completely won me over!

Ms. Tracey Akers

Santa Fe High School; Santa Fe, New Mexico

The experience was as fantastic as I had been told by previous teachers, and more emotional than I had expected. I was moved to tears at Ephesus and swimming in the Aegean Sea. This has been a terrific opportunity as well to learn from colleagues around the country which teaching projects and practices benefit students. From such sharing, I have decided to change the sequence of my world history curriculum.

Ms. Elva Card

W.T. Woodson High School; Fairfax, Virginia

It has helped me become aware of a country that has the potential to be an important player in world affairs. Studying for this trip enabled me to fill in gaps of my knowledge about Turkish history – things not covered in our standard textbooks – such as the post World War I invasion of Turkey by Greece. Also given me a fuller appreciation of the amazing Ataturk.

Ms. Diane Insari

Liberty Elementary; Ashburn, Virginia

This has been the trip of a lifetime! I have not only enjoyed, but been fascinated by each and every stop on this amazing adventure. Each day's sights seemed to surpass the day before. The variety of topics and time periods covered made the content of the tour relevant to everyone's curriculum. I am excited for the opportunity to share my new found knowledge and love of Turkey with my colleagues and students.

Ms. Amy Sapenoff

Academy of the Holy Cross; Silver Spring, Maryland

My TST 2012 experience was phenomenal. The two weeks spent in Turkey were an exciting introduction into all aspects of Turkish culture and history. I look forward to integrating my experience into my classroom and continuing my own education of Turkey in the modern world.

Ms. Katherin Shaver

Charles City Middle/High School; Williamsburg, Virginia

My arrival in Türkiye was like entering into a dream. Every mile, every day, every moment, created new memories to lock away and share with my friends, family, and colleagues back in the states. The TCF has out-done themselves in their herculean task of sharing this unique culture with teachers, who will, in turn, introduce a new generation to the past, present and future of the Turkish people.

Ms. Stephanie Stamm

Boyertown Junior High West; Blandon, Pennsylvania

This experience has been a whirlwind of cultural education that couldn't be obtained any other way!

Ms. Katrina Moyer

Muhlenberg High School; Wernersville, Pennsylvania

So many aspects of this experience surpassed my expectations. From the accommodations to the sites to the guide. I am beyond thankful to have had the opportunity to participate in this unforgettable study tour and would highly recommend it to the teachers of all subject and grade levels. I've learned so much!

Ms. Stephanie Jablonski

Muhlenberg High School; Reading, Pennsylvania

This was an experience of a lifetime! I have learned so much and am returning to America anxious to share what I have learned.