

**Turkish
Cultural
Foundation**

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TEACHERS' STUDY TOURS 2007

16 Days

GROUP 1: July 5 - 20, 2007 --

GROUP 2: July 26 - August 10, 2007

ISTANBUL – BURSA – KUSADASI – PAMUKKALE – KONYA – CAPPADOCIA – SIVAS -- AMASYA – ANKARA

Day 1 July 5, 2007 / Thu.

July 26, 2007 / Thu.

ISTANBUL

PM: Arrival in Istanbul, transfer to your hotel. Tour briefing and optional courtesy tour. Welcome reception and dinner in the quaint sea-side neighborhood of Ortakoy where a synagogue, mosque and church stand side-by-side, is a touching example of the religious tolerance and mutual respect that are an abiding feature of Istanbul life. Overnight at our hotel.



Day 2 July 6, 2007 / Fri.

July 27, 2007 / Fri.

ISTANBUL

AM: After breakfast, departure via boat tour along the Bosphorus for visit to Robert College, a private high school founded by Americans. We then resume our Bosphorus cruise, crossing back and forth between Europe and Asia, and sail past opulent palaces, mosques, imposing fortresses and traditional, wooden Ottoman mansions.

PM: Seafood lunch at the Karaca Restaurant. Visit to Istanbul University. Later a two hour informational session with educational NGO's and reception at the Turkish Cultural Foundation office. Return to the hotel. Evening free, dinner on your own.



Day 3 July 7, 2007 / Sat.

July 28, 2007 / Sat.

ISTANBUL

AM: After breakfast, departure for full day Istanbul tour. Just across a park stands the Blue Mosque, so called because of its exquisite tile decoration. Its courtyard is exceptionally beautiful, and it is the only mosque in Istanbul to have six minarets. We next visit Ayasofya (Hagia Sophia), which was built by the Emperor Justinian and inaugurated in 537 AD. For over nine centuries it was the center of the eastern Orthodox Church, was turned into a mosque with the Ottoman conquest of Istanbul and now is a museum. It contains some of the finest mosaics to have survived from the Byzantine period. A short walk away is the underground cistern, which is also the work of Justinian. This is the most impressive of Istanbul's ancient



cisterns with a roof supported by more than 300 columns. We will visit Topkapi Palace, lavish home to the Ottoman Sultans. For centuries, this was the place from which the Sultans ruled over an empire that stretched from eastern Europe to the Atlantic Ocean. It contains a priceless collection of jewelry, porcelain and costumes.

PM: After lunch at Konyali Restaurant, which is located inside the palace overlooking the Bosphorus, we enter the intricate maze of the Harem and rooms decorated with superb Iznik tiles. Afternoon visit to the 17th century Spice Bazaar, where you can find a vast diversity of spices, sacks of henna, many varieties of oils and herbs, and of course the world's very best Turkish delight. Dinner in the garden of a restored Ottoman mansion. Overnight at our hotel.



Day 4 **July 8, 2007/ Sun.**

July 29, 2007 / Sun.

ISTANBUL

AM: Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Uskudar cross the Bosphorus Bridge, there you will have a chance to see, and try your hands at a demonstration of the ancient Turkish art of "Ebru" (paper marbling) by one of the leading ebru artists of Turkey, Mr.Hikmet Barutcugil. We visit the Suleymaniye Mosque. Designed by Sinan for Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, this is the grandest and largest mosque in Istanbul, and its great dome and soaring minarets dominate the skyline of the Old City.

PM: Lunch at Darul-ziyafe Restaurant (old Turkish/Ottoman). Then visit to the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, which contains a priceless collection of Ottoman calligraphy in gold, intricate miniatures, ceramics, and magnificent carpets, some of them dating back to the 13th century. What makes the museum unique is the fact that it is housed in the Palace of Ibrahim Pasha, one of Suleyman the Magnificent's grand vezirs. Our next stop will be the Archaeological Museum, built at the end of the 19th century by Osman Hamdi, Turkey's first modern archaeologist and the discoverer of the Alexander Sarcophagus, one of the highlights of the museum. The variety and quality of the objects on display make this among the most outstanding institutions of its kind, with fine Greek and Roman sculpture, Mesopotamian jewelry and an important collection of Hittite artifacts.

Free time after 4 pm, dinner on your own. Overnight at our hotel.



Day 5 **July 9, 2007/ Mon.**

July 30, 2007 / Mon.

ISTANBUL – ADAPAZARI – IZNIK – BURSA

AM: After breakfast, early morning departure for Adapazari. Visit and meeting with teachers at Enka Schools.

PM: Lunch at Enka Schools. 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 was the center of tile production in the 16th century, producing tiles for famous architectural landmarks. The tour will visit the Iznik Foundation, an organization reviving the tradition of Turkish tile-makig (www.iznikvakfi.org). We proceed to Bursa, rich in religious monuments, mosques, tombs, and traditional Turkish baths. Bursa was a center of Ottoman silk production, a tradition still enduring today and is also 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, 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 6

July 10, 2007 / Tue.

July 31, 2007 / Tue.

BURSA – PERGAMUM – KUSADASI

AM: Breakfast at the hotel. Before leaving Bursa, we will visit the Great Mosque which was built by Bayezid I after the Nicopolis (Nigbolu) victory. After being burnt down by Timur in 1402, the building was damaged by fires in 1493 and 1889 and by an earthquake in 1855 and restored extensively. We will visit Koza Han, home of the silk trade. Proceed to Pergamum.

PM: Lunch at Asclepion Restaurant. Afternoon visit to Pergamum, one of the greatest cities of Western Asia. Its spectacular ruins are dramatically located on a high hill and in the valley below it. They include two theatres, an amphitheatre, temples of Trajan, Dionysos and Athena, the Altar of Zeus, a vast gymnasium-bath complex and a library that, in its day, was considered second only to the great Library of Alexandria. After tour, we depart for Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Kusadasi.



Day 7

July 11, 2007 / Wed.

August 1, 2007 / Wed.

KUSADASI – EPHESUS – KUSADASI

AM: Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Ephesus. Our first stop will be the house where it is believed that the Virgin Mary spent the last years of her life. Then we will visit Ephesus. If you've ever heard the words "an epistle to the Ephesians", now is your chance to sit in the theatre where St. Paul preached. Walk along colonnaded streets imagining them crowded with people visiting the shops and taverns or simply strolling in the shade. Ephesus was one of the greatest cities of antiquity with a population approaching 100,000 and its vast Temple of Artemis was numbered among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The city housed everything that was necessary for civilization to flourish, education, politics, entertainment, sport, and the good life in general. Examples are the Library Celsus, bathhouses, a gymnasium and luxurious mansions, decorated with mosaics and frescoes rivaling those of Pompeii. Ephesus is among the best preserved classical cities of the Mediterranean, and the perfect place to get a feeling for what life was like in Roman times.

PM: Lunch in the charming village of Sirince. Located on a hillside surrounded by orchards and vineyards, the village was founded by Ephesian Christians, who, displaced during the Selcuk conquests, moved up into the surrounding hills. During the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey, in 1922-23, Muslims from Salonica settled here, creating a farming community highly adept at winemaking. Apple wine is a local specialty. After lunch we move on to the Archeological Museum and the vast, cruciform Basilica of St John, which was built by the Emperor Justinian in the early 6th century, and provided the model for the cathedral of San Marco in Venice. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.



Day 8

July 12, 2007 / Thu.

August 2, 2007 / Thu.

KUSADASI – APHRODISIAS - PAMUKKALE

AM: After breakfast, we depart for Pamukkale. Late afternoon visit to the remains of Aphrodisias, the city dedicated to the goddess of love and home to one of the most important schools of sculpture in the Roman world. Aphrodisias was recognized as a sacred sanctuary and was awarded special privileges that began in the time of Augustus. We will visit the Temple of Aphrodite, built around the 1st century B.C. and converted into a basilica in the 5th century A.D. and one of the finest ancient stadiums ever built.

PM: Lunch at Anatolia Restaurant. We will drive to the delightful "frozen waterfalls" and the healing hot mineral springs of Pamukkale, the main cotton growing area of Turkey and an ancient health resort for the Roman. We will visit Hierapolis and see distinctive limestone travertines created over the millennia and the large Roman bath which later became a church, theater, main streets, gates and Necropolis. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Pamukkale.



Day 9 July 13, 2007/ Fri.

August 3, 2007 / Fri.

PAMUKKALE – KONYA

AM: After breakfast, drive to Konya.

PM: Lunch at Konya Kosk Mutfagi. In the 12th and 13th centuries Konya was the capital of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum, one of the most enlightened and tolerant states of the entire medieval period. It was also home to the great Sufi mystic and poet Rumi, who founded the Mevlevi Order of the Whirling Dervishes. We will visit the Museum and Tomb of Rumi and the Karatay Medrese, which is one of the supreme achievements of Turkish Art. Its dome is completely covered with an amazingly intricate faience mosaic. Here you can also see highly unusual, figurative tiles from the Seljuk summer palace of Kubadabad. If time allows, we will also visit Ince Minareli and Alaadin Mosques, prime architectural examples of Seljuk art. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Konya.



Day 10 July 14, 2007/ Sat.

August 4, 2007 / Sat.

KONYA – CATALHOYUK – CAPPADOCIA

AM: After breakfast, drive to Cappadocia. Our first stop will be the Neolithic site of Catalhoyuk where humans first congregated in villages. We will be given a private tour of this neolithic Anatolian site, excavated by an international team, by Dr. Ian Hodder of Stanford University, who leads the excavation project. Then we will visit the magnificent, early 13th century Sultanhan Seljuk caravanserai.

PM: Lunch at Orhan Agacli Tesisleri in Aksaray. We drive to the land of wonders that is Cappadocia. In the Neolithic period Cappadocia was caught between two active volcanoes, Mounts Hasan and Erciyes, which buried it under a thick layer of ash. This formed the soft malleable stone known as tufa, and over the centuries erosion and human effort combined to create the fantastic landscape we see today, with its many thousands of varicolored pinnacles and surreal rock formations. The Byzantines carved hundreds of churches into the rock of Cappadocia and sheltered themselves from the armies of the Abbasid Caliphate in enormous refuges descending hundreds of feet into the earth. Many of the churches are lavishly decorated with frescoes dating mostly from the 9th to 11th centuries. We will visit the Underground city of Kaymakli. Signs of an early troglodytic life style are evident in communal kitchens blackened by smoke, stables, churches, wine presses, and storage spaces carved into the rock as the need arose. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia.



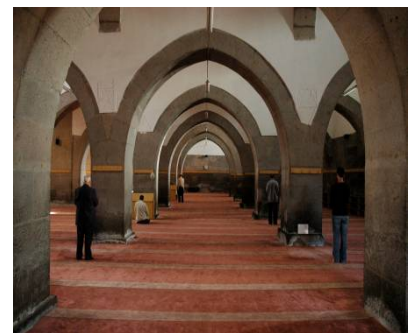
Day 11 July 15, 2007/ Sun.

August 5, 2007 / Sun.

CAPPADOCIA

AM: After breakfast, departure for full day Cappadocia tour. Our first stop will be the celebrated Goreme Open Air Museum, which was once a major center of monasticism. The finest of its frescoed churches are undoubtedly the Karanlik Kilise (the Dark Church), the Elmalı Kilise (the Apple Church), and the Tokali Kilise (the church with a Buckle). The last named has frescoes painted by a certain Nikephoros in an exceptionally sophisticated, classicizing style.

PM: Lunch at Alaturca Restaurant. In Avanos, the town famous for its pottery, we will visit a pottery workshop. Then we visit the troglodytic village of Zelve, which was only abandoned in the 1950's. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia. After dinner, we will attend a Whirling Dervishes ceremony at the magnificent Saruhan Caravanserai.



Day 12 July 16, 2007/ Mon.

August 6, 2007 / Mon.

CAPPADOCIA – KAYSERI – SIVAS

AM: After breakfast we drive to Kayseri, one of the most important trade centers 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. We will visit the castle and the Covered Market, which is one of the four biggest covered markets of Turkey.

PM: Lunch at Manti Evi Restaurant. We depart for 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 will visit the Buruciye and Cifte Minareli Medreses. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Sivas.

Day 13 July 17, 2007/ Tue.

August 7, 2007 / Tue.

SIVAS – TOKAT – AMASYA

AM: After breakfast we depart for the city tour of Sivas. After the tour we continue on to 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 Hatuniye Mosque and Tas Han.

PM: Lunch at Cim Cim Restaurant. We drive to 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. This afternoon, we step back in time to see some of the most beautiful traditional old homes of Amasya. Dinner at Ali Kaya Restaurant. Overnight at our hotel in Amasya.



Day 14 July 18, 2007/ Wed.

August 8, 2007 / Wed.

AMASYA – HATTUSAS – ANKARA

AM: After breakfast we drive to the ancient centers of Hittite culture at Hattusas and we will explore Lion Gate, the Tunnel, Kings Gate and Great Citadel.

PM: Lunch at Sungurlu Mavi Ocak . We will drive to Ankara. Although it only became Turkey's capital in 1923, Ankara is by no means a new city, indeed it is considerably older than Istanbul, having been founded by the Hittite, circa 1.200 B.C. It was soon taken over by the Phrygians whose vast necropolis came to light in 1925. It prospered under the Romans and a number of monuments have survived from this era, including a Temple of Augustus and a Column of Julian. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Ankara.



Day 15 July 19, 2007/ Thu.

August 9, 2007 / Thu.

ANKARA

AM: After breakfast we depart for the city tour of Ankara. We will visit the Citadel and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, where we will spend the morning. The museum has a priceless collection stretching from prehistoric times to the classical period. It is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest museums, and is housed in a restored Ottoman Han. The different cultures of Anatolia are presented here in chronological order and include outstanding examples of the art of the Hatti, Hittites, Phrygians and Urartians.

PM: Lunch briefing on Turkish domestic/foreign issues (to be confirmed)
Afternoon visit to the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first President of the Republic of Turkey. Visit to Ministry of Education and farewell reception (to be confirmed) Overnight at our hotel in Ankara.



Day 16 July 20, 2007/ Fri.

August 10, 2007 / Fri.

ANKARA – ISTANBUL -- USA

After breakfast, transfer to airport for homebound flights through Istanbul.

