

TURKEY – JUNE 11 – JUNE 28, 2011 - GeoTours Trip Organized and Led by Matt Ebner – WWW.GEOTOURS.US

LAND COST = \$1590 (hotels, private tour bus, one domestic flight, entries/activities, breakfasts, professional Turkish guide)

International airfare to Turkey is extra and costs about \$1400 from LAX, including taxes

Sat 6/11 Depart USA

Turkish Airlines flies nonstop from LAX to Istanbul (convenient and the cheapest tickets as of 7/29/10)

Sun 6/12 Arrive Istanbul

Stay in Istanbul for 2 nights

Mon 6/13 Istanbul

Explore various monuments of this unique city which lies partly in Europe and partly in Asia. Highlights include the Blue Mosque with its magnificent interior, and Hagia Sophia, one of the oldest churches in the world (6th century), with stunning Byzantine mosaics.

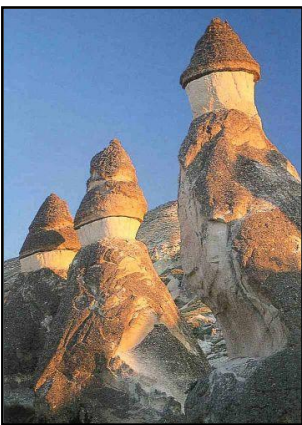
Tue 6/14 Istanbul and evening flight to Kayseri

Visit Topkapi Palace, home of the Ottoman rulers for 400 years. Take a boat excursion on the Bosphorus, the strait separating Europe and Asia. In the evening fly to Kayseri. Three nights in Goreme in the heart of the Cappadocia region.



Wed 6/15 Goreme (Cappadocia region)

Cappadocia has a surreal landscape of very soft volcanic material, carved by water to create cones, fairy chimneys, and canyons.



There are cave dwellings, underground cities and rock-cut churches, many richly decorated with frescoes. We see this up close on a long, scenic walk in the Goreme area. Go to an outstanding viewpoint in Uchisar. Attend a whirling dervish ceremony in the evening.

Thu 6/16 Goreme (Cappadocia region)

Take an optional hot-air balloon flight at sunrise over the Cappadocian landscape. Further exploration of Cappadocia with a walk through the impressive landscapes of Pasabag and Kizilcukur valleys to the village of Cavusin. See ancient cave dwellings and frescoed churches.



Fri 6/17 Goreme to Konya

We leave Cappadocia and stop at the underground city of Derinkuyu, a labyrinth up to 85 meters underground, dating back to the Hittite period and used as a refuge during invasions. Short walk in the beautiful Ihlara Valley. One night in Konya.

Sat 6/18 Konya to Antalya

Visit the Mevlana Museum in Konya, devoted to the founder of the whirling dervishes. Cross the Taurus Mountains and descend to the Mediterranean coast. Visit Aspendos, with an excellently preserved Roman theatre. Two nights in Antalya's old quarter, with cobblestone streets and a charming harbor.



Sun 6/19 Antalya

Visit Termessos, the most dramatically situated ancient city of Turkey on the edge of a precipitous gorge. Option to attend a music performance at the ancient Roman theatre in Aspendos.

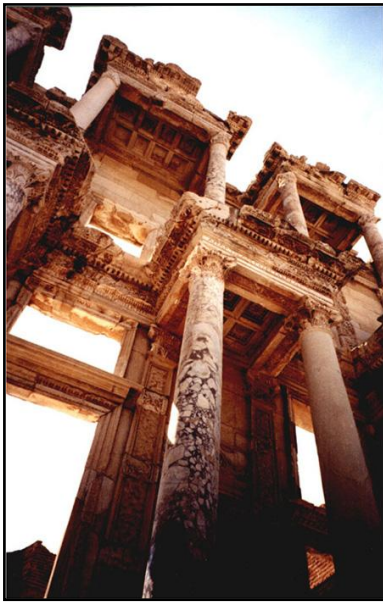


Mon 6/20 Antalya to Fethiye

Visit the eerie ghost town of Kaya Koyu, once a thriving town of Greeks, but emptied in the 1920s when the people were all deported to Greece. Hike a short section (90 minutes) of the famous Lycian Way down to Oludeniz beach. Two nights in Fethiye on the Turquoise Coast.

Tue 6/21 Around Fethiye

Early boat ride on the Mediterranean to Butterfly Valley. Hike up a limestone canyon to a waterfall; plenty of time to lounge on the beach.



Wed 6/22 Fethiye to To Pamukkale

En route to Pamukkale we visit Aphrodisias, named after Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. It is one of the most beautifully located archeological sites in Turkey and one of the greatest Roman cities in the eastern Mediterranean. One night in Pamukkale.

Thu 6/23 Pamukkale to Selcuk

Visit Pamukkale, a spectacular natural phenomenon of hot springs, natural pools, and cream-colored travertine terraces. See the ancient ruins of Hieropolis, founded over 2000 years ago. Drive to Selcuk and visit Mary's House, believed to be the last home of the Virgin Mary. Then visit St. John's Basilica, built over the burial place of St. John the evangelist. Two nights in Selcuk.

Fri 6/24 Ephesus

Visit Ephesus, one of the greatest ancient cities of the Mediterranean region. Ephesus was founded over 3000 years ago and flourished under Greek and Roman rule. The Greek Temple of Artemis was one of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We visit the vast amphitheatre, walk the marble streets, and marvel at the gymnasium, baths and wonderfully restored Library of Celsus.

Sat 6/25 Selcuk to Ayvalik

Drive to Bergama to visit the ancient ruins of Pergamon with its dramatic setting. Continue to the charming fishing town of Ayvalik with picturesque old Greek houses. One night in Ayvalik.

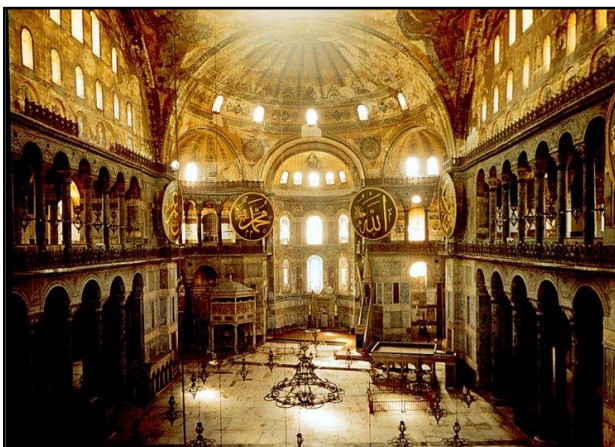
Sun 6/26 Ayvalik to Troy to Canakkale

Visit the famous archeological site of Troy. See the remnants of the ancient city walls as well as a replica of the famous wooden horse. Continue to Çanakkale with the afternoon free to wander around this vibrant waterfront town. One night in Çanakkale.

Mon 6/27 Canakkale to Gallipoli to Istanbul

We cross the Dardanelles Strait from Asia to Europe and visit the Gallipoli Peninsula. Now quiet and serene, it was a major battleground in 1915 during World War I. We visit the battlegrounds, cemeteries, and memorials related to the war. Return to Istanbul for one night.

Tue 6/28 Departure day from Istanbul





CYPRUS EXTENSION – JUNE 28 – JULY 1

(+\$425, including airfare (round-trip from Istanbul), hotel, transportation, and entries)

There will be a 3 day/3 night optional extension to Cyprus starting June 28 when some of the group heads straight back to the USA. The extension group will leave Cyprus on July 1, arriving home in the USA the same day.

Cyprus is the large island in the eastern Mediterranean, 50 miles from Turkey, and composed of a population which is 75% Greek (in the south) and 25% Turkish (in the north). The Turkish north has proclaimed itself an independent country (“Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”) although the international community does not recognize it as an independent state.

Cyprus has an interesting mix of Greek, Roman, French, Venetian, Turkish, and British influences. We would see some great Roman ruins at Salamis with very few other tourists around, we’d stay near the beach and picturesque harbor town of Kyrenia, and see the old castle at St. Hilarion. I think the most fascinating part of Cyprus is the “dead (buffer) zone” between the Turkish and Greek parts of the island, along the cease-fire line of 1974. The capital city of Nicosia and the old beach resort town of Varosha have a no-man’s land where there are abandoned buildings, with 10-foot high weeds, stray animals, decaying signs, but not a soul around. We would visit Nicosia and Varosha (with views from the edge of the zone) to see these modern ghost towns. There is also the opportunity to just take it easy around the hotel swimming pool and nearby beach if you want to do that.

I would like to get a tentative idea of people who are interested in doing the Cyprus extension. It would mean that the flight from LAX-IST-LAX would be June 11 – July 1.

Tue 6/28 Fly ISTANBUL (GOKCEN) – CYPRUS (ERCAN)

We arrive in Northern Cyprus at 10:20 am and then we explore the excellent ancient ruins of Salamis along the coast. Then we see the mixture of Venetian, French and Turkish influences in Famagusta, with the Venetian city walls which are among the best medieval fortifications of the Mediterranean. We visit the St. Barnabas monastery, now a museum. Then we go to the edge of Varosha ghost town, formerly Cyprus’ premier beach resort town but now abandoned and unoccupied following Cyprus’ civil war of 1974. It is a bizarre sight to see 30 decaying high-rise hotels and weeds reaching 10 feet tall in this no-man’s land. We then go to Hotel Sempati near Kyrenia for 3 nights.

Wed 6/29 Northern Cyprus

We visit St. Hilarion Castle, a bit dilapidated but with a fantastic mountaintop location with bird’s eye views down to the coast. Then we go to Bellapais Abbey, a beautiful French gothic monastery. We spend the afternoon in Kyrenia, a picturesque old harbor town with an opportunity to go on a short boat cruise.

Thu 6/30 Nicosia and the (Greek) Republic of Cyprus

We explore Nicosia, the world’s last divided capital city and very similar to how Berlin used to be. We visit the Turkish side (North Nicosia) and then cross into the Greek side (South Nicosia). We see the “dead zone” separating the two parts of Nicosia and the UN peacekeeping forces, but hostilities have been virtually non-existent since 1974. There is an opportunity to explore more of the Greek side of Cyprus at added expense (hiring a taxi, for example). One last night in northern Cyprus.

Fri 7/1 Cyprus to Istanbul to USA

Fly back to Istanbul in the morning (arriving Istanbul Gokcen airport around 8:30 am). Taxi to main airport (IST) for flight back to USA. Flight from Istanbul should be no sooner than 12 noon.

Registration Form - GeoTours Trip to Turkey: June 11-28, 2011- LAND COST = \$1590
(includes hotels, transportation within Turkey, entries/activities, breakfasts ; International Airfare extra)

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT PROCEDURE

1. Submit this form with a \$200 check to GeoTours (address below).
 You should keep a photocopy of this completed form.
2. Second payment of \$500 is due March 11.
3. Final payment is due April 11. If signing up after April 11 then full payment is due with registration
4. Payments made after May 11 will be assessed a \$50 late fee
5. Payments should be made payable to GeoTours LLC and sent to:

GeoTours
427 Larkin Drive
Covina, CA 91722

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS!
 Sign up for the Turkey trip with your \$200 deposit by January 11 and receive a \$25 discount off the program price. Pay in full by March 11 and receive a \$25 discount. Sign up with a friend/relative and one of you gets \$25 off. GeoTours alumni receive an additional discount of \$25 multiplied by the number of GeoTours trip they have done previously.

DO YOU WANT TO DO THE EXTENSION TO CYPRUS JUNE 28 - JULY1 (+\$425 INCLUDING AIRFARE)

Yes ___ No ___

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (Please print clearly and use your precise name as it appears, or will appear, on your passport)

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Gender: _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Are you a US citizen? Yes ___ No, I am a citizen of _____ Passport # _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST The program price is based on double occupancy. A single room incurs a supplement.

Please check one: Sharing a twin/double room _____ Single Room (+\$400) _____

Please circle one: Non-smoking _____ Smoking _____ Do you object to a roommate smoking? Yes ___ No ___

Name of preferred roommate (if any) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Email Address _____

CANCELLATIONS

To cancel your participation, you need to inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the day when GeoTours has received your written notice.

Date of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty	Date of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty
On or before December 31	No penalty; full refund	March 1-31, 2011	\$400
January 1 - 31, 2011	\$100	April 1-30, 2011	\$600
February 1-28, 2011	\$200	After May 1, 2011	No Refund

Responsibility The program participant agrees that GeoTours LLC assumes no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity or delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC harmless for damage and delay due to equipment problems, quarantine, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC is not responsible for delay, rerouting, omission and additional expense resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC. GeoTours LLC is not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all such terms and conditions.

I have carefully read and agree to the regulations above.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Travel arrangements by GeoTours LLC, CST # 2099683-40
 427 Larkin Drive, Covina, CA 91722

Toll-free phone: (888) 496-8676; Fax (626) 209-4339; Email: info@geotours.us
www.geotours.us

