Guaranteed small group of no more than 24 Smithsonian travelers per departure

**TREASURES OF TURKEY**

15 days from $4,894 total price from New York
($4,495 air & land inclusive plus $399 airline taxes and departure fees)

Discover a land fashioned from a sultan’s dream, immortalized in myth and emboldened by antiquity. From splendid Istanbul and stunning Mt. Nemrut to southeastern Turkey's Bible lands and Cappadocia’s surreal landscape, your small group enjoys a broad view of a fascinating nation at the crossroads of East and West, where the ancient world and contemporary culture converge.

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**Your Small Group Tour Highlights**

Tour exotic Istanbul, including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, and the Archaeology Museum ... Sample Gaziantep’s renowned cuisine through a cooking lesson ... Enjoy a cruise on the Euphrates River ... Discover King Antiochus’ statues and temples at Mt. Nemrut ...

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**Day 1-2: Depart the U.S. for Istanbul, Turkey**

Upon arrival, settle into your hotel located near Taksim Square, the heart of modern Istanbul. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, no group activities or meals are planned.

**Days 3-4: Istanbul**

For the next two days, explore Istanbul’s most breathtaking landmarks. Begin at the site of the ancient Hippodrome, where chariots once raced, then visit the famous Blue Mosque, with its six signature minarets; and Hagia Sophia, the world’s greatest cathedral when it was built in A.D. 537. Discover the Archaeology Museum and the acclaimed Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum. This evening, take a short walk to a local restaurant to enjoy an authentic Turkish dinner. The next day, explore the vast collections of Topkapi Palace, a rich repository of Ottoman treasures. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the bustling Grand Bazaar and colorful Spice Market before boarding a private boat for a cruise down the Bosphorus. (2B,1L,1D)

**Day 5: Gaziantep**

After a morning at leisure, fly to Gaziantep (“Antep”), one of the world’s longest continuously inhabited cities and center of Turkey’s pistachio cultivation and baklava production. Upon arrival, tour Gaziantep’s Museum of Archaeology, featuring a stunning collection of well-preserved mosaics unearthed from nearby sites. In the late afternoon check in at your hotel, where you dine tonight. (B,D)

**Day 6: Gaziantep**

This morning visit the Gaziantep City Museum for an enlightening orientation to the city and eastern Turkey, then enjoy a Turkish cooking lesson and lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch explore the semi-enclosed bazaar and several handcrafts workshops, as this city is well-known for its copper crafts, shoe-making, stonework, and embroidery. Dinner tonight is in one of its many acclaimed restaurants. (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Halfeti and Urfa**

Leaving Gaziantep, drive to Halfeti for a cruise on the Euphrates, the 1,700-mile waterway that fed the development of ancient civilization. Pass Rumkale Castle, a strategically sited fortress dating to the Assyrians, and visit the “sunken city” submerged by the recent construction of a dam. After disembarking continue to Urfa, notable in both the Old Testament and Islam. In the late afternoon reach your hotel in the city’s old town and dine there tonight. (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Urfa and Harran**

Drive this morning to Harran, where Abraham is said to have lived on his way to the Promised Land. A major Assyrian center of culture and commerce in antiquity, Harran today...
is an important archaeological site and hardscrabble village. Explore the ruins of the cultish Moon Temple and also see the city’s adobe “beehive” houses which were inhabited as recently as the 1980s. Returning to Urfa, visit the Halil-ul Rahman mosque, built on the site where Abraham was thrown into a fire that turned into a pool. Stop at the atmospheric marketplace in the old city, and see Gobekli Tepe, site of the oldest place of worship yet discovered (since this is an active archaeological dig, entry may not be possible). Tonight dine at a local restaurant overlooking Urfa’s ancient city walls. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Mt. Nemrut and Adiyaman Depart early this morning for the three-hour drive to the World Heritage site of Mt. Nemrut, the presumed 1st century B.C. mountaintop burial site of Antiochus I, with temples, altars, terraces, and decapitated statues of ancient gods – and their heads – scattered about. Having withstood both time (two millennia) and attempted destruction by iconoclasts, the colossal 26- to 33-foot high statues evoke a very distant and storied past. Walk to the summit, where you enjoy a picnic lunch in this spectacular setting, then spend the afternoon touring the archaeological site and museum. Departing late afternoon, travel the short distance to Adiyaman, reaching your hotel in time for dinner. (B,L,D)

Days 10-11: Adiyaman and Cappadocia Depart for today’s tour. Centuries of volcanic eruptions dumped mud, ash, and lava here, which was later sculpted by rain and wind into whimsical cone, needle, and chimney formations. Early Christians built thousands of churches in the Goreme Valley, and also built the “rock city” of Uchisar and the underground village of Kaymakli, all of which you explore on today’s tour. (B,L) Day 12: Cappadocia Today’s touring features the vast Zelve Valley complex of caves laced with dwellings, churches, and public spaces where villagers lived until just 40 years ago. Marvel at the amazing fairy tale chimneys at Pasabag and visit the Urgup winery. End the day at the medieval Ottoman town of Avanos, where you watch craftspeople as they fashion pottery and weave rugs. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Hattusa and Ankara Leaving Cappadocia this morning, travel to Hattusa, former capital of the Hittite empire dating to the 2nd millennium B.C. and known for its thoughtful urban layout. Tour this World Heritage site then continue to Ankara, arriving late afternoon. (B,L)

Day 14: Ankara This morning visit the Ataturk Mausoleum, honoring the founder of the Turkish Republic, then tour the notable Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which chronicles the history of Asia Minor. Your afternoon is at leisure before tonight’s farewell dinner at your hotel. (B,D)

Day 15: Depart for the U.S. Board an early flight to U.S. (B)

Post-Tour Extension

IZMIR: EPHESUS & PERGAMUM
4 days/3 nights for $995 total price
Single Supplement: $195
From the lively port city of Izmir, discover the superb ruins at Ephesus, among the world’s best preserved archaeological sites, and the ancient Greek city of Pergamon, situated in a stunning hilltop setting.

Your Tour Price Includes
- Air transportation Ankara/Izmir
- 3 nights accommodations at Swissotel Grand Eles (Deluxe)
- 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Extensive included sightseeing of Ephesus and Pergamon
- Services of a professional Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for Tour Director, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Land only guests: $1,195 total price per person

Landmarking Iznik: A Day at the Port of Izmir

Smithsonian Experts

Stephanie Larson is an associate professor of classics at Bucknell University and leads a study abroad course in Turkey. She received her Ph.D. in classics from the University of Texas at Austin. She has written a book on 6th-century B.C.E. collective identity, Tales of Epic Ancestry (2007) and has published articles on the Odyssey, Herodotus, political and military history, and epigraphy. Stephanie will lead the May departure.

Robert Stieglitz, professor emeritus at Rutgers University, is an archaeologist of Biblical and Mediterranean Studies. He received his B.A. from City College of New York, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Brandeis University. Bob has surveyed along the southern coast of Turkey, lectured extensively on the Sea Peoples linked to that region, and taught courses on the subjects of religion and science in light of pre-Socratic philosophies that originated in western Anatolia. He will lead the September departure.

Your Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 13 nights accommodations in Deluxe, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 32 meals: 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a professional Tour Director
- Lectures by Smithsonian Expert
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for Tour Director, local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

2014 Tour Dates and Prices
including international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

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<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Sep 26</td>
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<td>Baltimore, Boston, Chicago</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of $399, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. All 2014 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip transatlantic flight: Business Class - $5,295 per person; Premium Economy - $1,095 per person (upgrade is on request and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven or cobblestone streets and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

To Register ✅ Call 1-877-338-8687 or visit SmithsonianJourneys.org