

Turkey – the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, Cappadocia, Istanbul

depart Friday, April 20 – return Saturday, May 5, 2012

(12 participants)

Join Eliot for two weeks photographing ancient sites and dramatic locations in Turkey. Our journey begins in Izmir with a visit to Ephesus perhaps the best preserved classical city in the world. Then on to dramatic Priene, the astonishing Apollo Temple at Didyma, delicate and beautiful Aphrodisias and the limestone “cotton cliffs” at Pamukkale. Near Fethiye, along the Turquoise Coast of the Mediterranean, we’ll see the Lycian rock tombs at Tlos, the abandoned city of Kayakoy, and spend an afternoon cruising the beautiful Mediterranean and dining on a traditional gullet. From Fethiye we’ll fly to Cappadocia spending four nights in a cave hotel. The landscape in Cappadocia is astonishing. We will have more than 3 days to experience this remarkable place on the ground and in the air via an optional hot air balloon ride. We’ll walk in spectacular valleys early and late. Visits to see traditional rug weaving and pottery making are included. Extraordinary items can be purchased to bring or ship home. From Cappadocia we’ll fly to Istanbul for three more nights touring St Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the Spice Bazaar and so much more. We will fly back from Istanbul.

Our tour is with Parasol Tours one of Turkey’s most highly regarded companies.

The price is \$3995 (single supplement \$875) and includes:

- Hotels including room and baggage gratuities
- Travel between locations
- Admission fees as per the itinerary, and all government taxes
- One group transfer to and from the airport on arrival and departure
- Luggage handling
- Domestic airfares between Fethiye, Cappadocia, and Istanbul on 28 Apr and May 2

Individuals are responsible for:

- Lunches and Dinners (Dinners are included in Pamukkale and on the gullet cruise in Fethiye)
- Extra meals or other food items purchased over and above what is in the set menus; beverages including bottled water, spirits, laundry. Border and airport taxes, passport and visa charges, travel insurance and all other items of a purely personal nature as well as tipping. (Bottled water will be provided on our bus trips.)
- Gratuities for the guide and driver that are at the discretion of the guests (For Guide: \$7-\$8 per person per day; For Drivers: About half of guide’s tip, are appropriate)
- International airfares
- All entertainment not shown in the itinerary including hot air balloon ride and whirling dervish ceremony in Cappadocia.

To download a day by day itinerary, a list of hotels, deposit and cancellation policies, [click here](#).

Itinerary for Turkey April 15-30, 2011

20 Apr 2012, Fri

Flight from the US

21 Apr 2012, Sat

Arrive in Izmir and transfer to the Movenpick hotel. Free for the rest of the day.

22 Apr 2012, Sun

Visit **Ephesus Antique City** (*Hillside Houses are excluded*), one of the most popular ancient sites of Turkey with many acres of carefully excavated ruins; **House of Virgin Mary** where she is supposed to spend her last years together with St. John; **Ephesus Archaeological Museum**; **Temple of Artemis**, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. Overnight in Sirince at Nisanyan Evleri B&B. (This rustic village will be much more interesting and convenient than the large port of Kusadasi. The lodges sit high on a hillside overlooking the village – quite beautiful) (B).

23 Apr 2012, Mon

Early departure for **Priene**, the first planned city in the ancient world, and visit to the Theatre, the Temple of Athena, Agora, the Bouleterion, the Zeus Altar. Then proceed to **Didyma** to see the well preserved Apollo Temple that had been inhabited only by the priests and suppliants who came to consult the famous Oracle there. Continue on to Aphrodisias. Overnight at the Marti-Boutique Hotel, a new hotel currently under construction and due to open in March (B, D).

24 Apr 2012, Tues

In the morning visit **Aphrodisias**, the city of Aphrodite which was famous for it's sculptors. It is a very "young" site, more recently discovered, with much to enjoy. Being inland it is less visited and thus nice to explore. Features include the Temple of Aphrodite, the theater, a well preserved stadium, and agora.

In the afternoon drive to **Pamukkale** to photograph sunset on the travertines. Overnight at the Hal-Tur Hotel, one of the friendliest places on our last visit. (B, D)

25 Apr 2012, Weds

A full day in Pamukkale. In the morning tour the magnificently preserved cemetery "**Necropolis**", and the **Heiropolis** including the Main Street and Gates, the Thermal Baths, the Roman Theatre and the Museum. We'll have some time to relax and review pictures in the afternoon and then another sunset on the travertine's. (B/D)

26 April, 2012 Thurs

Morning departure for Fethiye, with visits to the rock tombs at **Tlos** and other sites along the way. Overnight at the Yacht-Boutique Hotel (B).

27 Apr 2012, Fri

Early departure and photograph to the abandoned city of **Kayakoy** and nearby village. Afternoon and dinner cruise on a traditional gullet. Overnight at the Yacht-Boutique Hotel (B).

28 Apr 2012, Sat

Drive to Dalaman to fly to Kayseri (Cappadocia) with a change of plane in Istanbul. On arrival transfer to Cappadocia Cave Suites in Goreme.

29 Apr 2012, Sun – 01 May, 2012, Tues

Activities in **Cappadocia** to be arranged based on weather and light for best photo options. We will visit the valleys with unique rock and sand formations including the fairy chimneys and soft ice cream deposits. Plan on walking for some of the locations. We'll visit the **open air museum** which is near the hotel in Goreme and see the early Christian churches decorated with unique frescoes depicting various scenes from the Bible. Visit the pottery town of Avanos, see and learn about traditional rug weaving, participate in an optional sunrise hot air balloon ride, and see an optional whirling dervish ceremony. Visit an "**underground city**" where people fled to avoid invaders. Cappadocia is quite a place. It's wonderful. (B)

02 May, 2012, Weds

Transfer to the airport to fly to Istanbul. On arrival transfer to the Midtown Hotel. In the afternoon, visit the **Topkapi Palace** - *Harem section is excluded*; built in 1468 by Mehmet the Conqueror, the imperial residence of Ottoman sultans housing the souvenirs of 600 years and exhibiting imperial treasury, Chinese porcelains, weapons, calligraphy section, etc. A short ride on to **Suleymaniye Mosque**, masterpiece of Sinan, the chief architect of the Ottoman Empire, built in the name of the Sultan Suleyman, the Magnificent, during the 16th. century, considered as the best amongst the imperial mosques. Overnight at the Midtown Hotel in Istanbul (B).

03 May 2012, Thurs

A full day tour with **St. Sophia**, one of the greatest marvels of architecture constructed as a basilica in 536 by Emperor Justinian; **Blue Mosque**, facing Hagia Sophia, famous with its more than 20.000 blue Iznik tiles and unique with its 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet in the 17th century, one of the best examples of classical Turkish art; **Hippodrome**, the scene of Byzantine chariot races, athletic events, victory celebrations, and political activities of the old city where one can also see today the "Obelisk of

Theodosius” from Egypt, “Serpentine Column” from Delphi, the “German Fountain of Wilhelm II” and the “Colossus”.

In the afternoon embark on a public ferry boat cruising up the Bosphorus, the waterway separating the two continents - Asia and Europe. Photograph marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture and modern residences. During this trip **Dolmabahce Palace, Ciragan Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Bosphorus** and **Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridges** as well as **Rumelian Fortress**, the historical armament built by Memhet the Conqueror in 1452 to control and protect Bosphorus, will be visible from the sea. (B).

04 May 2012, Fri

Day on one’s own to explore Istanbul (B),

05 May 2012, Sat

Transfer to the airport for the departure flight (B).

To reserve a space please confirm availability with Eliot, then send a check for \$2000 made out to Parasol International LLC. The balance will be due on Jan 1, 2012.

Cancellation Policy:

The notice of cancellations by participants should be given in writing, and all such cancellations will be effective on the date the written notification is received.

In the event of cancellation by a participant sharing same accommodation, the rate charged to the remaining participant will have to be increased to the “Single Occupancy” rate, unless we (you) can arrange for a Shared Accommodation.

Cancellation fees / charges are agreed to be “Liquidated Damages”, and not a penalty. Deposit towards a tour constitutes full acceptance of these “General Terms & Conditions” and to the Cancellation Policy.

The Cancellation Fees, in addition to any applicable Airline Penalties, are as follows

More than 180	days =	refund	less	\$200	cancellation	fee
180-121	days =	refund	less	\$400	cancellation	fee
120-91	days =	refund	less	\$500	cancellation	fee

90 days or less = a refund will be made if a replacement takes the cancelled space, less a \$500 cancellation fee.

- Since tour rates are based on group participation / or minimum person requirements, NO REFUNDS can be made for any services or any part of the program not used, after the commencement of the tour.