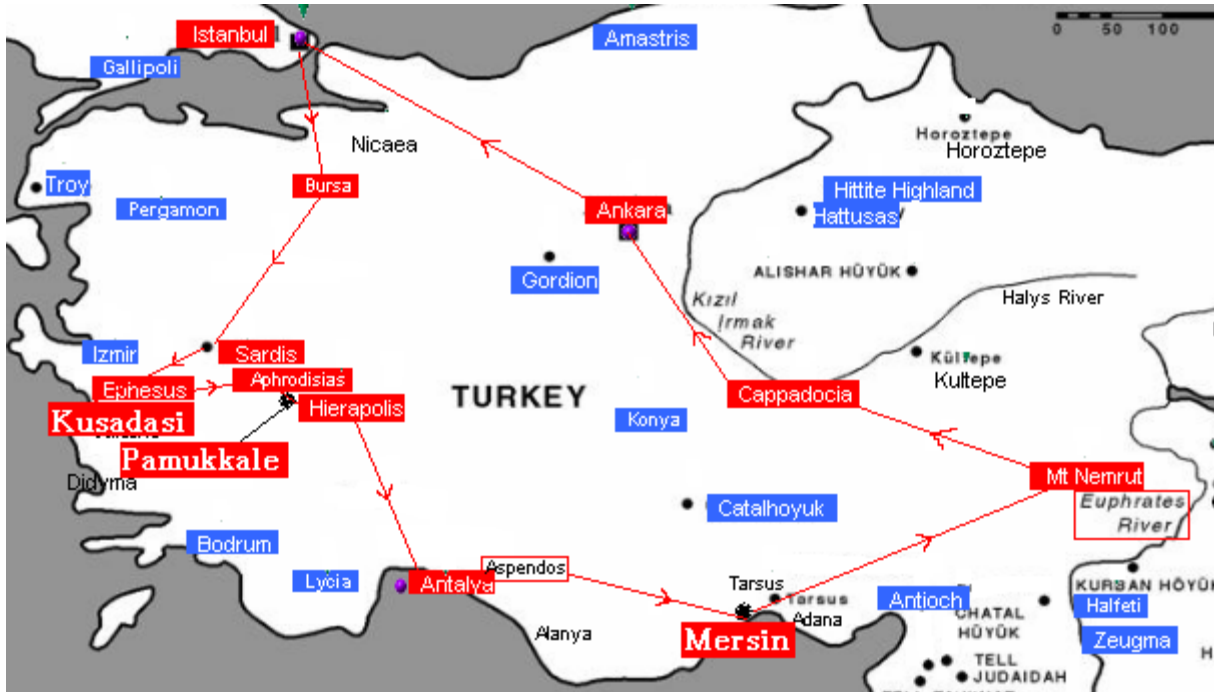




Cultural Folk Tours
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2009 ICHC TURKEY HISTORY & DISCOVERY TOUR 16 Day (revised 4/3/2009)

Turkey Tour Map



Day 1 - DEPART USA (Apr 18)

We all meet at **Chicago** before flying to **Istanbul** with a stop-over at **London** the next day.

Day 2 – BURSA (Apr 19)

Upon arrival at the **Istanbul** airport, we will take a ferry directly to **Bursa**, the **Ottoman Empire's** first capital. We will check into the 5-star hotel and spa, the **Kervansaray Termal** to relax and, if you wish, you can bathe in the ancient Turkish baths next to the hotel (optional). In the evening, we will meet the group for a welcome dinner.

Day 3, 4 - IZMIR / KUSADASI (Sardis/Ephesus) (Apr 20, 21)

Early in the morning, we will drive to the **Green Mosque and Tomb**, built by **Mehmet the first**, for a quick 15 minute photo stop before we continue to **Kusadasi**. On the way we will drive to **Sardis** where money was first minted. We will see one of the world's oldest synagogues in Sardis as well as see the excavations, the gymnasium and the **Artemis Temple**. In the evening, we will arrive at the check into the 5-star **Korumar Hotel**, which features a beautiful view of the **Aegean** seacoast. Dinner will be at the hotel.

The next day, we will drive to the incredible city of **Ephesus** and its colossal **Greek Theater**, which is still used for performances today. The **Marble Road**, the **Celsus Library**, and the **Temple of Diana** are just a few of the things that we will be seeing here. We will also visit the house where the **Virgin Mary** lived her final days. After the crucifixion of Jesus, St. John brought her to Ephesus. We will then return to the Korumar Hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 5 - PAMUKKALE (UNESCO Natural Wonders of the World) - Hierapolis (Aphrodisias) (Apr 22)

We will depart for **Pamukkale** early in the morning and drive to **Aphrodisias**; the city of art dedicated to the Goddess Aphrodite. The marble theater there is beautiful and the stadium seats over 35,000. After Aphrodisias, we will continue our drive to **Pamukkale**. We will wander among a ruined city and its necropolis (city of the dead) and see the many sarcophagi. We will also visit the snow-like travertine of calcium for which Pamukkale is famous. Pamukkale is one of the Natural Wonders of the world with strikingly beautiful mineral springs clinging to the hillsides that will amaze you. We will stay at the 5-star Colossae Hotel, which has a hot-Thermal mineral pool for our enjoyment.

Day 6, 7 - ANTALYA - Turkish Riviera (Apr 23, 24)

Today, we will drive to **Antalya**. During our stay there, we will tour this beautiful city snuggled between the **Mediterranean** Sea and the **Toros** Mountains. We will also visit the ruined cities of **Aspendos** and **Perge**. Aspendos dates back to the time of the Hittites, yet the only visible remains are from the Roman period. The restored theater at Aspendos is said to be the best in all of Turkey. Perge reached its height under the Romans and Alexander the Great. Today, what remains are the ruins of a great theater, a stadium, and the colonnaded main street. If time permits, we will visit the Archaeological Museum in Antalya. Our stay will be at the 5-star **Dedeman Hotel** and we pay extra to make sure each room has a beautiful view of the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains.

Day 8 – MERSIN (Apr 25)

Today, we will take a long and beautiful drive to **Mersin**, known as the **Turkish Riviera**. On the way, we will stop at the **Church of St. Thecla**, the **Corycos** fortress and the ruins at **Kanlidivane**. Our Stay will be at the 5-star hotel **Mersin Hilton**, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. Each room will have a beautiful view of this sea. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 9 - MT. NEMRUT (Apr 26)

Early in the morning, we will depart for **Mt. Nemrut** near **Adiyaman**. On the way, we will stop in **Tarsus**, the birthplace of **St. Paul**, where we will visit St. Paul's well. Arriving hotel at around 2 p.m., we will hire small mini-buses to drive up Mt. Nemrut (if we arrive at dusk, we will visit Mt. Nemrut early in the morning on the following day). Resting at an elevation of 7,700 ft., this extraordinary mountaintop features a funerary-temple complex composed of two flattened areas strewn with huge statues and fallen heads of Greco-Roman Gods. Each head measures six to nine feet high, belonging to the likes of Zeus, Hercules, Fortuna, Apollo and the King **Antiochus**, who considered himself a God. There is also a mound of broken gravel that makes a perfect false peak of crushed rock (Turkish Pyramid). Antiochus built the entire complex 2,050 years ago as a monument to his "divine ancestry". We will then check into the tourist class **Zeus hotel**. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 10, 11, 12 - CAPPADOCIA (UNESCO Natural Wonders of the World) (Apr 27, 28, 29)

Early in the morning, we will depart for Cappadocia. On the way to Cappadocia, we will visit the **Gumusler Monastery** and also stop in **Kanesh** to see an excavation of a **Hittite** city. Afterwards, we will turn our sights toward Cappadocia; stopping frequently for rest breaks. Arriving early in the evening in **Cappadocia**, we will stay at the spectacular **Cappadocia Cave Suites**, the newest and most "luxurious cave living" in Cappadocia. In 2005, Abercrombie and Kent rated the Cave Suites the seventeenth most boutique hotel in the world. Most of the hotel's eighteen spacious units have a Jacuzzi, several rooms have fireplaces and five units include two bedrooms. Some units have beautiful 200-year-old wooden ceilings and one unit is decorated in original 8th century painted frescoes showing the Maltese cross. The views from the hotel are spectacular with the Fairy Chimneys in sight (www.cappadociacavesuites.com).

While in Cappadocia, we will enjoy the unique landscape of wind and rain eroded volcanic rock formations. We will tour the **Open Air Museum** at **Göreme** and the amazing underground churches in the city of

Derinkuyu, which was carved into the rocks by early Christians. We will visit a handicraft gallery in **Avanos** for a lecture demonstration on pottery as Avanos was the first town that the potter's wheel arrived in during 2800 B.C. Near **Uchizar**, there will be an excellent lecture demonstration on Turkish carpets and kilims.

We will also visit a caravan-saray (an ancient caravan motel) and, if possible, the village **Soganli** where the world famous **Cappadocia dolls** are made. Going off the tourist track, we will have wonderful strolls where we visit small villages and discover the unknown Cappadocia. **We will also take two relaxed three mile hikes through the Unesco World Heritage Park where you will see a variety of flowers and unique rock formations. One of these walks will be near the hotel along the Gullu dere Valley.** On one of the evenings, we will wine and dine while enjoying a **Whirling Dervish** ceremony and a folk dance show.

OPTIONAL: Hot air balloon rides over Cappadocia at reduced rates. A balloon ride in Cappadocia (for people of all ages) is safe and nothing less than spectacular.

Day 13 – ANKARA (Apr 30)

Early in the morning, we will drive to **Ankara**, the capital of Turkey since 1923. We will visit the magnificent **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**. This museum contains relics from **Çatal Höyük**, one of the earliest known human communities that existed through the **Roman** Classical Period. We will also visit the **Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, the father of modern Turkey. This beautiful landmark is perched atop a hill with a panoramic view of the city. In the evening, we will check in at the 5-star **Etap Altinel hotel** or the **Radisson Hotel**. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 14, 15 – ISTANBUL (May 1, 2)

We will leave **Ankara** early in the morning and drive to **Istanbul**. Upon arrival, we will begin our tour of Istanbul.

Istanbul, once called **Byzantium** in the 7th century B.C., was renamed **Constantinople** in 326 A.D. by **Constantine the Great** when he moved the capital of the Roman Empire to what is now Istanbul. Istanbul received its current name from Mehmet II in 1453 and is the only city in the world that spans two continents. For the two days in Istanbul, we will visit several of Turkey's most famous museums and mosques. **Topkapi Palace** was first built by **Mehmet the Conqueror** in 1453 and was the home of the Sultan until the 19th century. **St. Sophia** was built by the **Roman Emperor Justinian** and was completed in 537 A.D. It was the largest Christian church in the world for more than 1000 years. The **Blue Mosque** was commissioned by Sultan **Ahmet** in 1603 and was constructed with the deliberate intention of rivaling the St. Sophia. We will also visit the **Hippodrome**, the **Grand Bazaar** and take a **Bosphorus private cruise**, which touches both the European and Asian sides of the Bosphorus. In addition, we will visit the **Military Museum** to enjoy a concert performed in traditional costumes by the world's first established military marching ensemble. We will stay in a hotel, situation in the old city. On one of the evenings, we will have a dinner with lots of live music and entertainment by a gypsy orchestra. On another evening, we will visit the **Spice Market** where you can dinner on your own.

Please Note: The order of events may vary with each tour depending on the availability of various museums on certain days of the week.

Day 16 -DEPART FOR USA (May 3)

We will depart the hotel shortly after breakfast for your return flight to the United States the same day.

Flight schedules and itinerary are subject to change

WHAT IS INCLUDED & WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED – Please refer to the 2008 brochure for details.