

# World Affairs Council of Houston

## Travel with the Council

### Turkey

April 25 to May 7, 2012      Tour Cost \$3,000

Our trip will include the highlights of Ankara, Cappadocia, Konya, Pamukkale, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Izmir, and will end in Istanbul with a cruise along the Bosphorus.

After seeing Ankara on the first day, we will drive to the Cappadocia region. We will enjoy the scenery of the Central Anatolian plains and will stop by the Great Salt Lake and a 14th century Caravanserai along the way.

Arriving in Cappadocia, our first day includes early Christian churches, monasteries and villages carved into volcanic formations. We will visit the Goreme Open Air Museum with its churches, Zelve & Pasabag Valley, Kaymakli underground village, Avanos village and other scenic spots. Leaving Cappadocia and driving to Konya, we follow one of the western extensions of the Silk Road. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk Turks during 11-13th centuries. It is home to the Mevlana Museum, which was the center of Whirling Dervishes and Karatay Medrese from 14th century. We will drive to Pamukkale for an overnight stay, visiting ancient Hierapolis with its ruins and necropolis the next day. In the afternoon we will drive to Kusadasi along the Aegean coast of Turkey.

Arriving in Ephesus, we will spend time in the Roman ruins of this ancient city, the House of Virgin Mary, Basilica of St. John and the museum. We then fly to Istanbul, the final city on our trip. We will see the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Roman Hippodrome and the underground cistern, Topkapi Palace, the Egyptian Bazaar, Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent and the Grand Bazaar.

Turkey is at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. It offers an exciting mix of cultures, great food, and friendly people. Our trip will be personally escorted by Ilyas Hokkaci.

#### Tour price of \$3,000 includes:

- Two domestic flights
- All hotels and most meals
- Local guides, driver, and escort
- All entrance fees for places on the itinerary



#### Not included:

- International airfare and tax: \$1,370
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Visa: \$30
- Tips: \$150
- Optional Single Supplement: \$447

# Itinerary:

## USA – TURKEY

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**DAY 1 – Apr 25:** Travel Day from the USA to Istanbul, Turkey then on to Ankara.

## ANKARA ARRIVAL

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**DAY 2 – Apr 26:** Upon arrival in Ankara, our guide and driver will meet us at the airport and take us to our hotel in Ankara, the capital of Turkey and the country's second largest city after Istanbul. Dinner at hotel. Overnight in Ankara.

Dinner included

## ANKARA

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**DAY 3 – Apr 27:** As with many ancient cities, Ankara has gone by several names over the ages: The Hittites gave it the name *Ankuwash* before 1200 BC. The Galatians and Romans called it *Ancyra*. In the classical, Hellenistic and Byzantine periods it was known as *Ankyra* (meaning Anchor) in Greek. After the Seljuk Turks conquered the city in 1073, the city was known as *Angora* until it was officially renamed *Ankara* with the Turkish Postal Service Law of 1930. We will visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, Mausoleum of Ataturk and Ankara Castle. Breakfast and dinner at restaurant. Overnight in Ankara.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA

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**Day 4 – Apr 28:** This morning we will leave Ankara for Cappadocia. Our drive will be about five hours, enjoying the scenery of Central Anatolian plains and countryside. On the way, we will have an opportunity to see the Lake Tuz, "*Salt Lake*", which is the second largest lake in Turkey. Upon arrival we will start sightseeing in Cappadocia region. Breakfast and dinner at hotel. Overnight in Cappadocia.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## CAPPADOCIA

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**DAY 5 – Apr 29:** Cappadocia, a unique area with its lunar landscape, is home to hundreds of early Christian churches, monasteries and villages carved into volcanic rock formations. Today we will have full day sightseeing in Cappadocia region. We will visit the Goreme National Park with its churches, which are included in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, Zelve & Pasabag Valley, Kaymakli Underground Village, Avanos Village and other scenic spots. This evening, we will see a folk dance show after dinner. Overnight in Cappadocia.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

## CAPPADOCIA - KONYA

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**DAY 6 – Apr 30:** This morning we will leave Cappadocia and drive to Konya, following one of the western extensions of the Silk Road. On the way we will visit Sultanhan. Konya was the capital of the Seljuk Turks during the 11-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Konya we will visit the Mevlana Museum, which was the center of Whirling Dervishes and Karatay Medrese from 14<sup>th</sup> century and Alaaddin Mosque. Rest of the day at leisure in Konya. Overnight in Konya.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

## KONYA - PAMUKKALE

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**DAY 7 – May 1:** This morning we will leave Konya and drive to Pamukkale. We will drive through the beautiful Turkish countryside. In the afternoon we will visit Pamukkale. Pamukkale, meaning “cotton castle” in Turkish, is a town full of hot springs and travertines, terraces of carbonate minerals left by the flowing water. The ancient city of Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built on top of the white “castle”. The hot springs there have been used in the baths since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and people came to soothe their ailments, with many of them retiring or dying here. The large necropolis is filled with sarcophagi. We will visit the ancient Hierapolis with its theater, baths, and necropolis. You can also enjoy the indoor spa pool and outdoor pool at the hotel. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## PAMUKKALE - KUSADASI

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**DAY 8 – May 2:** In the morning we will leave Pamukkale to drive to Kusadasi along the Aegean coast of Turkey. On the way we will visit one of the best Greco-Roman ruins in Turkey: Aphrodisias and Museum. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

## EPHESUS - KUSDASI

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**DAY 9 – May 3:** Ephesus is the best-preserved classical city of the Eastern Mediterranean, and among the best places in the world enabling one to genuinely “soak in” the atmosphere of Roman times. It was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League during the Classical Greek era. In the Roman period, it was for many years the second largest city of the Roman Empire, ranking behind Rome. The city was famed for the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Ephesus was one of the Seven Churches of Asia that cited in the Book of Revelation. The Gospel of John may have been written here. Paul lived in Ephesus and got into a dispute with artisans, whose livelihood depended on selling the statuettes of Artemis in the Temple of Artemis.

Today we will have a full day sightseeing program in Ephesus. We will visit the impressive ruins of this ancient city, the House of Virgin Mary, Basilica of St. John and the museum. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

## KUSADASI - ISTANBUL

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**DAY 10 – May 4:** We are heading to Istanbul today. Istanbul, historically also known as Byzantium and Constantinople, is the largest city in Turkey and fifth largest city proper in the world with a population of 12.8 million. Istanbul is also a mega city, as well as the cultural and financial center of Turkey. It is the only metropolis in the world that is situated on two continents. In its long history, Istanbul has served as the capital city of the Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, the Latin Empire and the Ottoman Empire. The city was chosen as joint European Capital of Culture for 2010. The historic areas of Istanbul were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

Early in the morning we will leave Kusadasi for Izmir airport. We will then fly to Istanbul. Upon arrival we will start our sightseeing program in Istanbul. We will see the city walls, the Blue Mosque from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Hagia Sophia from Byzantine period, the Roman Hippodrome and Underground Cistern. Overnight in Istanbul.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## ISTANBUL

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**DAY 11 – May 5:** Another day of sightseeing in Istanbul. We will visit the Topkapi Palace, the residence of Ottoman sultans from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century; Chora Church from the Byzantine period, Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent and the Grand Bazaar. Overnight in Istanbul.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## **ISTANBUL**

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**DAY 12 – May 6:** This morning we will first visit the historic Egyptian Bazaar (Spice Market). Then we will have a cruise along the Bosphorus to the northern suburbs and drive back seeing Rumelihisari Fortress on the way. We may have a chance to stop at one of the local teahouses near the sea to have a cup of tea. Overnight in Istanbul.

Breakfast, Dinner included

## **ISTANBUL DEPARTURE**

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**DAY 13 – May 7:** We will be transferred to the Istanbul airport for the return flight.

## HOTELS

City	Hotel	URL
Ankara	Alba Ankara Hotel Yuksel SK no 19, Kizilay, Ankara Tel: +903124191020 Fax: +903124193050	<a href="http://www.albaankara.com.tr/">http://www.albaankara.com.tr/</a>
Cappadocia	Peri Tower Hotel NAR, Nevsehir Tel: +903842128816 Fax: +93842139028	<a href="http://www.peritower.com">www.peritower.com</a>
Konya	Bera Konya Hotel Kucuk Ihsaniye Mah. Dr M Hulisi Baybal Cad. No 9, Selcuklu, Konya Tel: +903322384242 Fax: +903322381099	<a href="http://www.bera.com.tr/konya/ana.php">www.bera.com.tr/konya/ana.php</a>
Pamukkale	C&H Hotel Pamukkale Yukari Samli Koyu Pamukkale, Denizli Tel: +902583817381 Fax: +902583817383	<a href="http://www.chhotels.net">www.chhotels.net</a>
Kusadasi	La Vista Hotel Yilanci Burnu Mevkii No. 41 Kusadasi Tel: +902566141235 Fax: +902566122232	<a href="http://www.lavistahotel.net/index_en.html">http://www.lavistahotel.net/index_en.html</a>
Istanbul	Riva Hotel Aydede Cad. No. 8 Taksim, Istanbul Tel: +902122564420	<a href="http://www.rivahotel.com.tr/">http://www.rivahotel.com.tr/</a>

# World Affairs Council of Houston

Turkey, April 25 - May 7, 2012

## Contact Information

Last:	First:	M.I.:
Address, city, state, zip:		
Day Phone:	Email:	
Emergency contact (name, phone):		
Passport number:	Expiration date:	
Location issued:	Date of birth:	Citizenship:

## Tour Cost

Basic tour cost	\$ 3,000	Terms: 1. Deposit of \$500 due 1/15/12 2. Deposit fully refundable up to 90 days before departure 3. Balance due 3/1/12 4. Balance partially refundable up to 45 days before dep. 5. Tips for guide, driver and bag handlers due 4/15/12
International airfare * (estimated)	\$ 1,370	
Air taxes TBD		
Single supplement (\$ 447)		If sharing a room, with whom?:
Tips (estimated)	\$ 150	* Flights - you are welcome to make your own flight arrangements as long as you provide us with your flight itinerary and arrive no later than the tour group.
Total Charges (estimated)		

## Payment Information

Circle one: Master Card - American Express - Visa - Check	Amount: \$ 500.00	
CC #:	Exp date:	CVS code: (required)
Name (print as it appears on card):		
Signature:		
Do you have a theme, focus, or particular area of interest that you would like to study during the trip?		

**Important note:** Please include a color photocopy of your passport & health insurance card

Mail to: or Fax to: (713) 522-7812  
World Affairs Council of Houston  
PO Box 920905  
Houston, Texas 77292-0905

World Affairs Council of Houston  
Health information for

Name:

Are you healthy enough to travel internationally and keep pace with an agenda that includes:

Some stairs  
moderates walks  
mountain trails  
this is considered moderate activity level

Do you have any medical conditions that should be known?

Please list any medications that you currently take

Do you have any allergies?

Your doctors name and phone number

Your health insurance plan

Who to contact in case of emergency