

# **TREASURES OF ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA & the Ancient Greek Cities of Ephesus & Troy**



**September 23 - October 4, 2010**

**Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions**

**TREASURES OF  
ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA  
& the Ancient Greek Cities  
of Ephesus & Troy**

**September 23 - October 4, 2010**

Discover sites important to the heritage of Western Civilization on this great adventure to Istanbul and the fascinating cave city at Cappadocia. We will also visit the two greatest Greek sites on the Aegean Coast of Turkey, Ephesus and Troy.

**LEADERSHIP**

Leading the expedition will be **Mr. Seyhun Aktoprak**. Seyhun received his MA in Art History at Istanbul University and has been leading specialty study tours throughout Turkey since 1989. As a youth, Seyhun lived in Istanbul, Malta, and Libya, and returned to Turkey in 1985. He studied American Culture and Literature at Istanbul University for his Bachelor's degree. Seyhun has a tremendous interest in the heritage of Turkey, and looks forward to sharing his knowledge of ancient archaeological and historical sites in Turkey with you. He knows you will have a marvelous time discovering the treasures of Turkey.

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1 DEPART FOR ISTANBUL**

Depart New York's JFK International Airport on a nonstop flight to Istanbul.

**Day 2 ISTANBUL**

Upon arrival in Istanbul, meet your guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Time for rest and leisure. In the evening enjoy a Welcome Dinner. *Ramada Old City Hotel, Istanbul (3 nights)*. (D)

**Day 3 ISTANBUL -- TOPKAPI PALACE**

We will devote the entire day to sightseeing in Istanbul. First of all, we will stop at outstanding **Topkapi Palace**, once home to the great Sultans. It is filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. Then we will visit the **Blue Mosque**, built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet. The interior walls are covered with twenty thousand blue Iznik tiles. Our sightseeing continues at the excellent **Archaeology Museum** with displays on Troy and Assos, followed by a visit to the **Underground Basilica Cistern** which supplied water to the imperial palaces. (B)

**Day 4 ISTANBUL -- HIPPODROME & ST. SOPHIA**

This morning, we will explore the **Hippodrome** and **Basilica of St. Sophia**, which has inspired architects and religious leaders for over fifteen hundred years. Constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and is now a museum. In the afternoon we explore **Chora Church**, including 14th Century Byzantium Mosaics and amazing frescos; and **Suleymaniye Mosque** which was built for Suleyman the Magnificent by the great Ottoman architect, Sinan. (B)

**Day 5 ISTANBUL TO CAPPADOCIA**

Today we will take a short flight from Istanbul to Kayseri near Cappadocia. We will explore **Kultepe**, the site of the Ancient Kingdom of Kanesh and then drive to the **Rock-cut Monastery** at Eski Gumusler. *Peri Tower Hotel, Cappadocia (2 nights)* (B, D)

## **Day 6 CAPPADOCIA**

Our sightseeing begins with a visit to the fascinating **Göreme Valley**. The lunar-like landscape of this region is eerie, yet beautiful. Over thousand of years, the rain has eroded this landscape to give rise to strange rock formations known as "Fairy Chimneys". Many of these have homes and churches carved into them. Some of the grottos are magnificently decorated with colorful frescoes depicting biblical scenes. Then visit the carpet cooperative to learn about this important local industry. Your sightseeing continues to **Asikli Hoyuk**, the earliest settlement in Anatolia. (B, D)

## **Day 7 CAPPADOCIA TO KUSADASI**

Spend the morning visiting a typical Turkish village, **Avanos**, to see the techniques of ceramic art dating from the 12th to 3rd century BC. We'll watch the villagers make the pottery, which is quite interesting! We will enjoy a tour of the **Underground City of Kaymakli** built by the Christian inhabitants of this region tunneling into the soft volcanic rock of a large hill. Transfer to Kayseri Airport for a direct flight to Izmir on the Aegean Coast. *Pine Bay Marina Hotel, Kusadasi (2 nights)*. (B, D)

## **Day 8 KUSADASI & EPHESUS**

Today's excursion goes to **Ephesus**, the largest ancient city uncovered in Turkey. Ephesus was also a port city linking Sardis to Susa. Once populated with three hundred thousand people, it has an enormous amphitheater, which can still hold twenty four thousand spectators. As we walk down the marble covered streets, we will see the Temple of Artemis (Diana) which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We will also see the **Ephesus Museum** with some world-famous works and the **Basilica of St John**. (B, D)

## **Day 9 KUSADASI – PERGAMUM – ASSOS**

Today our road will take us to the ancient city of Pergamum. Famous for the invention of parchment paper, Pergamum had a library containing two hundred thousand books. We will visit the **Acropolis**, the alter of Zeus and the ten thousand-seat amphitheater. At the **Pergamum Museum** see the 4th century BC kuros, an early example of realism of the sculpted human form. Then visit marvelous **Asclepion**, a fourth century BC shrine to the healing God Asclepius. A winding road will take us to the sacred center of Asklepios. Here, mud and hot baths were used as a therapy. Drive to Assos to spend the night in a charming stone hotel.

*Kervansaray Hotel, Assos (2 nights)*. (B, D)

## **Day 10 ASSOS & TROY**

This morning we will visit Assos and the village Behramkale, in a gorgeous setting overlooking the Aegean and the island of Lesbos. The rugged summit at Assos is surrounded by an impressive wall. Here the spectacular Temple of Athena was built in 530 BC. It is the only surviving example of Doric architecture in Anatolia. We will also visit **Troy**, one of the oldest discovered sights in Asia Minor with 9 different settlements and 30 related cities, including the symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorating the legendary war. (B, D)

## **Day 11 ASSOS - BURSA - ISTANBUL**

Today we will visit Bursa the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. See the fifteenth century **Grand Mosque**, one of the most striking examples of Ottoman art and visit the **Green Ottoman Complex** before continuing to Istanbul. *Ramada Old City Hotel, Istanbul (1 night)*. (B, D)

## **Day 12 ISTANBUL - USA**

After a farewell breakfast transfer to Istanbul's Ataturk Airport for our return flight to New York, arriving the same day. (B)

## COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Expedition Fee:** \$2,895 per person twin share + air fare of approximately \$695 including tax from New York's JFK International Airport to Istanbul, RT + in-tour air approximately \$350 per person. **Single Supplement:** \$595 additional.

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Group transfers; transportation by coach; tours as indicated; accommodations based on twin share in first class and country style hotels with private bath which reflect the heritage of Turkey; meals as indicated; entrance fees; tips at hotels; baggage handling; tour leadership by an excellent guide; administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** International and in-tour air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; lunches, 2 dinners; tips to your guide and drivers; beverages at meals; alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, laundry, internet use, phone, fax, passport, Turkish visa, travel insurance, or other personal expenses; foreign airport departure taxes.

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## RESERVATIONS

#1147

**YES!** I/We want to join the **Istanbul & Cappadocia Expedition, September 23 - October 4, 2010** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1: \_\_\_\_\_ #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (please circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_\_ Single  
\_\_\_\_\_ Twin share (with a friend) or \_\_\_\_\_ assign a roommate  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_\_\_ Smoker

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Mail To:

**Istanbul & Cappadocia  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

**International Air Fare:** Is approximate based on current fares with Turkish Airlines from New York, nonstop to Istanbul, RT. Air Fares Are Subject to Change until Ticketed.

**In-Tour Air Fare:** Is booked and ticketed by our agent in Turkey for all passengers (fare subject to change until ticketed).

**Pre or Post-Nights in Istanbul:** Can be booked at the Ramada Old City Hotel for \$150/night/twin or \$130/night/single, including breakfast. Independent transfers are \$50 per vehicle each way.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a space, please contact

**Taunya DeYoung, Betchart Expeditions Inc.**  
**Phone (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910.**  
**Fax (408) 252-1444.**  
**Email: [Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com)**

Mail the completed reservation form with deposit check for \$500 per person to **Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.** Final payment is due 60 days before departure (July 23, 2010).

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation within 60 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

**Responsibility:** *Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, weather, sickness, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.*

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