

TURKEY ITINERARY (March 10-19, 2017)

Friday, March 10

Depart the U.S.A.

Saturday, March 11

Arrive in Istanbul. Transfer to the hotel for overnight

Sunday, March 12

In the morning, pick up at 09:00 for a walking tour with **Archaeological Museum** and then **Yerebatan Underground Cistern**. After the lunch in a nearby restaurant free time. Overnight Istanbul (B, L).

Monday, March 13

Pick up from the hotel at 05.00 and transfer to the train station for the train to Ankara departing at 06:30. On arrival to Ankara at 10:33 visit the **Mausoleum of Ataturk**, the burial place of the national hero who founded modern Republic of Turkey. After time for lunch visit to **Anatolian Civilizations Museum** at which numerous remnants from Stone Age, Neolithic Age, Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and many others are on display. Continue to **Yildirim Beyazit University** for the academic meeting (Depending on the appointment time or whether the lunch is offered by the university the order of the visits is subject to change). Overnight Ankara (B, D).

Tuesday, March 14

Departure from the hotel at 07:30 for Cappadocia. On arrival, sightseeing with **Devrent Valley** to see the unique fairy-chimneys. Drive to **Pasabagi** (Monk's Valley) to see the most interesting mushroom-shaped pinnacles. Drive to **Avanos** which is known for the pottery, a craft dating back to the Hittite period. The red clay which is worked by local craftsmen comes from the residue in the Kizilirmak river, the longest river of Turkey. In the afternoon, further sightseeing with the valleys. After visiting **Kaymakli Underground City** drive back to the hotel for overnight (B, D)

Wednesday, March 15

Departure from the hotel at 07:30 for Konya to visit **Mausoleum of Mevlana**, the world-wide famous mystic, as well as the **Selcuk University** for the academic meeting. Then continue to Antalya for overnight (B, D).

Thursday, March 16

Departure from the hotel at 07:30 to visit **Termessos**, which is some 35 kms far away and located over the Gulluk Mountain on the northwestern part of Antalya to visit the impressive ruins, perched at an altitude of over 1000 meters up a mountainside. The vast ruins at the site comprise the Theatre, Odeon, Necropolis, Temple, Cisterns from the Hellenistic and Roman period. Continue to **Aphrodisias**, the city of Aphrodite; visit the Museum, the Temple of Aphrodite, the Theatre, the Stadium, the Agora, the Hadrian Baths, the Odeon, and the Bishop's Palace. Drive to Pamukkale. Overnight (B, D).

**There will be no lunch break today and therefore the guests are recommended to have cookies and/or sandwiches with themselves*

Friday, March 17

Departure from the hotel at 07:30 to visit Pamukkale where ancient **Hierapolis** will be visited with the fascinating and very well preserved Necropolis, City Baths and Theatre. Continue to Selcuk to visit **Ephesus Antique City**. Continue to Izmir Airport for the flight to Istanbul (B, L).

Saturday, March 18

Pick up from the hotel at 09.00 and a morning tour with **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". **St. Sophia**, one of the greatest marvels of architecture constructed as a basilica in 536 by Emperor Justinian. Free in the afternoon. In the evening OPTIONAL dinner at a night club with the accompanying belly dance and folk show. Overnight Istanbul (B, L).

Sunday, March 19

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