

22 DAY

THE SPLENDOURS OF TURKEY, PAST AND PRESENT

Turkey is a land of many wonders. From the ruins of Troy to the whirling Dervishes, it is the land of myths and legends as well as an exotic culture. There is nothing like sipping a drink while sitting under the Galata Bridge in Istanbul as the sun sets over the Bosphorus. Did you know that it is under this bridge that our soldiers created a new card game, you may know it, it's called Bridge!

It is magical strolling down the marble streets of Ephesus, if you close your eyes you can just about hear the Roman merchants with their carts walking down the street, oh, if you need the loo, you can try out the Roman public loo.

The whirling dervishes and a balloon ride over Cappadocia are some of the highlights. No visit to Turkey would be complete without enjoying their wonderful food, so why don't we learn some of their secrets in a special cooking class. You cannot visit Turkey without paying respect to our fallen soldiers at the New Zealand Memorial at Gallipoli.

These are just some of the highlights of our Splendours of Turkey Tour.

14 SEPTEMBER 2012

\$ 7,999.00 NZD pp Twin Share

\$ 1,192.00 NZD pp Single Supplement

INCLUSIONS OF THIS TOUR

Return Economy Air Travel
All Hotel accommodation
All meals where listed
Transportation by modern air conditioned coach
All sightseeing where listed with specialist tour guides. Specialists on Archaeology and historical sites
All entrance fees to sites listed
All transfers listed
All pre payable Government taxes.
All gratuities
The services of your travel host from New Zealand.

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE

Some meals
Hotel portage
Travel Insurance

OPTIONS

Business class upgrade

DAY	DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Friday	14 September	AKL-KUL. We will transfer directly to our hotel.		
Saturday	15 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. Enjoy the day prior to our transfer from the hotel to the airport.		
Sunday	16 September	AMSTERDAM. On arrival we will have an orientation tour of Amsterdam before checking into our hotel.		
Monday	17 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. Transfer from our hotel to the airport for our flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival meet with our Tour Escort at the airport and transfer to the hotel, where remainder of the day is at your leisure. Enjoy Welcome Dinner, in one of the famous kebab restaurants of Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul.		
Tuesday	18 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. Today's included excursions are Hippodrome and domed 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 now a museum. Our sightseeing continues with unique Blue Mosque whose interior walls are covered with twenty thousand blue Iznik tiles and magnificent Topkapi Palace once home to the great Sultans, is filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. Then, embark on a cruise of the Bosphorus, along the way, viewing the Dolmabahce Palace and the Beylerbeyi Palace, a nineteenth century palace on the Asian side of Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)		
Wednesday	19 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. ISTANBUL - ANKARA. After breakfast drive to Ankara where we will visit the world famous Museum of Anatolian Civilization which contains precious artefacts from Paleolithic to Roman times and the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, which honours modern Turkey's founder. Overnight in Ankara. (B)		
Thursday	20 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. ANKARA – HATTUSHA - CAPPADOCIA Today's sightseeing tour will show us a UNESCO World Heritage site, Hattusha, the Capital city of the Hittites, the third superpower of the Ancient Near East besides Egypt and Assyria/Babylonia and Yazilikaya, with the 13th century BC rock-cut reliefs portraying the gods. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)		
Friday	21 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. CAPPADOCIA. Our sightseeing begins with a visit to the fascinating Goreme Valley. The lunar like landscape of this region is eerie, yet beautiful. Over thousands 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 we enjoy a visit to local municipality carpet cooperation, sort of a carpet farm where you will get the chance to explore the district from a cultural perspective. In the afternoon visit hidden monastic valley of Pasabagi, which has a large number of carved rock houses and churches and Zelve, became one of the most important settlements and religious centers for the Christian community between the ninth and thirteenth centuries. After dinner attend to the included Whirling Dervishes Show. They use music and dance to induce themselves into a mystical state. As the ceremonial music plays, they begin to whirl and their long skirt billows, giving the impression that they are floating on air. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)		

Saturday	22 September	CAPPADOCIA. Early wake up to have Hot Air Ballooning, a dream to gently float over the countryside in complete harmony with the deep canyons and lush fertile valleys of Cappadocia. Gentle winds carry you over places that could never be reached except by balloon. After breakfast in our hotel, explore Underground City of Kaymakli. Around the sixth century the Christian inhabitants of this region began to tunnel into the soft volcanic rock of large hill. As deep as two hundred and seventy five feet with eight different levels, several thousand people lived in this subterranean city. Next stops are Ortahisar and typical Turkish village, Avanos to see the techniques of ceramic art dating from 12th B.C. to 3rd B.C. periods. In the afternoon join Hands on Cooking Class for Central Anatolian cuisine, famous for its pasta specialties followed by dinner. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)
Sunday	23 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. CAPPADOCIA – KONYA. Drive to Konya where we will explore Mevlana Museum and learn about the mystical religious sect known as the Whirling Dervishes and then Catalhoyuk, Neolithic site, having the spectacular wall paintings and other art that was uncovered inside the houses. Overnight in Konya. (B, D)
Monday	24 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. KONYA – KAS. Today we drive south to Antalya and visit the best preserved Roman Theatre on the southern coast Aspendos. You can still see the names of spectators carved into the backs of the seats. We then continue on a scenic journey to Kas for a wonderful two night stay. Overnight in Kas. (B, D)
Tuesday	25 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. KAS. Today we enjoy a leisurely day on board a gullet where you can relax, swim and sunbathe while cruising along the coast of the Mediterranean. Overnight in Kas. (B, L)
Wednesday	26 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. KAS – PAMUKKALE. Our touring continues to Hierapolis, a magnificent, unique natural formation. Over the last 14,000 years, calcium rich water from an underground thermal spring has flowed over the mountainside and slowly solidified, creating Shallow White Basins and Twisted Stalagmites. Overnight in Pamukkale. (B, D)
Thursday	27 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. PAMUKKALE – BODRUM. We continue west to Aphrodisias, which is dedicated to Aphrodite and is an important centre of the arts. The Sculpture School of Aphrodisias enjoyed great fame and is evident by the fine marble statues and architectural reliefs scattered throughout the site. We also see the largest stadium of the classic world (30,000 seats). After our sightseeing we continue to Bodrum. Overnight in Bodrum. (B)
Friday	28 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. BODRUM. Enjoy an included half day tour of the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, home of the remains of the oldest known sunken ship in the world and Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, was a tomb built between 353 and 350 BC at Halicarnassus for Mausolus, a satrap in the Persian Empire, and Artemisia II of Caria, his wife and sister. Overnight in Bodrum. (B)
Saturday	29 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. BODRUM - KUSADASI. Taking a full day trip to the major sites of Priene, Miletus and Didyma in today. Built in 334 B.C. on the slopes of Mount Mycale, Priene is a spectacular site. Discover the Temple of Athena, the five thousand seat Hellenistic Theater, and gaze out to the sea from a top the Acropolis. Stops are made to Miletus and Didyma to see the theaters, agoras, baths, and The Temple of Apollo-The Third Largest Temple of the ancient Greek world. After our sightseeing we continue to Kusadasi. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B, D)
Sunday	30 September	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. KUSADASI. Today's excursion takes us to Ephesus, the largest ancient city ever uncovered. Once populated with 300,000 people, it has an enormous amphitheatre, which can still hold 24,000 spectators. As you walk down the marble covered streets, see gymnasiums, bath houses, public latrines, the library of Celsus and the Temple of Artemis. We continue to the House of Virgin Mary, where she is believed to have spent her last few days. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B)
Monday	1 October	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. KUSADASI – PERGAMUM – TROY – CANAKKALE. On the way to Canakkale stop at the ancient city of Pergamum, which was once ruled by Alexander the Great. Famous for the invention of parchment paper, Pergamum had a library containing 200,000 books. We continue to Troy, a symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorates the legendary war. Overnight in Canakkale. (B, D)
Tuesday	2 October	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. CANAKKALE – GALLIPOLI – ISTANBUL. Today we depart on our journey to Istanbul, exploring the battlefields including Anzac Cove, Kabatepe Museum, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Johnston's Jolly (Turkish and Allied trenches and tunnels), The Nek and Chunk Bair New Zealand Memorial of Gallipoli. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)
Wednesday	3 October	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. ISTANBUL. After breakfast explore Chora Church with its amazing frescos and Suleymaniye Mosque, blended Islamic and Byzantine architectural elements. Continue the tour with Spice Bazaar where the scent of hundreds of spices permeates the air, Underground Basilica Cistern, largest surviving Byzantium Cistern and the Grand Covered Bazaar. Built in 1457, it is famous for its selection of goods and is the largest bazaar in the world with over four thousand shops. Enjoy Farewell Dinner in one of the local restaurants of Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, D)
Thursday	4 October	Start your day with breakfast at our hotel. ISTANBUL. Enjoy a morning at leisure before transfer to Istanbul airport for the beginning of our flight home. Istanbul to Auckland.
Saturday	6 October	Arrive home. Welcome Home!



* B- Breakfast L- Lunch D- Dinner