




# Türkiye: The Ages of Anatolia 2026

24 APR – 14 MAY 2026

Code: 22609

Tour Leaders **Dr Sophy Downes**

Fitness Level 

**Level 3 - Challenging**

Among our most physically demanding

A rich history of Türkiye including Istanbul, Bursa, Gallipoli Peninsula, Ephesus, Pergamum, Konya, the rock-cut monasteries of Cappadocia, Ankara & the ancient capital of the Hittites at Hattusha.

## Overview

Explore the rich history of Anatolia with archaeologist and historian, [Dr Sophy Downes](#).

- Study Istanbul's Byzantine legacies including fine mosaics and frescoes in Hagia Sophia and in the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora which re-opened its doors as a mosque after a four-year renovation in May 2024.
- Visit the Sultan Ahmet Camii (Blue Mosque) noted for its hand-decorated blue Iznik tiles, and masterpieces by the great architect Sinan - the Süleymaniye complex and the Rüstem Pasha Camii.
- Explore the Topkapi Palace housing a vast Ottoman treasure of jewels, textiles and ceramics.
- View the wonderful display of carpets at the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art.
- Discover the rich heritage of Bursa, first capital of the Ottoman Empire, including the Green Mosque, Green Mausoleum of Sultan Mehmet I and the Koza Han (Old Silk Market caravanserai); nearby visit the oldest Ottoman village of Cumali Kizik founded in the 13th century.
- Visit the ancient site of Troy whose "sixth level" (1750-1300 BC) is most likely Homer's city.
- Spend a morning on the Gallipoli Peninsula visiting ANZAC Cove and Lone Pine.
- Visit magnificent Graeco-Roman sites: Pergamum, Miletus, Didyma, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis at Pamukkale, the magical site of Priene and Ephesus with her Temple of Artemis – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
- Stay in the great shrine city of Konya, capital of the Seljuks of Rum and site of the shrine of Islam's most famous mystic, Jalal ad-Din Rumi, who founded the mystical order of the Whirling Dervishes.
- Excursions to the famous Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hattusha, capital of the Hittite Empire in the late Bronze Age.
- View outstanding collections at Ankara's Museum of Anatolian Civilizations and Istanbul's newly renovated Archaeological Museum.
- Wander through teeming bazaars and sample Turkish and Ottoman cuisine at local restaurants.
- Conclude with a visit to the [New Istanbul Modern](#) designed by Renzo Piano.

### Accommodation

The tour features a number of historic hotels including the new [Avantgarde Refined Caves of Cappadocia](#); the [Hotel Çelik Palas](#), an Art-Deco hotel with an historical Turkish bath located in central Bursa; the [Divan Çukurhan](#), housed in a restored 17th-century Ottoman caravanserai in Ankara; and Istanbul's [Pera Palace Hotel](#) where Agatha Christie's 1934 novel *Murder on the Orient Express* was allegedly written.

**Overnight** Istanbul (4 nights) • Bursa (1 night) • Çanakkale (1 night) • Assos (1 night) • Kusadasi (3 nights) • Pamukkale (1 night) • Konya (2 nights) • Uchisar (Cappadocia) (3 nights) • Ankara (1 night) • Istanbul (3 nights)

### Overview

The history of the region occupied by modern Türkiye, Anatolia, has been shaped by its geographical position between Asia and Europe. Countless armies, including the Dorian tribes, Persians, Macedonian Greeks, Romans, Magyars and Turks have crossed Anatolia from east to west and west to east in search of territory and plunder. The region also is a trade corridor. For eons goods from the caravan routes of the East crossed the Bosphorus near Constantinople (modern Istanbul), the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, to find their way to Western Europe through Thrace and the Balkans.

Civilisations of great brilliance have emerged in Anatolia as a result of the passage of peoples and their cultures. Hittite kingdoms, Ionian city states, Hellenistic monarchies and the empires of the Romans, their Byzantine scions, and the Ottoman Turks developed political, religious, intellectual, social and artistic



institutions, movements and forms which have moulded eastern Mediterranean culture for millennia. Throughout the Ancient period and the Middle Ages, the East boasted a more brilliant civilisation than the West. Political and doctrinal clashes brought periods of chaos when cultures and ideologies impacted upon each other, erupting in intellectual and political turmoil. Cultural ferment in the region produced the *Iliad*, the Ionic Order, Hellenistic sculpture, the riches of Constantine's 'New Rome', the Councils of Nicea and Ephesus, Justinian's revolutionary basilica, Hagia Sophia, Göreme's underground cities and churches, and Iconoclasm. Greek intellectualism and naturalism fused with Roman social and political organisation and with Christian mysticism to create forms like the Byzantine icon and centrally-planned churches. The appropriation of aspects of Byzantine imperial culture by the dynasty of Osman produced the architectural masterpieces of Ottoman Istanbul such as the Süleymaniye Mosque and the Topkapi Palace. The latter reflects a unique fusion of the ideal of a Western palace with the spatial organisation of a nomadic camp.

This tour explores the role of Türkiye as a cultural bridge by studying the civilisations of the Hittites, Aeolian and Ionian Greeks, the Hellenistic kingdoms, Roman 'Asia', the Byzantine Empire, Seljuk Anatolia and the Ottoman Empire. We examine archaeological sites, Byzantine churches, monasteries and underground cities, mosques, *souks* (markets) *hans* (Islamic hospices), Ottoman palaces and houses, and a rich popular culture of metalwork, carpets, dance and theatre. We also make a special visit to the battlefields of Gallipoli.

The tour begins and ends in Istanbul where it visits the earliest monuments of Constantine's 'New Rome'. We trace the transformation of the city by the Emperor Theodosius, who decreed that Christianity be the State religion, and by Justinian, who rebuilt the city's churches, and we visit the lovely masterpiece of the last flowering of Byzantine culture, the former Church of St. Saviour in Chora. We also investigate the transformation of the Christian city to the capital of the Ottoman sultanate, the ways in which Hagia Sophia influenced the genesis of Istanbul's great mosques and the evolution of a distinctive palace, the Topkapi, whose influences were to resonate as far as Mughal India.

The tour travels down the west coast of Türkiye to visit Bursa - the Byzantine city which became the Ottoman capital before Mehmet II conquered Constantinople. Here, and at Konya in central Anatolia, we shall encounter shrines in the Seljuk tradition, very different to the Ottoman structures which replaced them.

We next visit the ruins of Troy on the Dardanelles and the historic battlefields of Gallipoli. Travelling further south we enter the world of the Ionian Greeks, their Hellenistic successors, and the Roman Empire. We visit the important Aegean cities of Assos, Pergamum, Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma. Here you will be introduced to the function of the Greek city (*polis*) and its architecture of oligarchy, the monumental programs of the autocrats who supplanted these city states, and the imperial culture of Rome. Further inland we find the remains of the important Roman cities of Aphrodisias and Pamukkale (Hierapolis).

From Pamukkale we travel to the original Seljuk capital of Konya, the home town of Rumi, founder of the Whirling Dervishes. Remains of early underground Christian monastic communities are seen in Cappadocia as is the ancient capital of the Hittites at Hattusha (Bogazköy). The tour continues to Ankara, Türkiye's modern capital at an ancient crossroads and home to the great Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, before returning to Istanbul.

## Leaders



### Dr Sophy Downes

With a BA from Oxford, a MPhil from Cambridge and a PhD from the Institute of Archaeology, at University College London, Sophy is a passionate enthusiast of the ancient world.

Sophy Downes is a classical archaeologist, whose research interests have led her continuously further east, to Turkey and eventually Iran. She initially studied Classics at Oxford; she then did a MPhil at Cambridge, focusing on the funerary monuments of Western Anatolia in the Classical period. After living for a couple of years in Rome, she returned to the Institute of Archaeology in London, where she wrote her PhD thesis, a comparative study of the architecture and politics of Persepolis and the Athenian Acropolis.

She first visited Turkey in 2000 and Iran in 2002, and has returned numerous times to both, including to take up a residential postdoctoral fellowship at the British Institute of Persian studies in Tehran. She has published on both Classical and Near Eastern archaeology, including her book *The Aesthetics of Empire in Athens and Persia* (2011). She was also a finalist for the Bradt Travel Awards for a piece about her experiences with fortune telling in Esfahan, which was subsequently published in *Traveller's Tales*. Her current research is on spatial analysis of Persepolis, notably the way in which the current reconstruction of the site obscures its original architectural logic. She has taught at University College London and at Edinburgh and is currently delighted to be a Lecturer in Art History at John Cabot University, Rome, Italy and in 2024-2025 a postdoctoral fellow at the Kunsthistorisches/Max-Planck Institut in Florence.

Sophy joined ASA as tour lecturer in 2024 and currently leads tours to Sicily and Turkey.

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### Combine this tour with

#### Türkiye Beyond the Euphrates: Discovering the Eastern Frontier 2026

15 MAY – 2 JUN 2026

#### Natural Landscapes and Gardens of Madeira and the Azores 2026

16 MAY – 3 JUN 2026

#### Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries 2026

20 MAY – 2 JUN 2026



## Itinerary

The detailed itinerary provides an outline of the proposed daily program. Participants should note that the daily activities described in this itinerary may be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate changes in opening hours, road conditions, flight schedules etc. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. Meals included in the itinerary are indicated where B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal.

### Istanbul - 4 nights

#### Day 1: Friday 24 April, Arrive Istanbul

- Tour commences at 1.00pm in the foyer of the Armada Hotel in Istanbul
- Welcome Meeting
- Orientation walk of Sultanahmet: Hippodrome, Blue Mosque & the Arasta Bazaar
- Introductory Lecture at the hotel
- Group Welcome Meal at Balıkçı Sabahattin Restaurant

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 1.00pm in the foyer of the [Armada Hotel](#).

Following a short introductory meeting we commence our program with an orientation walk of the Sultanahmet including a visit to the Hippodrome and the Blue Mosque.

The Hippodrome was built by Septimius Severus c. 200 AD and reconstructed by Constantine. It is the major surviving example of the very first phase of Constantinople's development in which public buildings proliferated. This great circus contains the Kathisma, or Imperial Box, which the Emperor entered directly from his palace, and the Obelisk of Pharaoh Thutmose III (c. 1540 BC), brought to Constantinople in the early 4th century AD and erected here by Theodosius. The obelisk is typical of the plunder brought from every corner of the Roman Empire to enrich the new city. The stone base built to support the obelisk is adorned with relief sculptures of the Emperor and his retinue witnessing the games in the Hippodrome. The

hieratic proportions and uncompromising frontality of the imperial portraits reflect the belief in the extraordinary status of the autocrats who ruled this Eastern imperial city. The Hippodrome also contains the Serpentine Column that originally stood in the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, as well as some important later Ottoman buildings.

We also explore the patrimony of Hagia Sophia, both as an inspiration and model to Ottoman architects, with a visit to the Blue Mosque. Built between 1609 and 1616 for Sultan Ahmet, this is one of the largest of Istanbul's mosques. It is particularly noted for its use of tiles as a sacred decorative element in Ottoman Islamic architecture.

There will also be some time at leisure to explore the Arasta Bazaar which is lined with stores selling pottery, rugs and spices.

Following an introductory lecture at the hotel, we dine at 'Balıkçı Sabahattin', a traditional fish restaurant, housed in a restored 1927 building. (Overnight Istanbul) D

#### Day 2: Saturday 25 April, Istanbul

- Yedikule Fortress
- Süleymaniye Mosque incl. tomb of Süleyman & Roxelana
- Rüstem Pasha Mosque
- Spice Bazaar & Artisan District

We begin with a visit to Yedikule Fortress. Mehmet II caused this grand citadel to be constructed in 1458, three years after he conquered Constantinople. The formidable 'seven-towered' complex was created by fully enclosing an end section of the ancient Theodosian Walls and adding three new towers to the original four, two of which had constituted the twin towers of Theodosius' 'Golden Gate'.

The Süleymaniye Mosque, commissioned by Süleyman the Magnificent, is the masterpiece of Sinan. It is one of the largest imperial mosques and is surrounded by an extensive complex that houses a caravanserai, schools, hospitals and a hospice under a myriad clustered domes. We also visit the tomb of Süleyman and his beloved wife, Roxelana, which are situated in the grounds of the great mosque.

We end our day with a walking tour from the Spice Bazaar through the artisan area of the old city where we encounter the beautiful Rüstem Pasha Mosque of Sinan, clad with the finest 16th-century Iznik tilework. Completed in 1563, it was designed by Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan for Rüstem Pasha, son-in-law and grand vizier of Süleyman the Magnificent. (Overnight Istanbul) B

#### Day 3: Sunday 26 April, Istanbul

- Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque – the Upper Gallery
- Basilica Cistern (Yerebatan Sarayı)
- Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum
- Little Hagia Sophia (SS Sergius and Bacchus)

Constantinople was inaugurated by the Emperor Constantine in 330 AD on the site of an earlier city. It was modelled upon the ancient imperial capital of Rome and would initially have looked like any major city of the empire. It was, however, transformed as Christian churches supplanted imperial secular monuments as its key nodal points. After its sacking by the Ottomans, mosques and other Islamic buildings and complexes such as souks supplanted Christian monuments.



We commence our exploration of the development of Byzantine Istanbul with a visit to Hagia Sophia (531-7 AD), the imperial foundation built by Justinian to replace a basilica destroyed during the Nika Rebellion (530-532 AD). Hagia Sophia was converted to a mosque by Sultan Mehmet II (Mehmet the Conqueror) in 1453, declared a museum by Atatürk in 1935, and reconverted into a working mosque in 2020. Its revolutionary design (it was topped by a great dome) and vast size required special modes of construction – innovations which later influenced mosque building in Istanbul. Our program includes a visit to the upper gallery's mosaics which includes the 11th-century mosaic of Empress Zoe offering a scroll to Christ, symbolising the donations she made to the church.

Next, we visit the underground Cistern of Justinian which reopened in 2022 after major renovations. The sophisticated vaulting of this impressive and evocative structure reflects the debt that sixth century Byzantium owed to Roman engineering.

The Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts is housed in the 'palace' of Ibrahim Pasha, Süleyman the Magnificent's first Grand Vizier. Constructed in 1520 on the west side of the Hippodrome, the building's magnificent reception hall and numerous rooms leading off long, cool corridors have been recently refurbished and display the rare works in a setting completely in tune with their aesthetics. The collection includes a display of carpets, some of them dating to the Seljuk empire based in Central Anatolia in the 12th and 13th centuries.

We end the day with a visit to the Little Hagia Sophia Mosque, formerly the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus (537 AD), the first of a number of churches constructed during the reign of the Emperor Justinian – a period of fruitful experiment in which the centrally planned Byzantine church style took the place of the Latin basilica. (Overnight Istanbul) B

#### Day 4: Monday 27 April, Istanbul

- Topkapi Palace Museum incl. the Harem and Imperial Treasury
- Hagia Irene Museum
- Archaeological Museum & Çinili Kiosk (subject to reopening by 2026)
- Optional visit to the Grand Bazaar

Today we continue to explore the development of the Ottoman city and its architecture with a visit to the Topkapi Palace. Once the centre of Ottoman power, the palace was planned in a series of zones, each more private than its predecessor. A number of its pavilions constitute faint echoes of the tents of nomadic camps. The historic Fatih Kiosk (or Conqueror's Pavilion), located in the third courtyard, showcases priceless imperial treasures including The Spoonmaker Diamond – one of the largest diamonds in the world, and the Topkapi Dagger encrusted with emeralds and diamonds. The great palace complex also includes a vast kitchen (now a porcelain museum), baths, various reception rooms, a library and the Harem which was the family residence of the sultans. The latter is decorated with some of the highest quality 16th-century Iznik tiles.

We then make a visit to the Hagia Irene Museum. This was the site of an ancient pagan temple, overbuilt by the first Patriarchal church. Hagia Eirene is the second-oldest Byzantine church still standing in Istanbul, and now serves as a concert venue and museum.

In the afternoon we visit Istanbul's Archaeological Museum, which contains one of the great collections of pre-classical and classical works, including the famous so-called 'Alexander sarcophagus', a fourth century tomb of a Seleucid prince found in Sidon (Syria). Its carved faces constitute some of the most refined carved images of the Greek world. In the grounds of the museum lies the Çinili Kiosk – the finest pavilion in Türkiye

with a rich collection of tiles. We shall visit this pavilion subject to renovation works being completed by 2025.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. There will be an optional visit to the Grand Bazaar that reflects the city's historic role as a centre of trade. Although the range of goods sold here has outgrown that of a traditional souk, the bazaar still retains its Ottoman plan and decoration. This complex has now fused with the nearby 'Balkan' bazaar area which has grown in recent years as large numbers of Eastern Europeans visit for shopping and trade. The presence of Balkan traders reflects the city's continuing role as an emporium at the crossroads of Europe and the Orient. (Overnight Istanbul) B

### Bursa - 1 night

Day 5: Tuesday 28 April, Istanbul – Bursa

- Sea of Marmara to Bursa
- Ulu Mosque
- Green Mosque and Green Mausoleum of Sultan Mehmet I
- Old Silk Market caravansarai
- Arrive at Hotel Çelik Pasa, Bursa with its own historical hamam (bathhouse)

This morning we depart Istanbul, crossing the Sea of Marmara into Asia by car ferry, and travel to Bursa (ancient Prusa). Besieged by the first Ottoman sultan, Osman, and taken from the Byzantines in 1326 by his son Orhan, Bursa became the first capital city of the Ottoman lands. Here we explore the architecture of the nascent Ottoman Empire. We visit wonderful examples of early Turkish architecture that abound in Bursa from the grand Seljuk-inspired Ulu Mosque built by Sultan Bayezid in 1399, to the famed Green Mosque and Green Mausoleum of Sultan Mehmet I. There will also be time to visit the Koza Han, or Old Silk Market caravansarai. These buildings reflect the Ottomans' debt to the Seljuk Turks, from whom they wrested power in much of Anatolia. Lunch may comprise the delicious local dish of Iskender Kebab (optional).

Olive oil soap is traditionally used in the Turkish *hamam*, or bath-house. On arrival at our Bursa hotel we'll have the opportunity to enjoy this experience as there is a restored hamam operating in the building. (Overnight Bursa) BD

### Çanakkale - 1 night

Day 6: Wednesday 29 April, Bursa – Troy – Çanakkale

- Ancient City of Troy
- Museum of Troy

After breakfast we travel we drive from the Sea of Marmara's Asian shores to the provincial centre of Çanakkale situated at the narrowest point in the Dardanelles Straits. Thirty kilometres south of Çanakkale we reach the site of ancient Troy, the setting for Homer's *Iliad* in which he recounts the final year of the Trojan War sometime in the 13th century BC.

We also visit the Troy Museum which opened in October 2018. The museum showcases archaeological findings of the ancient city, as well as 24 gold pieces known as the treasures of Helen of Troy which date to 2400 BC.

We arrive at our hotel, situated within a pine forest overlooking the Dardanelles, in the early evening. (Overnight Çanakkale) BD



## Assos - 1 night

Day 7: Thursday 30 April, Çanakkale – ANZAC Cove – Lone Pine – Assos

- The Gallipoli Campaign: ANZAC Cove & Lone Pine Cemetery
- Acropolis and Temple of Athena

Early this morning we cross the Dardanelles (ancient Hellespont), a narrow strait that forms part of the continental boundary separating Asia and Europe. On the northern shores of the strait lies the Gallipoli Peninsula. Here we visit ANZAC Cove for an on-site account of the 1915 landing on ANZAC Beach and the Lone Pine Cemetery.

Following time at leisure for lunch we return across the strait to the landmass of Asia and drive on to the beautiful site of ancient Assos, modern day Behramkale, on the Aegean Sea. Assos was a centre for the production of sarcophagi, which were distributed all over Asia Minor. In the mid-4th century BC Assos enjoyed a period of great renown when a branch of Plato's famed Academy operated in the town. Aristotle lived in Assos from 347 to 344 BC and married the niece of the ruler of nearby Lesbos. We'll visit the spectacular site of the ruined Temple of Athena built in about 530 BC and also a small mosque built in the 14th century by Sultan Murat I from the stones of the Byzantine church that originally stood on the site. A recycled stone slab inscribed in Greek and bearing a cross marks the entrance to the mosque. Assos was also visited by Alexander the Great and Saint Paul, and is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. (Overnight Assos) BLD

## Kusadasi - 3 nights

Day 8: Friday 1 May, Assos – Pergamum – Kusadasi

- Graeco-Roman Pergamum

We travel south to the spectacular site of Pergamum, the capital city of the (Hellenistic) Attalid kingdom and a centre of art and learning. After Attalus III bequeathed his kingdom to the Romans, it became the focus of Emperor worship in the region, shunned in the 'Book of Revelation' as "the seat of the Devil". At its centre stood the Great Altar of Zeus, now in Berlin's Pergamon Museum. The siting of its plinth is an intimation of the magnificence of its original setting. The citadel is perched high above a plain and is a fine example of a defensive acropolis. It has a magnificent theatre cut into a dramatic incline, looking out on a broad panorama. The crisp detailing and deep cut which creates a dramatic play of light across Pergamum's extant architectural sculpture exemplifies the final 'Baroque' phase of Greek art which was subsequently to become, after nearly two millennia, Michelangelo's most important inspiration. Our journey then continues along the Aegean coast towards Ephesus. (Overnight Kusadasi) BD

Day 9: Saturday 2 May, Kusadasi – Ephesus – Kusadasi

- Graeco-Roman Ephesus incl. the Temple of Artemis & The Terrace Houses
- The Ephesus Museum, Selçuk
- Basilica of St John and Isa Bey Mosque, Selçuk

We travel this morning to Ephesus, "the first and greatest metropolis of Asia". Pergamum was Asia Minor's imperial religious city, Ephesus its commercial centre. This city boasted one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis (Diana). Although only a single column remains from this celebrated monument, the extant sections of the city (some of which have been restored) constitute one of the world's most important classical archaeological sites.

Partly Hellenistic, but largely Roman, the city draws us like it did St Paul 2000 years ago, along marble streets, through the Agora, past temples, shops, mosaic footpaths and the Library of Celsus, to the great theatre. Originally seating 24,000 and scene of the protest against St Paul described in the Acts of the Apostles, its ruins awaken vivid images of the civic life of a Roman imperial metropolis.

Opposite the Temple of Hadrian we view two magnificent Terrace Houses built as luxurious residential villas around 200 BC. These houses, which were usually two or three storeyed, had running water and a complex heating system using clay pipes. They included a marble-paved peristyle (courtyard) with columns, surrounded by rooms detailed with floor mosaics and wall paintings which provide an insight into daily life.

We conclude with a visit to the excellent Ephesus Museum which contains two famous statues of the cult goddess, Artemis. Nearby are the impressive ruins of the Byzantine Church of St John which marks the spot where St John the Evangelist was buried, and the 13th century Isa Bey Mosque. (Overnight Kusadasi) BD

#### Day 10: Sunday 3 May, Kusadasi – Priene – Miletus – Didyma – Kusadasi

- Archaeological Sites of Priene, Miletus & Didyma

Our study of the Graeco-Roman world continues with a full day's excursion to three jewels of ancient Ionia and Roman Asia. We have already encountered the Ancient Trojans, the Hellenistic Kingdom and the Roman Empire in previous cities. Priene affords a clear understanding of the makeup of a city of Ionian origin. The Ionians, who gave the world the Ionian (scroll) capital, dominated coastal Asia Minor in the 5th century BC, the period in which Greek sculpture and architecture is said to have entered its classic phase. Here we see the counterparts of the Parthenon in Athens. Priene contains arguably the finest extant Greek theatre in Anatolia. Its layout takes the form of a grid of streets, a plan first used in Ionia and Sicily. It is said to have been developed by Hippodamus of Miletus (flourished c.450 BC), a friend of Pericles. In the city we encounter other architectural forms which served a classical *polis* such as the *bouleuterion* (council chamber) and the *prytaneion*, the administrative centre of the city. Next we visit Hippodamus' own city, Miletus, also a grid-planned metropolis. Here we see the Faustian Baths and the Agora. Breathtaking in its size, the temple of Didyma was the home of the greatest Greek oracle outside of Delphi. We shall explore this shrine in detail. (Overnight Kusadasi) BD

#### Pamukkale - 1 night

#### Day 11: Monday 4 May, Kusadasi – Aphrodisias – Pamukkale

- Aphrodisias
- Terraced mineral pools of Pamukkale (Hierapolis)

A full-day coach trip takes us from the Aegean coast inland to the ancient city and shrine of Aphrodisias. Its spectacular ruins include a theatre, odeon, temples, baths, streets and public squares, several churches, a Sebasteion with its propylon, porticoes and processional way, and a stadium. The site boasts pristine monuments which are not visited by as many tourists as the sites of the littoral. As its name suggests, Aphrodisias was originally a shrine to Aphrodite. Its loyalty to Rome during the wars with Mithridates VI Eupator (120-63 BC) attracted Latin support and it burgeoned as a major centre in Asia Minor. Its fine local stone was used by an accomplished school of sculpture whose works have been found in locations as distant as Hadrian's villa at Tivoli and the North African city of Leptis Magna. Examples abound both on site and in Aphrodisias' excellent museum. Next we journey to the Graeco-Roman spa city of Pamukkale – ancient Hierapolis – with its white cliffs, terraces and mineral pools. (Overnight Pamukkale) BD

#### Konya - 2 nights

## Day 12: Tuesday 5 May, Pamukkale – Dinar – Beyşehir – Konya

- Graeco-Roman Hierapolis (Pamukkale)
- Esrefoglu Mosque, Beyşehir

'Pamukkale' in Turkish means 'cotton castle' an appellation that refers to the site's magnificent terraces of smooth, white calciferous rock deposited by a mineral spring over millennia. Classical Hierapolis was probably of Seleucid foundation. It passed to the Attalids and then Rome with the creation of the province of Asia Minor in 129 BC. It became a commercial centre, producing copper objects, wool and nails. Hierapolis adopted Christianity early and became a metropolitan see (city) under Justinian. In the 12th century it passed to the Turks.

We commence with an early morning walk through the ancient city examining elements of its plan and architectural features such as the *cardus maximus*, its Temple of Apollo, nymphaeum, *Plutonium* (Pluto's Gate) and extensive necropolis.

We depart Pamukkale and the world of classical cities to drive out along the ancient Roman road across the flat Anatolian plain to Konya (ancient Iconium). En route we make a brief stop in Dinar for lunch, and then continue west to Lake Beyşehir where we visit the Esrefoglu Mosque. Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023, this 13th-century mosque was commissioned by the Esrefogulları family, one of the self-governing family states (*beyliks*), who had made Beyşehir their capital. The mosque features one of the largest and best preserved wooden roofs in the Islamic world which is supported by 42 columns made from cedar wood. The mihrab is decorated with ceramic mosaics which reflect the Seljuk traditions: consisting of geometric and botanical elements, stalactites, a rosette and inscriptions. (Overnight Konya) BD

## Day 13: Wednesday 6 May, Konya – Çatalhöyük – Konya

- Ancient Site of Çatalhöyük & Visitors Centre
- The Karatay Medrese & Tile Works Museum
- Mevlâna Museum

Early this morning we take the road out of Konya to visit Çatalhöyük. This 10,000 year-old site is the oldest known human settlement and yields fascinating information about the earliest human communities. We explore the site not only for its extant remains but also to gain an insight into the interpretive analysis of archaeologists who have worked here.

Our interest in Konya stems not from its ancient history but from its status as Anatolia's first Seljuk capital and as an important centre of pilgrimage: Konya is associated with the great mystic Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi (Mevlana). This afternoon we view fine examples of early 13th century Seljuk Turkish architecture including the Karatay Medrese (an early Islamic religious school). Its intricate carved stone entrance gives way to a tiled interior which dramatically belies its simple structure. Today it houses a tile museum displaying a small but noteworthy collection of faience with representations from the most important centres of early ceramic arts in Anatolia.

We end the day with a visit to Türkiye's most sacred Islamic shrine: the Mevlana Tekke, the monastery of the Whirling Dervish order of Sufi mystics. Profoundly influential during the Ottoman period, this order was reduced to a cultural organisation in the 1920s by Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first president of the present Turkish Republic. Today the Dervishes only perform their Sema in Konya in December. A Whirling Dervish performance will be seen in Avanos, Cappadocia.



The *tekke* includes a *semahane* where the ritual *sema* (whirling ceremony) takes place, a *sadirvan* for ritual ablutions, a library, living and teaching quarters, and the mausoleum housing the tomb of Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi, founder of the sect and later awarded the honourable title of Mevlana. The mausoleum room is highly ornamented with Islamic script and enameled bas-relief, and contains the tombs of several of the more important figures of the dervish order. The adjoining room, or the *semahane*, is now a museum of Mevlana memorabilia displaying musical instruments and robes belonging to Mevlana, along with Selçuk and Ottoman objects like gold-engraved Korans from the 13th century. Among the fabulous ancient prayer rugs is the most valuable silk carpet in the world.

This evening we experience traditional Konya cuisine at a local restaurant. (Overnight Konya) BD

### Uchisar, Cappadocia - 3 nights

Day 14: Thursday 7 May, Konya – Sultan Han – Ihlara Valley – Cappadocia (Uchisar)

- Caravansarai of Sultan Han
- Rock-cut Byzantine churches of the Ihlara Valley & Selime Monastery

Our program has already addressed the development of Christianity in its very earliest phases in ancient cities such as Ephesus, and in its development as the official religion of Imperial Constantinople. We now drive to the dramatic, desolate landscape of Cappadocia formed by an eroded mantle of lava and mud from two volcanoes, Mount Erciyas and Mount Hasan (Turkish: Erciyas Dagi and Hasan Dagi), which is of untold significance in the development of Christianity. On the way we visit one of the best preserved caravansarais in Anatolia at Sultan Han, which dates from the Seljuk period.

This afternoon we continue to the Ihlara Valley, located near Mount Hasan. Here we may walk through the deep gorge with abundant flora, fauna and rock-cut Byzantine churches including Güzelyurt, birthplace of St Gregory. There are about 400 steps descending down to the gorge. A 2.5km trail along the banks of the Melendiz river leads to the picturesque village of Belisirma. At the northern edge of the gorge is Selime Monastery. This fascinating complex was carved into the rock face by monks in the 13th century and comprises a church, kitchen and stables with feeding troughs. Time-permitting you may wish to hike up to the monastery (this walk is more challenging); or simply enjoy the unforgettable views of the monastery and countless fairy chimneys. (Overnight Uchisar) BD

Day 15: Friday 8 May, Cappadocia

- Sunrise Hot Air Balloon (Optional)
- Göreme Open Air Museum
- Uçisar
- Villages of Çavusin and Avanos, Zelve Open Air Museum
- Performance of the Whirling Dervishes

Today begins (weather permitting) with an optional hot-air balloon ride. If you decide to take this option, it means getting up very early in the morning, however you will be able to view Göreme's surreal landscape at sunrise.

In the 3rd and 4th centuries Christian hermits settled in Cappadocia's desolate landscape in order to remove themselves from the growing sophistication of the Church which was establishing itself in Rome's imperial cities. Like St Anthony and St Jerome in North Africa and St Simeon Stylites in Greater Syria, hermits lived in total isolation or gathered in loose-knit groups, each individual pursuing his/her individual

vocation in solitude in a cave or hut. A native of Cappadocia, St Basil ordered these anchorites into cloistered communities governed by rules. St Basil thus gave birth to eastern monasticism; he is the oriental counterpart of St Benedict of Monte Casino. Monasteries thrived in Cappadocia until the 7th and 8th centuries when Arab incursions forced Christians to conceal themselves in underground cities.

This morning we tour the Göreme valley, visiting striking churches burrowed into cliffs of mud and lava. Many of these shrines have well-preserved frescoes, an outstanding example being Tokali Church.

In the afternoon we explore the old village of Çavusin including a rock-cut church featuring brightly coloured frescoes depicting the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, the Navity and the Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus. High in the cliffs above, there is also the rock-cut, 6th-century church of St John the Baptist which features fine carved geometric patterns. From the ridge above Çavuşin we also view a group of fairy chimney's.

Nearby lies the Zelve Open-Air Museum with its impressive underground churches, cave habitations and rock-cut mosque. Located at the convergence of three valleys, Zelve was a monastic retreat from the 9th to the 13th century and later a village that was inhabited until 1952.

In the late afternoon we visit the village of Avanos known for its traditional pottery production, and attend a performance by the Whirling Dervishes which takes place in a restored 13th century caravansarai. (Overnight Uchisar) BD

#### Day 16: Saturday 9 May, Cappadocia

- Underground city of Özkönak
- Lunch at the Cappadocia Home Cooking School
- Villages of Sinasos (Mustafapasa) and Orahisar

Today we travel deeper into Cappadocia to visit Özkönak, one of the catacomb-like underground Christian cities built as refuges from Muslim incursions. Following its discovery in 1972 by a local farmer, the site has revealed a complex containing a total of ten floors to a depth of 40m, which could house 60,000 people for up to three months. Four floors are now open where we can explore how this city operated when inhabited in times of threat. One unique feature at Özkönak not found at other major underground cities in the area is its communication system of pipes to each of its levels.

From Özkönak we journey south to the village of Ayvali which is home to the Cappadocia Home Cooking School. Located within a restored traditional stone house, the school specialises in traditional Turkish food using organic products sourced from their garden.

Before returning to Uchisar we visit the village of Mustafapasa (formerly known as Sinasos). During the 19th century village residents included Turkish Muslims as well as a large Greek Community. Many of these Greeks were Karamanlides – Christians who spoke Turkish but wrote it in the Greek alphabet. In 1924, in accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne, the entire Christian population was forced to leave for Greece where they resettled in Nea Sinasos. Today the village is known for its fine stone houses decorated with carved and ornamental facades, including the Old Greek House which featured in the hit television series *Asmalı Konak*. There is also the 19th-century Church of Sts Helena and Constantine featuring a grapevine carved around its entrance and the frescoed rock-cut Church of St Basil. We also visit Ortahisar which is home to a carpet weaving cooperative. (Overnight Uchisar) BL

#### Ankara - 1 night

## Day 17: Sunday 10 May, Cappadocia – Bogazköy – Ankara

- Hattusha: Ancient capital of the Hittites, Bogazköy

Today we drive north to a region in which the earliest civilisations of Anatolia developed. The Hittite sites of this region stand as the earliest meaningful remains of an evolved state. The Hittites entered Anatolia in c.2000 BC. During the ensuing 800 years, their culture fused with those of the indigenous people – Hattis, Hurrians and Luwians – evolving into a new imperial state which rivalled that of Pharaonic Egypt. First we visit the site of the Hittite capital at Hattusha, now Bogazköy. We begin with the inner sanctum of the Hittite emperors at Yazılıkaya (the 'Inscribed Rock') where ancient inscriptions still survive. An extensive tour of the scattered ruins of Hattusha will then slowly reveal the nature and temper of Hittite civilisation. In the late afternoon we drive to Ankara, Türkiye's capital city. (Overnight Ankara) BLD

## Istanbul - 3 nights

### Day 18: Monday 11 May, Ankara – Istanbul

- Museum of Anatolian Civilizations
- Late afternoon flight from Ankara to Istanbul

This morning we visit the award winning Museum of Anatolian Civilizations containing a renowned collection of archaeological treasures tracing the civilisations of Anatolia from the remains of Çatal Hoyük, through those of the Hatti, Hittites, Phrygians, Assyrians, Urartu, Ionians and Romans.

In the late afternoon we fly to Istanbul. (Overnight Istanbul) B

### Day 19: Tuesday 12 May, Istanbul

- Kariye Camii (Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora)
- Tekfür Saray
- Walking tour of Neighbourhoods of West bank of Golden Horn: Balat & Fener
- Bosphorus Cruise

This morning we visit the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora which has now been converted into a mosque (for the second time). The Chora Church or Kariye Camii reopened its doors as a mosque in May 2024 after a four year-long renovation. It was originally built in the early 4th century by Constantine the Great, however when Theodosius II built his city walls in 413-414 the church was incorporated with the city's defences. This beautiful late-Byzantine shrine was later rebuilt in 1077, restored between 1315 and 1321 and converted into a mosque following the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans. It contains one of the greatest of all Byzantine decorative cycles of mosaics and frescoes; instances of the last flowering of Greek visual culture before the fall of Constantinople. Of particular note are the rich frescoes in the paraccesion (burial section) by Theodore Metochite, which rival the works of Duccio and Giotto in their grandeur and dramatic power. Greatest amongst these is the dramatic image of the 'Harrowing of Hell' in which an ethereal, yet powerful, Christ strains across the apsidal dome to deliver Adam and Eve from purgatory.

Next, we view the remains of the Byzantine city walls built in the 5th century by Emperor Theodosius II. The defensive stone structure originally stretched for almost 7 kilometres and what remains is now listed as a UNESCO heritage site. The Tekfür Saray is the last of the Byzantine imperial palaces still standing. The ruined complex was built in the 13th century and served a variety of purposes after the Ottoman conquest. The Emperor Alexius I Comnenus made the edifice there his main residence, with its vast substructures built



up against the inside of the land walls at their highest point above the level of the land outside.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we explore the residential districts of Balat and Fenar. Located on the western bank of the Golden Horn, these districts are recommended by UNESCO as World Heritage sites for their cultural and architectural heritage. Balat is the former Jewish district and home to one of the oldest synagogues in the city: the 15th-century Ahrida Synagogue. Fener is the former Greek neighbourhood and home to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. It features many old wooden houses and small stately churches including the cast-iron Saint Stefan Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the 7th-century Church of St Mary of the Mongols.

We end the day with a private 2-hour cruise of the Bosphorus. (Overnight Istanbul) B

#### Day 20: Wednesday 13 May, Istanbul

- Summary Lecture at the hotel
- Pera Museum
- New Istanbul Modern
- Afternoon at leisure
- Group Farewell Meal

Following our final lecture at the hotel, we visit to the Pera Museum which contains three collections: Turkish Orientalist Painting, Anatolian Weights and Measures, and Kütahya Tiles and Ceramics. Drawn from Suna and İnan Kırâç's world-class private collection, the Turkish orientalist paintings provide fascinating glimpses into the Ottoman world from the 17th to 20th centuries and include the most beloved painting in the Turkish canon – Osman Hamdi Bey's *The Tortoise Trainer* (1906).

After five years of construction the Istanbul Modern reopened its New, Renzo Piano-designed home in June 2023. This modern and contemporary art museum is located along the banks of the Bosphorus providing stunning views across the water to the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque.

Tonight, we enjoy a farewell meal at a local restaurant. (Overnight Istanbul) BD

#### Day 21: Thursday 14 May, Tour ends in Istanbul

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Istanbul. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Istanbul's International Airport. B

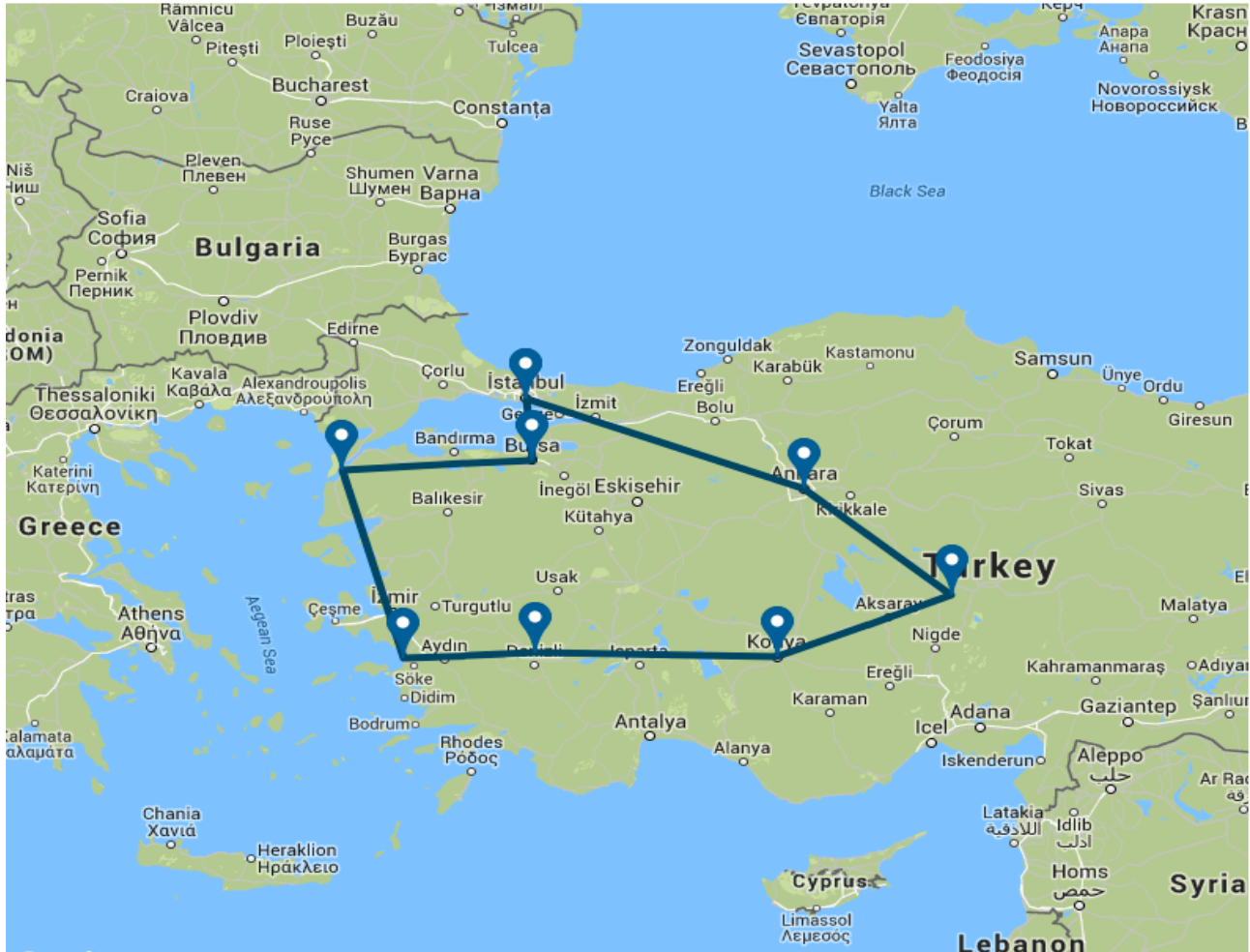
## Accommodation

All hotels are rated 4-5-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have shower or bath and w.c. Several hotels have swimming pools. Single rooms may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the single supplement. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Istanbul (4 nights): 4-star [Hotel Armada Old City](#) – located in the heart of Istanbul's historic peninsula, within walking distance of the Archaeology Museum, the Topkapi Palace, the Cisterns, Sultanahmet Square and Grand Bazaar.
- Bursa (1 night): 5-star [Hotel Çelik Palas Hotel](#) – an historic hotel founded in 1935 by Atatürk, featuring a magnificent domed marble thermal pool.
- Çanakkale (1 night): 4-star [DoubleTree by Hilton Çanakkale](#) – located on the Dardanelles, 800 metres from Çanakkale Archaeological Museum.
- Assos/Ayvacik: (1 night): 4-star [Assos Barbarossa Hotel](#) – featuring an outdoor pool and private beach.
- Kusadasi (3 nights): 4-star [LaVista Boutique Hotel & Spa](#) – set in landscape gardens this modern hotel offers 39 rooms with overlooking the Aegean Sea.
- Pamukkale (1 night): 5-star [Doga Thermal Health & Spa](#) - located in the town of Karahayit, 7km from Pamukkale with a spa health centre and thermal pools.
- Konya (2 nights): 4-star [Hich Hotel](#) – located in historic centre within easy walking distance of the Mevlana Tekke and Museum; housed in a 200-year old building.
- Cappadocia (3 nights): 4-star [Avantgarde Refined Caves of Cappadocia](#) – a new charming hotel offering modern rooms which derive from carefully renovated cave dwellings.
- Ankara (1 night): 5-star [Divan Çukurhan](#) – a boutique hotel housed in a restored 17th-century Ottoman caravanserai; located opposite the main entrance to the Ankara Citadel (see image below).
- Istanbul (3 nights): 5-star [Pera Palace Hotel](#) – Established in 1892 by the French-Ottoman architect Alexander Vallaury, the Pera Palace is a special category museum hotel designed in neoclassical, art nouveau and oriental styles. Built for the purpose of hosting the passengers of the Orient Express, detective writer Agatha Christie's 1934 novel *Murder on the Orient Express* was allegedly written in the hotel. The hotel offers spectacular views of the Golden Horn, an indoor pool, and luxurious rooms with city views in the historical Pera district of Istanbul.

*Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

## Tour Map





## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$14,480.00 Land Content Only - Early-Bird Special: book before 30 June 2025

AUD \$14,880.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$3690.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-5-star hotels.
- All meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included
- Bottled water during excursions
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Porterage at hotels (where available: not all hotels provide porterage)
- Internal airfare Day 18: Ankara - Istanbul
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- Entrance fees to museums and monuments
- Local guide in Türkiye
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia - Istanbul, Istanbul - Australia
- Optional Hot-Air Balloon excursion, Cappadocia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Turkish Visa



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level



### Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace; some days for at least 5-7km, over terrain which may include rocky and uneven paths, sometimes with steep steps or inclines. For example, the walk through the Ilhara Valley begins by descending 400 steps.
- cope with challenging historic and archaeological sites which are large and unsheltered and may include steep steps and inclines.
- climb several flights of stairs without duress and walk up short steep hills.
- stand for one to two hours during visits to galleries and museums without the need to sit.
- cope with a demanding tour schedule which includes some longer days, regular early morning starts, several one-night stays, one internal flight and extensive coach travel.
- withstand varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat.
- cope with rudimentary or squat toilet facilities during some day-excursions.
- handle a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels and at airports.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's

pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth / / GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

**Passport** Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date / / Nationality \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

**Covid Certificate** ☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / /  
☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy  
I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products  
☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information**

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_



The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? ☐ ☐

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? ☐ ☐

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic? ☐ ☐
- Are you insulin dependent? ☐ ☐
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? ☐ ☐
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
  - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.\*\*

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

\*\*\$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

***We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.***

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form ☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel    ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment    ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance    ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

## By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

## Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

## Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ  
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
Swift Code ANZBAU3M  
BSB 013-423  
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended  
\_\_\_\_\_Date Money Transferred  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_