

# Turkey – A Journey through Anatolia

## Tour Code TA

**20 May – 3 June 2014**

A detailed journey through the Anatolian plains of Asia Minor, visiting the little discovered eastern region of Turkey where great empires have flourished and faded over the millennia, and stunning scenery and landscapes capture the imagination. This area contains the complete spectrum of chronology covering the Bronze and Iron Age, where various cultures came and left their mark including the Assyrians, Hittites and Phrygians. As well as these earlier civilisations there will be an opportunity to admire Byzantine churches and the architecture of the Seljuk and Ottoman Turks. The climax to the trip is the visit to the mountaintop of Nemrut Dagı, famed burial place of Antiochus I. Time is also spent in the ancient city of Constantinople; Istanbul today.



Stunning location of Sumela Monastery  
© www.syderimages.com

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Fly to Istanbul

Departure from Heathrow Airport to Istanbul. Transfer to a centrally located hotel for two nights

#### Day 2 In Istanbul

Today is spent in the great imperial city of Istanbul, crossroads between Europe and the Orient. Visits include the famous multi-minareted Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia museum, formerly and the oldest basilica in the world, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Suleymaniye mosque and the unique underground basilica cisterns. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

#### Day 3 In Istanbul. Fly Trabzon

Morning visit to the fabulous Topkapi Palace, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Sultan Mehmet the Great. We include the famous Harem and Treasury with its priceless relics. This afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Trabzon on the Black Sea coast. Two nights at the Usta Park hotel (B,D)

#### Day 4 Visit Sumela Monastery

This morning journey inland to the 6<sup>th</sup> century Sumela Monastery located in a dramatic cliff-top setting over a fertile gorge. Dinner at a local Trabzon restaurant (B,D)

#### Day 5 Drive to Erzurum

Today we journey through the Pontic Mountains on a long but scenic drive to the once Roman outpost of Erzurum. Overnight with dinner at the Palan hotel (B,D)

#### Day 6 Visit Erzurum. Drive to Kars

After morning sightseeing in Erzurum including the wonderful 13<sup>th</sup> century Cifte Minare Madrasa we continue to the remote eastern town of Kars for two nights at the Sim-Er hotel. Dinner in the hotel (B,D)

#### Day 7 Visit Ani. City tour of Kars

We explore the Armenian border town of Ani this morning, its wonderful church ruins romantically set on plains overlooking the Armenian hills. This afternoon we return to the various sites located around Kars including the dramatic castle overlooking the old city. Dinner in a local restaurant (B,D)

**Patrick Syder Travel**

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: [info@sydertravel.com](mailto:info@sydertravel.com) [www.sydertravel.com](http://www.sydertravel.com)

### **Day 8 Drive to Dogubeyazit close to Mount Ararat**

Today's journey takes us on visits to the legendary resting place of Noah's ark near Mount Ararat and to romantic Isak Pasha palace at Dogubeyazit. Overnight with dinner at the Sim-Er hotel (B,D)

### **Day 9 Drive to Van. In Van**

Our journey continues to the lakeside town of Van, the ancient capital of Urartia. This afternoon we visit the old city walls and castle with superb views across the area. Two nights at the Buyuk Urartu hotel with dinner (B,D)

### **Day 10 Visit Cavustepe and Akdamar Island**

This morning we visit the ancient site of Cavustepe and the dramatic Hosap castle. After a break for lunch on the shores of Lake Van we depart by boat to the stunning Armenian Church ruins of the Holy Cross. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 11 Drive to Diyarbakir**

A long but interesting drive today brings us to the ancient walled caravan city of Diyarbakir, dating back at least 5,000 years. We stay at the Kervansaray hotel, a renovated caravanserai built in basalt stone. Overnight stay with dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

### **Day 12 In Diyarbakir. Visit Nemrut Dag**

We walk through the atmospheric narrow streets and bazaars of Diyarbakir's old city this morning, seeing one of Turkey's oldest mosques. In the afternoon we follow along the Euphrates valley via Siverek to visit Nemrut Dag. The mountaintop burial site of Antiochus I is as equally dramatic in its location as the monumental stone heads themselves. Overnight stay with dinner at the Zeus hotel in nearby Kahta (B,D)

### **Day 13 In Sanliurfa. Visit Harran**

We continue to Sanliurfa where we visit the pool of Abraham set in a tranquil location beneath the great citadel of the city. This afternoon we drive the short distance to Harran to see its ancient citadel and unique beehive architecture. Overnight stay with dinner at the El Ruha hotel in Sanliurfa (B,D)

### **Day 14 In Gaziantep**

We head to our final destination Gaziantep, to spend the day in its extraordinary Archaeological museum with its unrivalled collection of mosaics and other artefacts. Overnight stay at the Anadolou Evleri hotel. A farewell dinner has been arranged at a traditional Gaziantep restaurant. (B,D)

### **Day 15 Fly to London via Istanbul**

Morning transfer to Gaziantep airport for the flight to Istanbul to connect with our international flight to London (B)

**Cost £2395.00** per person in a twin room (excludes flights)

Single supplement charge £300.00



Monumental stone bust of Antiochus I at Nemrut Dag © www.syderimages.com

#### **Price includes –**

- ▶ Escorted from London by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Accompanied throughout by specialist Turkish tour leader/guide, Dr Fatih Babaoglu, who is an Archaeologist with a PhD in the Hittite Civilisation
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c minibus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality four and five star hotels in Istanbul and the large cities, and best available three star hotels in the east of the country
- ▶ Half board basis with some dinners at traditional restaurants
- ▶ All UK and Turkish departure and government taxes
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international and domestic Turkish Airline flights are not included in the land tour cost (from £250.00 through Flight Centre UK) (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)