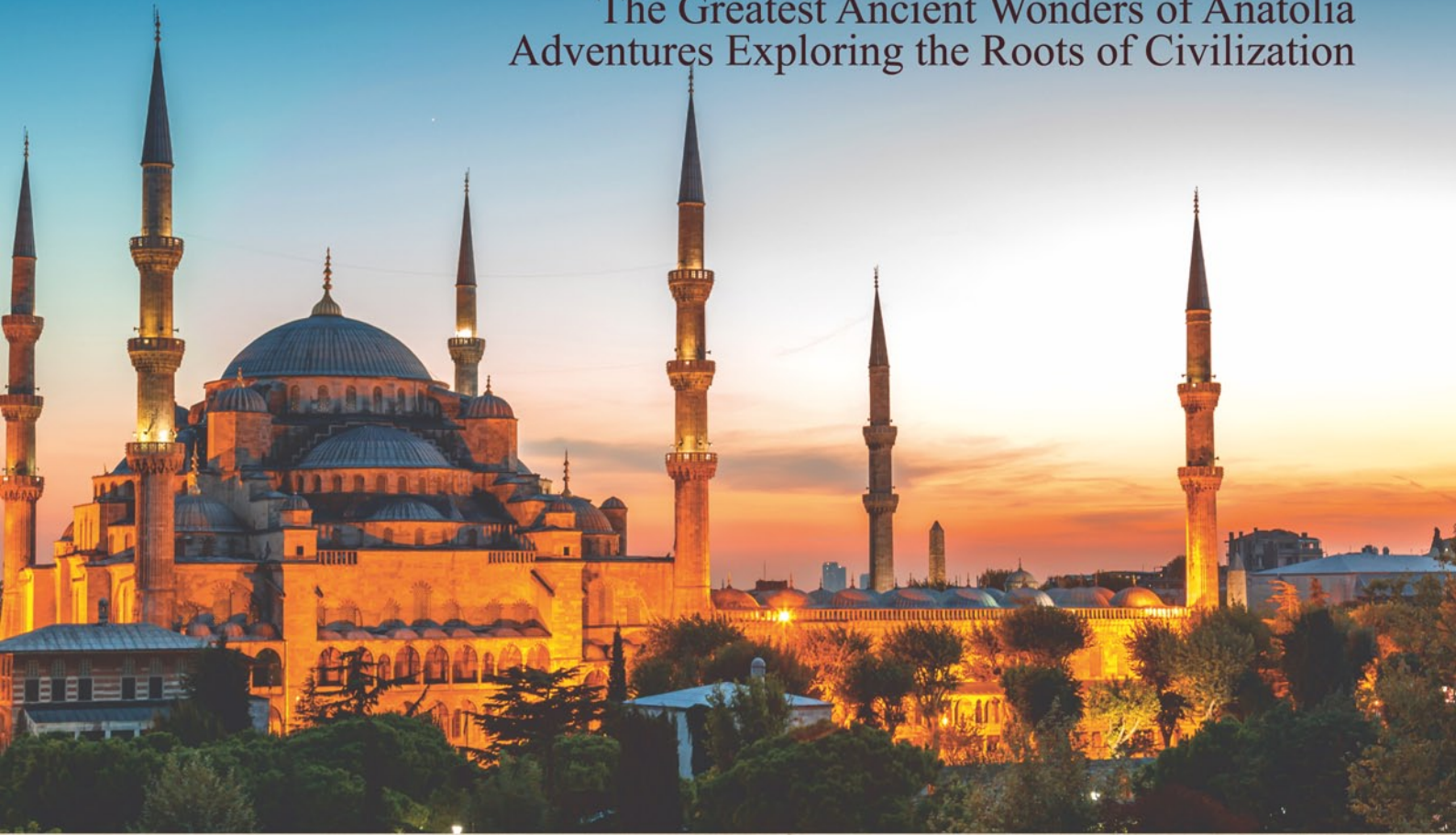


TURKEY GRAND TOUR

The Greatest Ancient Wonders of Anatolia
Adventures Exploring the Roots of Civilization



Check the upcoming **TOUR DATES** on our website
www.archaeologicalpaths.com or call us at (917) 719 1974



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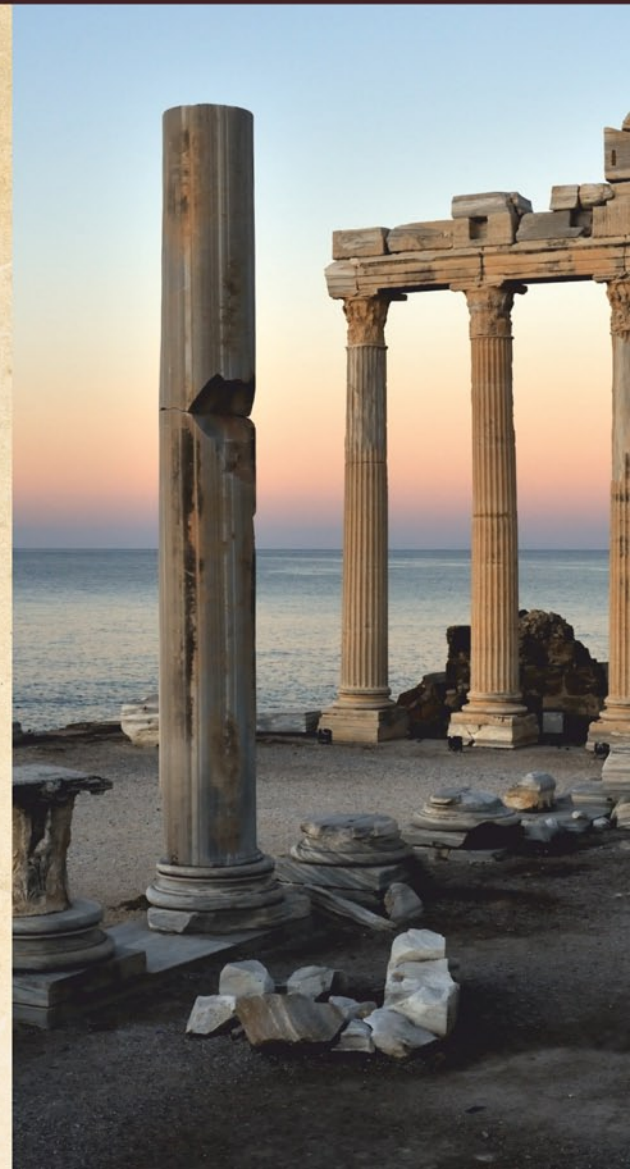
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DISCOVER TURKEY WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PATHS!

Archaeological Paths company invites you to take part in the incredible 14-day journey to discover the archaeology, history, culture, and natural beauty of Turkey - the region rightfully referred to as the "Cradle of Civilization".

Our tour will start in Istanbul, the capital of Byzantine empire, continue through the legendary city of Troy and the biblical city of Ephesus, later through the timeless and bare rock landscape of Cappadocia. The site of Catalhuyuk, where we can see the beginning of the urban civilization is one of the first settlements where people lived together, building established houses 7 thousand years B.C! Another attraction is Mount Nemrut, considered to be the eighth wonder of the ancient world. The highlight of the tour is perhaps the most important archaeological discovery of the modern times – Gobekli Tepe, The World's First Temple (10,000 BC!).



Highlight of our tour will be a special entrance to Göbekli Tepe.

The main point to see will be the well-known site of Gobekli Tepe, the newly discovered world's oldest temple. It is incredibly sophisticated, dating back to the end of the last ice age, 12 thousand years ago. This is one of the most important and remarkable monuments in the world. It's perhaps the most amazing archeological discovery of the modern times. The construction date of Gobekli Tepe is estimated to be thousands of years earlier than the dates assigned to the other major structures of antiquity, such as the Stonehenge in England or the Egyptian Pyramids. The World's Oldest temple changes what we knew about the human history. After the discovery of this site, it became apparent that Mesopotamia or Egypt were not the first highly developed civilizations, but thousands of years before that an unknown civilization created those incredible monuments in Turkey. During our journey you will have the chance to see them with your own eyes!

"This place is a supernova"- said Dr. Klaus Schmidt - the main archeologist excavating Göbekli Tepe, Within a minute of first seeing it I knew I had two choices: go away and tell nobody, or spend the rest of my life working here."



www.archaeologicalpaths.com
contact@archaeologicalpaths.com
US phone: (917) 719 1974

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival to Istanbul

Guests arrive to Turkey. A representative of Archaeological Paths company will welcome our guests at the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, then assist with checking in to a hotel in Istanbul. After the check-in process at the hotel, our guests will have time to rest. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Istanbul.

Day 2 - Istanbul - The Old City

Istanbul - one of the greatest cities in the world, capital of the Byzantine Empire.

After breakfast, we will leave the hotel and visit the Sultanahmet district, called the "historical peninsula". First we will visit various Ottoman ruins and after that the Blue Mosque, the most important mosque in Istanbul with its more than 20,000 handmade ceramic tiles and 200 stained glass windows. Next we will discover and enjoy beautiful examples of Ottoman art in the Topkapi Palace (first Ottoman palace in Istanbul), followed by lunch near the Blue Mosque. After lunch, we will visit iconic Byzantine monuments including the St. Sophia Museum (Hagia Sophia, the former Byzantine Church) – the greatest surviving example of Byzantine architecture. Next, we will explore the underground Basilica Cistern, which was the main water provider for Constantinople, and visit the Byzantine Hippodrome where we will see beautiful obelisks and columns from the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman periods. In the evening, we will return to the hotel for dinner. Overnight at the hotel in Istanbul.



Day 3 - Troy & Canakkale

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and drive to Troy via the European part of Turkey known as "Thrace". Upon arrival to Eceabat we will have lunch by the water and then take the ferry across the Dardanelles to the Asian side of Turkey – Canakkale. After that we will visit the ancient Troy, which was a city both factual and legendary. It is best known for being described in the Greek Epic Cycle and especially in the Iliad (one of the two epic poems attributed to Homer). Besides visiting the well-preserved ruins of the ancient city, we will see a replica of the Trojan Horse. Overnight at the hotel in Assos Dove.

Day 4 - Pergamon, Ephesus & Selcuk

Ephesus – once the most important commercial center of the ancient world, a religious center of early Christianity, and today a unique and amazingly well preserved ancient city that attracts visitors from around the world.

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel. We will drive to Pergamon, which is located in the modern city of Bergama. Here we'll take a cable car up the mountain to visit the ancient Akropolis. Then we will drive to Ephesus where we will see the best-preserved and restored Hellenistic-Early Roman age city; here St. Paul lived and preached for a time. Overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi.



Day 5 - Dalyan and Kaunos

In the morning we will travel to the beautiful area of Dalyan from which we will take a two-hour boat ride to view the ruins of Kaunos. Kaunos used to be an important ancient port at the delta of Dalyan river. The rock-cut tombs along the riverbanks, traditionally dated back to the 9th century B.C. and earlier, are enveloped in mystery. They are said to be the tombs of ancient kings of Kaunos, with facades resembling ancient Greek architecture. In the past the tombs probably contained treasures hidden behind false walls, but over the years they were looted numerous times.

Day 6 - Kekova, Demre

On day 6 we will visit the city of Demre, near the ancient Roman city of Myra. This was an important locality in ancient times. St. Paul stopped here during his travels, and St. Nicholas (who inspired the legend of Santa Claus) was a bishop of Myra in the fourth century. Incredible ancient ruins are preserved here. We will also visit, by boat, the small island of Kekova to view the underwater ruins (sometimes referred to as the Kekova Castle) which can be seen from the boat. We will have the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the clear turquoise waters.



TOUR ITINERARY



Day 7 - Konya, Catalhoyuk ruins

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and drive to Konya. On the way to Konya we will visit the Mevlana Museum (home of the Whirling Dervishes). It is one of the most important religious and mystical sites of Turkey. After lunch in Konya we'll visit Catalhoyuk ruins – one of the world's earliest known cities dating back nearly 10,000 years! At this most significant archaeological site of the last century we can see the beginning of the urban civilization. Catalhoyuk is the largest and best-preserved Neolithic settlement currently known and is considered one of the key sites for understanding human prehistory. It is an active archaeological site rarely visited by typical tourists. Overnight in the Cappadocia region.

Day 8 - Cappadocia

Cappadocia - the timeless and fantastic bare rock landscape of valleys and mountains, rock-cut churches, and mysterious ancient underground cities. This region is a geological wonder in its own right, forming a "lost world".

We will have time to see different parts of the region and photograph the unique otherworldly rock formations, volcanic peaks and mountains. The rocks that form the characteristic Cappadocia landscape have eroded for millions of years in the lakes, rivers and winds. Apart from gorgeous geological wonders, Cappadocia also boasts of fascinating rock-carved chapels and churches dating back to the 9th and 11th century.

Day 9 - Cappadocia

We will spend another full day in Cappadocia. After breakfast we will drive to Derinkuyu, large and mysterious underground city with numerous storeys. We will also visit the Zelve Museum. Lunch will be served in Avanos, and after that we will go to Urgup, which is known for its famous dwellings built right within cliffs and caves, its wines and its hand-made carpets. Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia.



Day 10 - Mount Nemrut

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and drive to Nemrut (Kahta). On our way there we will visit Karatayhan Caravanserai. We will have lunch and a break in Kahramanmaras, which is famous for its typical Turkish ice cream made from goat's milk. When we'll arrive in Kahta, we will check in at the hotel. After that we will leave to admire the sunset from the peak of Mount Nemrut.

This is a world-famous ancient megalithic site and one of the most interesting tourist attractions in Turkey. It is often considered the 8th Wonder of the Ancient World. At the summit of this approximately 2000-meter high mountain lie the ruins of the ancient Commagene Kingdom, which was at its height of power during the 1st century B.C. The most remarkable feature of the Mount Nemrut site is the giant stone heads of ancient gods. It is said to be the king's tomb, although no grave has ever been found there. Who really built it and why? How far back might it date? It is still a mystery even today. After enjoying the sunset we will drive back to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Kahta (Nemrut).



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 11 - Göbekli Tepe & Harran

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and drive to Urfa. On our way we will see the biggest dam in Turkey, built on the Euphrates River. We will pass Urfa and drive to Harran, which is a place full of surprises, with its Arabic culture, colorful people, old historic buildings, and ancient Islamic university. Then we will drive to spend the afternoon in Göbekli Tepe. It is an incredibly old, yet extremely sophisticated site, predating the conventional date for Stonehenge by 6,000 years. In the evening we will check into the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Urfa.

Day 12 - Sanliurfa, Urfa Archeology Museum, Pools of Abraham

After breakfast we will take a walk through the beautiful flower-filled gardens along the Pools of Abraham with their maze of canals full of thousands of carp fish, which are held sacred and fed by the local people. We will also walk to the Cave of Abraham where, according to a local legend, the prophet Abraham was born. In the afternoon we will visit the Urfa Archeology Museum to view a number of ancient artifacts, including incredible stone sculptures, one resembling a totem pole, excavated at Göbekli Tepe.



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 13 - Urfa - Istanbul, Bosphorus cruise

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and we will transfer to the airport in Urfa and fly to Istanbul. After the check-in at our hotel in Istanbul we will have some free time for rest, shopping or exploring on our own before dinner. In the evening we will take a private boat cruise on the Bosphorus strait. During the sunset we will have our farewell dinner. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 14 - Depart from Istanbul

After breakfast we will bid each other a warm farewell, check out of the hotel, head to the airport and fly back home.



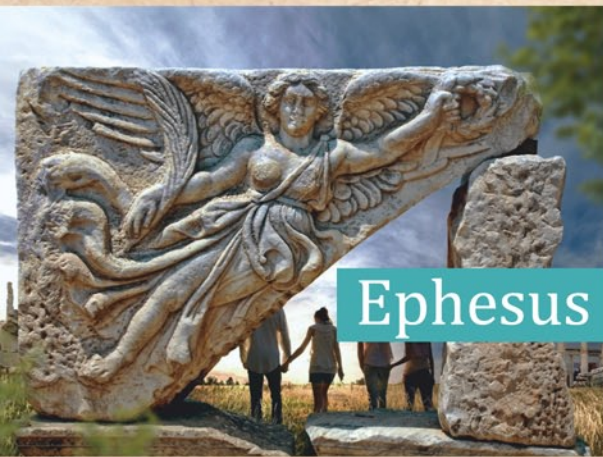
TOUR MAP



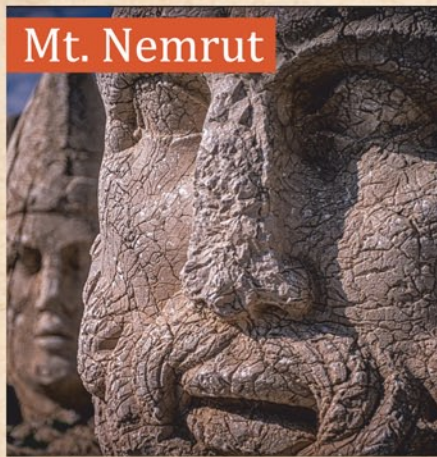
Blue Mosque



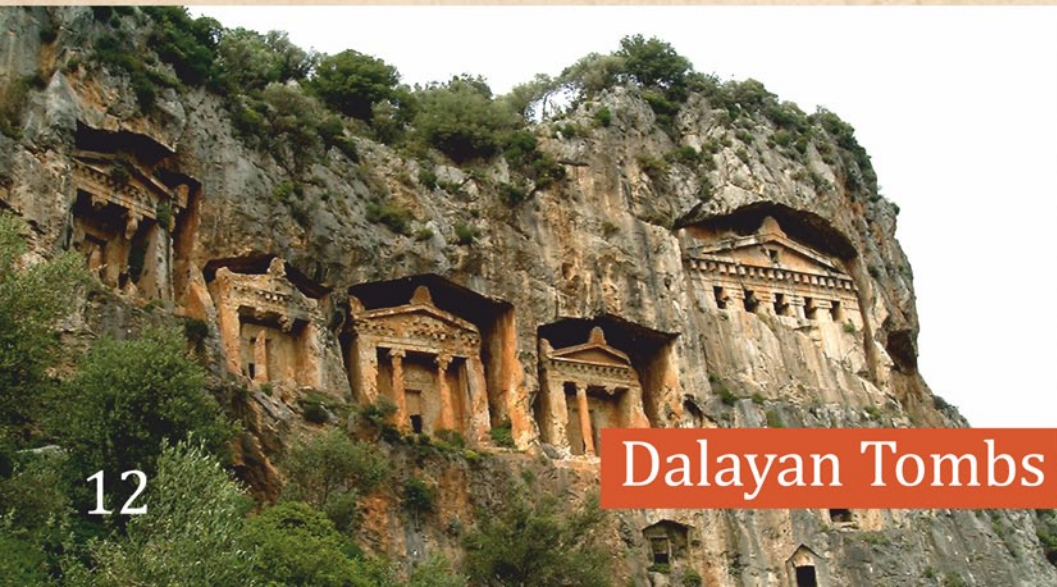
Hagia Sophia



Ephesus



Mt. Nemrut



Dalayan Tombs

Handpicked Hotels

After the sightseeing, our guests have time to rest and relax. Archaeological Paths staff makes it a priority to choose the best hotels for you. We select the hotels personally, our team visits each hotel and checks if it meets our standards. We choose the best hotels in each region, paying attention to the standard of the rooms and the quality of the cuisine including regional dishes.



Our video-testimonials and the long list of regular clients travelling with us for years now are the result of the care we put into ensuring the best quality of services. The greatest feedback we can receive are the guests who come back and want to travel with us again and the clients who are happy to recommend our services to their family and friends.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Price per person:
\$4370 USD for double room.

If you are traveling alone, you can share a room with another tour member;

If you would like to have a single room, the single supplement is \$970 USD.

Payment Schedule:

- \$800 deposit during booking.
- Full payment is due two months before the tour.

Price Includes:

13-nights stay at 4/5* hotels; 3 meals a day – breakfast, lunch and dinner; All sightseeing tours; Entrance tickets, English speaking guide; English speaking tour leader; Transfers in air-conditioned buses; Reception at Istanbul International airport; Airport Arrival & Departure transfers; Domestic flight from Urfa/Gaziantep to Istanbul; Travel Insurance; Government taxes.

Not Included:

International flights to/from Istanbul in Turkey; Visa cost (20 USD); Drinks during lunches and dinners.

CONTACT US

Check the upcoming TOUR DATES on our website www.archaeologicalpaths.com or call us at (917) 719 19 74

JOIN US TODAY!

contact@archaeologicalpaths.com

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WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

Archaeological Paths company organizes in-depth tours and expeditions. Our company was founded in 2003 and since then we have organized tours to Egypt, Turkey, India, Sahara desert, Jordan, Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, Cambodia, Peru and Bolivia. The participants of our tours come from all over the world – USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, South America, Poland, Germany, China and Japan.

We offer tours that cannot be found in any other tourist agencies. While most tour operators specialize in typical package group tours, our journeys always have a theme and the focus is on the rich itinerary of sightseeing and sharing the history of the country that we visit with our guests. The itineraries of our tours are prepared by experts in cooperation with Ministries of Antiquities and the local archaeological departments. We offer a limited number of tours in order to ensure the highest standard of traveling, including the very best services, luxury hotels and all the comforts and attractions that our guests would like to experience.

Our company also organizes scientific and archeological conferences, produces documentary movies, interviews the experts and documents historical discoveries and archeological excavations.

We cooperate with major science and archaeological magazines such as the National Geographic, Smithsonian, Scientific American, Archaeology, Current World Archaeology, Biblical Archeology, Ancient Egypt, and KMT magazine.



WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

During the years of cooperation with our valued partners we gained trust on the international market. Below you can find the testimonial of one of the Editors-in-Chief of the leading archeological magazine – ARCHAEOLOGY MAGAZINE

Archaeological Paths is a valued advertising partner of ARCHAEOLOGY Magazine, having advertised their trips in the magazine and on our website. We knew the magazine had landed in our subscribers' mailboxes because we were flooded with phone calls about the company, their trips and the unique itinerary! We know that our readers booked tours with Archaeological Paths and, upon their return, some even called to express their delight with the itinerary and the unprecedented access to the sites. Some even described their trip as the "trip of a lifetime". Based on the success of their trips, I would encourage anyone to travel with Archaeological Paths on one of their upcoming trips!

- Gerry Moss, Director of Integrated Sales, ARCHAEOLOGY Magazine.

ARCHAEOLOGY magazine - is a leading international archaeological journal and has been published continuously for more than 65 years. It is a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America, a 133-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of human heritage.

Archaeological Paths staff makes every effort to ensure that our tours will be the experience of a lifetime for all our guests. We hope that you will join one of our tours and that you will let us guide you through the mysterious Turkey.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PATHS



TESTIMONIALS

The comments from the participants of previous tours are extremely valuable for every company. Archaeological Paths makes every effort to ensure that our tours will be the experience of a lifetime for all our guests.

Below you will find testimonials from our guests who gave us permission to publish their impressions. Our tour participants gave us so many comments that we could not possibly include them all in this brochure. If you would like to read more and see the video testimonials, please visit our website www.archaeologicalpaths.com



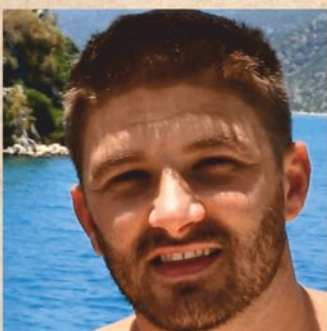
It was a wonderful trip, encompassing 12 thousand years of human history. We started in Istanbul and went through major sites, experienced history of hundreds of years. We also drove down to Troy, we had lunch on the Dardanelles where Odysseus, Jason and the Argonauts travelled. It was something special. I had spent my life reading the Iliad and the Odyssey. To come here and to have the discussion that goes on not only with the leader but with everybody was just great. They have put together a wonderful tour and program. They really know what they are doing and we saw amazing stuff. Absolutely splendid. I recommend it to anybody. Please come to Turkey. It's wonderful, safe, clean, amazing!

James



The program was amazing and every day it got better and better. Pergamon was unbelievable and the feeling of being there was wonderful. The tour guide was great, he did as much detail as he could in the short time that we were there and the way they organized the trip was fabulous. Ephesus – I had no words, all I could say was: amazing! I absolutely loved this place and your tour.

Diana



The people and the atmosphere were amazing. The weather was beautiful. I loved learning from other people on the trip. I went to Egypt with your company and you guys did a great job, so I went back again a month later.

Matthew

TESTIMONIALS



Every place was actually quite special. The weather had been beautiful, so it was a great time of the year to be there. It was pretty safe. What was particularly interesting about Pergamon and Ephesus – you could put biblical figures into context, it wasn't just a theory or a story you read. It was actually quite interesting to look at a historical thing in perspective. The most interesting feature about the trip was the history and you covered it quite extensively, which was great. We weren't just zoomed in and out, so it was fantastic! I highly recommend it to anybody.

Edith



The trip was wonderful, I can't even tell you my favorite part. It opened up whole new worlds for me. Every minute was packed with something better. We were standing somewhere from 10,000 years ago. It was incredible to feel that you were at that particular point, wondering who they were, what they thought. It was just a wonderful experience and I was so lucky to be there. You get a real sense of the history, the sense of travelling back and you feel as if you were walking in their steps. It changed the way I feel about the history of the world forever. The people were wonderful. When some of us had issues they picked right up and were incredibly well organized. They were thinking about things before we even knew that they were there. I'm so very grateful.

Karla



My focus on the trip was coming to Catalhoyuk and Derinkuyu. This was probably the most magical place I could think of on Earth. This was a true cradle of what we know of civilization and where it began, everything you know about your culture, everybody on Earth is related to people who came from there. To me this was one of probably the most holy sites on Earth for the human race, regardless of your religion – this is where it began and it was like making a pilgrimage to the beginning of time. The people were nice and the weather was perfect. I loved the food. The scenery, the culture and the history were just unbelievable. It was wonderful. It's something you have to do! I recommend it to anybody and I've been to a lot of places in the world. This is one at the top of my list. Please, everybody, come and enjoy this.

Michael

TESTIMONIALS



This was my first time in Turkey and I always wanted to see it. What was fascinating about this country – the antiquities, all of the ruins and the landscape. It was just gorgeous up there in Cappadocia. The trip was comprehensive because we went to many places and saw so much that I'm very glad I joined this group. I think that anyone who is interested in this part of the world will have such a great time here.

Ang Hang



We had been so packed full. It was a wonderful trip. We had seen so much I don't think we could have done anymore in the time that we had.

Margery



My husband and I have been to Istanbul twice before and this last tour was the best we've ever had. It was the most informative, everywhere we went things were explained to us and we went to more places than we've ever been. We didn't even know that some of those places were there, so it's been great. I have to say we had never even been upstairs at the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia before – and having our guide explain everything to us so well, it was very informative, we loved that. We were told this tour company was very good and I have to agree, the tour guides had been very patient, nice and efficient, we appreciate it very much.

Julie



It was interesting to see places where civilization goes back to about 12,000 years like in Göbekli Tepe and with wide influence of cultures: the Hittites, the Jews, Christians, Mongols in certain parts and Turks, who eventually took over. Coming to Turkey is safe, I haven't seen any problems or evidence that there are any problems going on there, so I recommend that people come and visit.

Adam

TESTIMONIALS



I really liked Istanbul, I was there 50 years ago as a young teacher and a student, so it was really nice to go back and to go on a tour, as I could see all the places I didn't really know about fifty years ago. And I could bring my wife too, she's never been to Turkey. We really liked the buildings and the people were always really fun to talk to, because they were all interested in history and archaeology. I knew that we'd only have a fairly small number of people like 20, so it was great because you get to know people as it's not too crowded. We saw the advertisement last fall, so we just said: Let's do it! And we had a great time. People were very friendly and helpful. I speak a little bit of Turkish, so I started talking in it and then immediately I got a very warm and friendly "How are you?" and I just love it in the Grand Bazaar and other places. It's safer than back home, if you go to the city like Providence and New Bedford. I didn't feel unsafe at all and I didn't fifty years ago.

Victor



We came for riding back in time, first to Pergamon and Ephesus on the road to Cappadocia. It was an amazing tour, my first tour I've ever taken. I've worked with archaeologists and anthropologists in the field for a number of years. That was my way of being able to travel to amazing places. I teach photography in Philadelphia in the United States and I've always wanted to come to Turkey. I finally got a chance to see a lot in a very short time – this was a remarkable way to do it. I highly recommend it. It was a great way to see a lot and actually to understand quite a bit about it. The whole idea of going back in time from what I consider to be ancient times in history was amazing. And I didn't even realize such places as Göbekli Tepe existed. It was so moving for me. When we came back to the site in the morning, my heart was pounding so hard I could barely breathe. Then we went to the museum at the end of the day. We walked back in time from Göbekli Tepe all the way up to Hellenistic time. You could see how there was once something really sophisticated and amazing and then suddenly 12,000 years ago, it disappeared and it's a complete mystery why. It was replaced by a Dark Age and it took 8,000 years for something as sophisticated to come back, but without any of the abstract thinking visible in Göbekli Tepe. This trip was a revelation for me. The travel was great, the people who ran the tour did a wonderful job. They've made us comfortable and made sure we have a lot to happen in a very short period of time. It makes me want to come back to Turkey and learn more. I thank you very much, it was terrific.

Stuart

TESTIMONIALS



This tour was not only about historical, but also ancient research. I love to paint, so everything has switched over in my style now, my method of painting changed from renaissance and medieval to ancient. After this tour everything has just influenced my imagination. It was really magnificent. Everything was so different when we went to all the regions and the climate was diverse too. When we drove through the regions, I was able to see unique landscapes and they were changing within the soul and the rock and with the topography, it was just really beautiful. I took the camera everywhere I went. The best experience on the tour was the work of the travel group, because it was so well organized and it made me feel safe. My husband and I travel alone, this is the first group we've joined, so this was a really great experience for me. Both my husband and I – we just loved it. It's been a personal journey for us. In addition to just researching it, indefinitely write about it, to paint it, nothing can compare with the experience of being in Turkey in person. I would do this again! Everyone was so nice and kind. Everything came from their heart, they were genuine. It's unlike what I've experienced in other countries.

Audra



Turkey is a wonderful place and I was so fortunate to go there. I've travelled around the world and I have been to over eighty countries and this is a really special place. The people who put on this tour are special and they've done a great job putting the itinerary together. It had a pretty good pace, but not too tiring and it's been just great all around. There's so much archaeology there, it was fantastic. Everywhere you looked, you picked up a rock from the ground, there was just so much history there. We've done so much, starting in Istanbul with the Blue Mosque – it was phenomenal. There were so many beautiful places, it's very difficult for me to pinpoint which place I loved the most. You just can't compare all this beauty. In Turkey, although it's an Islamic country, people were so friendly and nice that I felt completely safe. They are open-minded, open to other religions – the Christians were there before. There were all different types of denomination travelling in our group. It's just a beautiful and safe place – both in the city and in the countryside. I always think you should travel with a purpose, it's very important. I think this tour group really has a fantastic purpose of discovering ancient archeology, changing what we've been taught about history in school – there is just so much more to explore, you have to get into the field and really participate and see things for yourself. You can't just read a book. You have to take this in emotionally, physically and spiritually. When we were in Urfa, in a beautiful old section of the town, I was sorry it was the last day. It was such a wonderful trip and the people were friendly and accommodating.

Douglas

TESTIMONIALS



Istanbul was brilliant, the history there goes back thousands of years. The program of this tour takes you straight into the culture which I believe is the important thing. The people were amazing everywhere we've been on this trip, it didn't really matter where we went, the Turkish people were so cosmopolitan. This tour has a lot to offer - huge history and fantastic program. The cooperation that we experienced everywhere, wherever we went – the hotels, the coach drivers, everything was just ace.

Robin



It was amazing to see these ancient sites, we crawled into a cave where people lived in for probably a thousand years, unbelievable work – it must have taken over a hundred years to carve it. We felt very safe in Turkey, it was safe to go everywhere. The food was delicious, everything is natural. Ephesus is a huge city with theatres, monuments and statues, it makes you want to go back in time to see what it looked like when people actually lived there. It was an amazing tour, because you go places other tourists don't visit.

Carol



The entire tour was just spectacular to me. I had anticipated certain things and I was looking forward to some things, but every place we've been was just awesome and far beyond expectations. And as for of the quality of the tour, it could not be better. The quality and the service – everything was wonderful, all of you people associated with the tour, Suat, Thomas – everyone has been wonderful. And if I could take another tour with you, I would do it immediately.

Richard



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