



O N S K L I ě N T E W O R D O N S V R I E N D E



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Universiteit van Stellenbosch Departement Antieke Studie
 ITER ANATOLICUM
 University of Stellenbosch Department of Ancient Studies

Day 1 29 November 2013 Cape Town - Istanbul

Meet at the Turkish Airlines check-in counter for our flight to Istanbul. We leave late afternoon and do not have to change planes at Oliver Tambo. We have dinner on the plane.

Overnight in flight with dinner

Day 2 30 November Istanbul - Amasra

We land early in Istanbul and meet our tour guide, obtain our visas on arrival. There will be enough time to exchange dollars/euro for Turkish lira. Then our tour starts. A large air-conditioned tour bus (with ablution facilities) will be available to transport our group for the entire tour. We take the coastal route to **Amasra** via Duzce/Bolu to get to the Black Sea. This area is described as scenically one of the loveliest and culturally one of the most authentic areas in Turkey; it is one of the areas very few tourists visit. Our first night in Turkey is spent in Amasra, a picturesque little coastal town. There is a small harbour, and a Roman bridge and watch tower.

Overnight with breakfast Amasra with dinner

Day 3 01 December Amasra - Amasya

From Amasra we continue with the Black Sea coastal route to **Sinope** and eventually to **Amasya** through one of the most spectacular natural areas in Turkey. Nine civilizations, from the Hittites to the Ottomans have settled in the beautiful Amasya area, which some people refer to as the Switzerland of Turkey (and where we'll need the warmest coats we have). At one stage Amasya was the capital of the Roman province of Pontus. Tombs of the Pontic kings can still be seen carved into the cliffs of the surrounding mountains. Mithridates, a Pontic king, added eight layers of walls to the original Hittite fortress, from where a truly magnificent view is to be had of the surrounding mountains. There are two local products we will have to sample in this area: excellent apples and the best tea in Turkey.

Overnight with breakfast

Amasya

with dinner

Day 4 02 December Amasya - Ankara

After a drive through spectacular scenery, we experience one of the highlights of our tour today. We have the whole day to visit the **Hattuşuş** National Park (150 km. east of Ankara), site of the ancient capital of the Hittite empire, Hattuşuş (now known as Bogazkale, Yasilikaya). This huge site, dating from 1600 BCE, is one of the most important sites in Anatolia. Near the ancient capital Hattuşuş is the *greatest* Hittite rock monument, the open-air sanctuary of Yazilikaya (Turkish for “rock with writing”) from the 13th century BCE: enigmatic, mysterious but very informative and where we find a whole gallery of gods and goddesses carved in stone. What also helps is that the deities have their names nicely written in Anatolian (Luwian) hieroglyphic signs even though much of it has been severely eroded—which is to be expected given the age of the carvings. The site contains the impressive Lion’s and King’s gates as well as one of the best preserved Hittite temples, the Great Temple, with its ritual, administrative and storage areas. Thousands of tablets (bronze and clay) were found at this site, supplying solid information on this ancient civilization. The site is bordered by deep ravines, making it into a truly impressive natural site as well.

Overnight with breakfast

Ankara

with dinner

Day 5 03 December Ankara

Turkey’s modern capital, **Ankara**, is on the site of an ancient Hittite city. We will therefore take our time to visit the truly outstanding Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, one of the world’s great museums. It not only has a vast collection of artifacts dating from the Paleolithic age, it also has incredible Hittite work as well as exquisite Hellenistic and Roman sculptures.

In the afternoon we will drive out to the site of **Gordion**, the capital of ancient Phrygia, dating from the 8th century BCE. Gordion was famous as the home of King Midas, who turned everything he touched into gold. Another famous person associated with Gordion is Alexander the Great who cut the Gordian knot in 333 BCE thereby fulfilling the prophecy of the oracle who indicated that the one who untied the Gordian knot would become the king of the known world. About 80 burial mounds of Phrygian kings are still to be seen, including the Midas Tomb in the Gordion Museum grounds. This museum has been nominated for many awards, exhibiting as it does artifacts of superb craftsmanship, as well as ancient musical instruments not seen elsewhere.

We spend another night in Ankara, giving us time to get caught up on some maintenance activities such as laundry... (!)

Overnight with breakfast

Ankara

with dinner

Day 6 04 December Ankara – Cappadocia/ Nevsehir

In modern day Ankara there is also evidence of an ancient Phrygian settlement, called Ancyra. In 24 BCE this ancient city, Ancyra, became part of the Roman Empire. It was visited by the Emperor Augustus in 20 BCE when King Pylamenes of Galatia built the Temple of Augustus in honour of this visit. On the inside of the temple the *monumentum ancyranum* inscription is found. This inscription contains the *Res Gestae* (acts/accomplishments) of the Emperor Augustus. The inscription was put up in the temple in 14 BCE as a summary of what the emperor had accomplished during his reign. It is a privilege indeed to be in the position to see the physical evidence of such a well-known text. We will also visit the Roman Baths built in honour of Asclepius, the god of medicine.

In Ankara we cannot miss one of its most imposing sites: the Mausoleum of Attatürk, one of the most revered of Turkey’s former leaders.

In the afternoon we drive to Cappadocia, one of the most rugged and inaccessible regions in Turkey. We visit the Göreme valley & open air museum, a UNESCO world Heritage Site. This valley contains a vast number of chapels, monasteries and under-ground cities cut-out in rock. Many of the churches display wonderful Byzantine frescoes with scenes from both the Old and the

around the top of the theatre to provide weather proofing, can seat 12 000 spectators. The theatre, still used today, is known for its excellent acoustics. The site itself, including the aqueduct (built around 100 CE), is beautifully located on the Euromedion (now Körprülü) River – a true gem.

Overnight with breakfast

Antalya

with dinner

Day 10 08 December Antalya - Fethiye

Today we visit a number of smaller sites all very close together: Phaselis, Myra (near Demre), Patara, Xanthos, Tlos and Telmessos (Fethiye).

Phaselis is a small ancient city on a peninsula with three beautiful bays, now protected in a national park. It used to be an ancient port city from where especially rose oil and perfumes were exported, as well as timber from the forests surrounding the area. We can walk down the ancient main street and still see some baths, an agora and a beautiful theatre as well.

Myra (near Demre), once the ancient city of Lycia, was situated in the mountains between what is now Antalya and Fethiye. To honour their dead, the Lycians cut hundreds of tombs into the surrounding cliffs. These tombs take on many different forms. They look like homes; they sit on pillars; they represent temples. The interesting point is that we have a very good idea what a Lycian city must have looked like, since the tombs reflect city architecture so closely. What we see in the cliff faces that have been cut out, is typical of buildings made of wood. Since wood disintegrates, we have very few ancient wooden constructions still extant. These cliff cut dwellings resemble the wooden originals very closely. This means that the Lycian tombs represent a unique opportunity to see what a typical city built in wood (not marble) would have looked like in ancient times.

Patara was once the major port of the Lycian League. The triple vaulted Arch of Modestos still greets the traveler who approaches the city from the beach. Close to the Modestos arch, is the Harbour Bath, one of the four public baths of Patara. Since the city was a harbour, Emperor Hadrian had a granary built – a huge building 75 x 25 metres, carefully divided into different sections. The city's amphitheatre is believed to be one of the biggest in Anatolia.

Xanthos-Letoon is one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in Turkey as indicated by its UNESCO world heritage classification. Xanthos was the capital city of the Lycian Federation and Letoon was its sacred cult centre. It is also a spectacularly beautiful natural site with magnificent views of the Tauros mountains in the distance.

Tlos was one of the six principal Lycian cities. It was known by the Romans as 'the very brilliant metropolis' of the Lycian people. Today we can still view the remains of baths, a stadium, a market hall and a temple-like tomb of 'Bellerephon', but it is the spectacular location of the site, especially with its views from its acropolis, that makes this site a must-see. "A grander site for a great city could scarcely have been selected in all Lycia" was the verdict of the 19th century explorer who rediscovered the site in 1838.

Fethiye has usurped the location of ancient **Telmessos**, whose citizens had the good sense to capitulate immediately when Alexander (the Great) demanded the city's surrender. In this way the citizen's of Telmessos managed not to suffer loss of life or any destruction of property. Unfortunately natural causes destroyed much of the city. However, the location was so appealing that the site was resettled over and over again. Not much of the ancient city remains, but on the eastern cliff of the acropolis lies the magnificent rock tomb of Amyntas. This tomb built in the 4th century BCE and visible from every point in the city, has become the symbol of the modern Fethiye.

Overnight with breakfast

Fethiye

with dinner

Day 11 09 December Fethiye - Datcha

Today we spend on the **Datcha peninsula**. This peninsula lies at the point where the Mediterranean and the Aegean meet. At the western tip of the peninsula lies ancient **Knidos**, once one of the most prosperous ports of the ancient world. The port was the site of a shrine of Aphrodite, dating from about 360 BCE. We can still see the remains of a theatre, agora, houses and a round temple. The harbour offers a magnificent view of both the Mediterranean and the

Day 17 15 December Istanbul

We cannot leave Istanbul without going on a trip on the Bosphorus. We will do so in the morning so that we have every opportunity to enjoy the splendid views of the city from the water. We hope to have our “fair well lunch” at a fish restaurant on the Bosphorus. In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to see the magnificent Archaeological Museum, adjacent to the wonderful Topkapi palace.

Overnight dinner and breakfast on the plane

Day 18 16 December Cape Town

We arrive back in Cape Town after a wonderful tour of some of the best sites in Turkey. See the map below to get a rough idea of which areas in Turkey our tour will have covered and what parts we would have sampled of one of the most diverse and fascinating countries in the world.

Bon Voyage!





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Dates: 29 November – 16 December 2013

Costs

Land arrangements	Euro1 850-00 per person sharing (Minimum of 30 participants)
Single supplement	Euro 450-00 per person
Plus	
Flight (Cape Town)	±R4 500-00 per person (2013 prices not available yet)

INCLUDED

Flights Cape Town/ Istanbul/ Cape Town with Turkish Airlines
Buffet breakfast with lunch OR dinner per day
Qualified guide
Air conditioned luxury tour bus
All entrance fees
Accommodation in four star hotels

EXCLUDED

Insurance ±R550 if under 70 at the time of travel
Items of a personal nature
Optional culture evening and optional balloon ride (weather permitting) in Cappadocia
Airport taxes ±R3600

GENERAL

PRICE IS SUBJECT TO CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS, INCREASES, SIZE OF THE GROUP AND FLIGHT SCHEDULES UNTIL FINAL PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY SEAGULL TOURS INTERNATIONAL. PLEASE NOTE NO CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CAN BE ACCEPTED. IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEAGULL TOURS TO FIND A TRAVEL COMPANION AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS WILL APPLY IF YOU CANNOT FIND ONE.

This is a tour conceptualised by the Department of Ancient Studies of the University of Stellenbosch and organised in conjunction with Seagull who is responsible for all the practical arrangements. It is a departmental tour for students, former students, staff and friends of the department. Please contact Dr Sjarlene Thom, Department of Ancient Studies, at st@sun.ac.za to get your name on the list and to obtain an electronic booking form. Don't miss this opportunity of a life-time!
