

## Istanbul and Gallipoli 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### Proposed Itinerary

**Day 1** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – leave on flight BA 676 from Heathrow at 10.30, arriving in Istanbul 16.20. We will be met by our tour leader Emin Saatçi who will be with us throughout the trip. Our coach takes us straight to the Four Seasons Hotel in the Sultanahmet. 8.30 Dinner at a nearby restaurant - included.

**Day 2** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30 Vedat, our local guide will take us to **Yerebatan Sarayi** – Basilica Cistern. This feat of engineering was commissioned by the Emperor Justinian in AD532 to serve the growing needs of his now vanished Great Palace. Next we will explore Justinian's magnificent **Church of Hagia Sophia** – Holy Wisdom -consecrated in AD537. The interior was designed as an 'earthly mirror of the heavens' and never fails to astonish. We continue our walk to the **Hippodrome** – centre of Emperor Constantine's (AD324-337) new capital of the Roman Empire. Visit to former palace of Süleyman's most gifted vizier, Ibrahim Pasha, who married the Sultan's sister Hatice Sultan. It now houses the **Museum of Islamic Art** which has a particularly fine collection of rugs dating as far back as 13<sup>th</sup> century. We also visit the newly restored Church of **SS. Sergius and Bacchus** – known as Little Hagia Sophia beg. by Justinian and Theodora in 527 and later converted into a mosque. After lunch we drive across Galata Bridge for tour of **Beyoğlu**, originally given to the Genoese in 1261 who built the Galata Tower. We will enjoy the spectacular panoramic view over Istanbul from the top of the **Tower**.

**Day 4** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30 Walk to nearby **Archeological Museum**. By coach to visit **Rüstem Pasha Mosque** with its fine Iznik tiles followed by visit to the **Spice Market**. Coach to Golden Horn. If possible, visit 12<sup>th</sup>c. Church of the Pantocrator (now Zeyrek Camii) followed by visit to the **Church of St. Saviour in Chora** now a museum, which has the finest

surviving programme of Byzantine mosaics and frescoes. Lunch in a nearby restaurant – (Asitane) followed by a visit to **Eyüp** – a place of pilgrimage for Muslims all over the world. Return by coach along the 6<sup>th</sup> c. **Theodosian Walls** which extend from the Golden Horn to the Sea of Marmara. Optional visit to the **Blue Mosque** and return to Hotel

**Day 4** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30 by tram to Eminönü where we board our private boat which will take us up the **Bosphorus**. We will drift past the **Dolmabahçe Palace** built in 1856. Our first stop will be for a tour of the **Beylerbeyi Palace**, built by Sultan Abdulmecid between 1861-65. We will float past the great fort of Rumeli Hisari to Rumeli Fener where the Bosphorus meets the Black Sea. **Lunch** at the excellent fish restaurant 'Kavak Doganay'. On our return journey stop for a visit at the beautiful wooden house which is now the **Sadberk Hanım Museum**. Coach to Grand Bazaar for optional visit – or return to our hotel.

**Day 5** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30 a.m. Leave for visit of magnificent **Topkapi Palace** including timed entry tickets to **Harem**. Lunch at 'Konyali' Restaurant with the best view of the confluence of the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. After lunch continue visit of Topkapi Palace. Rest of the afternoon time for shopping and packing.

**Day 6** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Leave hotel. By coach and ferry to **Iznik**. Visit **Tile and Aya Sofia Museums**. **Lunch** in Iznik. Continue to **Gallipoli** for two nights bed, breakfast and dinner.

**Day 7** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – All day guided tour of **Gallipoli Battlefield and Cemeteries**. Picnic lunch. Dinner in Hotel.

**Day 8** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Coach to Istanbul. **Lunch** at the unique fish restaurant 'Gelik'. 17.35 Flight to Heathrow, arr. 19.35.

**BA Flights**

Heathrow/Istanbul	5 <sup>th</sup> April	BA676	10.30/16.20
Istanbul/Heathrow	12 <sup>th</sup> April	BA677	17.35/19.35

<b>Price of Trip</b>	<b>£2,825.00</b>
Single Supplement	£1,000.00

**Included in the tour price:**

Turkish tour guide, as well as local guides for Istanbul and Gallipoli. Local coach transfers, 5 nights bed and breakfast at the Four Seasons Hotel in Istanbul and 2 nights half pension in Gallipoli. Porterage in both hotels. Three Dinners – one in Istanbul and two in Gallipoli - plus seven lunches with beer or wine (1/2 bottle), mineral water, coffee and tips, entry to museums and palaces on the itinerary. Before departure: folder with list of names of everybody on the trip, final itinerary, list of restaurants in Istanbul, historical introduction, list of dates.

**Not included in the price:**

Cost of Flights. Travel insurance, four dinners. Items of personal expenditure and gratuities for guides and driver. Fuel surcharges and Government levies or taxes introduced after booking.

**A reading list will be provided on booking.**

*There will be plenty of time for shopping. The Arasta Bazaar – a smaller version of the Grand Bazaar - is a short walk from the hotel.*