



WORLD MONUMENTS FUND
September 2011
Trip to Turkey

ITINERARY

As of May 3, 2011

Day 1 • Thursday, September 15

Arrive Istanbul

The day's activities will begin at 2 p.m.* when we will meet in the lobby of the Four Seasons Hotel Sultanhamet with Robert Ousterhout, Professor of Byzantine art and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Center for Ancient Studies. (Professor Ousterhout will be with us for the entire trip.) We will take a walking tour of nearby historical sites which represent the core of the Byzantine capital, Constantinople. The tour will include the Hippodrome, the Basilica Cistern, and other significant sites, finishing at the Ayasofya Museum. Originally known as Hagia Sophia or the Great Church of Emperor Justinian (532–537) and a unique architectural achievement in both its design and its engineering, it was converted to a mosque in 1453 by Mehmet the Conquer-



AYASOFYA

or, and transformed into a museum in 1930 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey. The Ayasofya Museum was on the World Monuments Watch list in 1996 and 1998.

After the walking tour, we will return to our hotel before regrouping for cocktails on the rooftop terrace of the Four Seasons. We will then have a casual welcome dinner at Sabahattin Fish Restaurant, a short walk from the hotel.

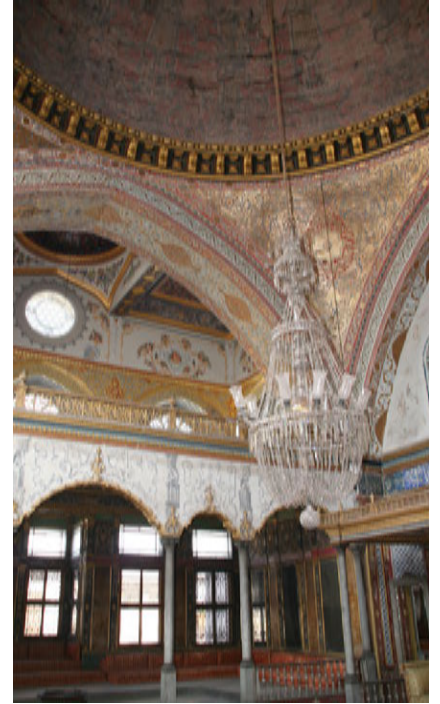
(Dinner)

* For those who are already in Istanbul, meet John in the lobby of the Four Seasons at noon and join him for an informal lunch, before the walking tour begins at 2 p.m.

Day 2 • Friday, September 16

Istanbul

After breakfast, we will visit the nearby Istanbul Archaeology Museum, which possesses one of the world's greatest archeological collections and is a great introduction to the Byzantine city of Istanbul. Founded in the late nineteenth century by Osman Hamdi Bey, the Ottoman statesman, intellectual, archaeologist, and painter, the Istanbul Archaeology Museum was the first archaeological museum in Turkey. Professor Ousterhout will discuss the exhibit, "Istanbul through the Ages." Next we will visit the Topkapı Palace, which was the royal residence of the Ottoman Sultans for more than 400 years, and have a tour of the Harem and Treasury Sections there. Lunch will be served at the restaurant in the Palace.



TOPKAPI PALACE

After lunch, we will walk down Kadirga Street to visit the Sokollu Mehmed Paşa Complex, built by the great Ottoman architect, Mimar Sinan. Then we will visit the recently restored Küçük Ayasofya Camii (formerly Church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus, also known as "Little Hagia Sophia"), now a mosque. Built by Justinian between 527 and 536, the Küçük Ayasofya Camii is the oldest continuously functioning religious site in the city. It was listed on the 2002, 2004, and 2006 World Monuments Watch. Our next stop, nearby, will be Sokollu Mehmed Pasa Camii, a sixteenth-century mosque designed by Mimar Sinan and notable for its architecturally challenging location on a steep slope. Along the way, we will stop at the Eresin Crown Hotel to see Byzantine remains.

Then we will board a coach and drive along the City Walls, which date back to the fifth century. Built by Theodosius II, the walls were continuously restored throughout the Byzantine period. Along the way we will also pass the "Golden Gate" through which the victorious Byzantine armies made their triumphal entry into the city, and the Edirne Gate, site of the Ottoman conquest of the city in 1453. We will visit the Kariye Museum (formerly the



MOSAIC AT THE KARIYE MUSEUM

Church of Christ in the Chora Monastery), one of the oldest monasteries in the city. Listed on the 2004 World Monuments Watch, the church was rebuilt and lavishly decorated in the early fourteenth century, converted into a mosque during the Ottoman era, became a museum in the mid-twentieth century, and presently houses some of the finest examples of

Byzantine mosaics and frescoes in the city.

Dinner will be at a private home *yali* (a restored wooden house on the Asian shore of the Bosphorus.)

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 3 • Saturday, September 17

Istanbul

After breakfast we will board a coach and travel to Rüstem Paşa Mosque in Eminönü, famous for its interior tiles from the sixteenth century. After visiting the Mosque,



THE VIEW FROM BEYOĞLU

we will stroll through the alleys of the Mısır Çarşısı (the Spice Market). Next we will visit the Süleymaniye Camii, the second-largest mosque in the city, and one of the best-known sights in Istanbul. We will visit this recently restored sixteenth century masterpiece, which was built on the order of Sultan Süleyman I (“the Magnificent”) and designed by Sinan. From there, we will take a short walk to the restaurant for lunch.

After lunch we will visit the Grand Bazaar for a short stroll and a chance to do some shopping. There is then the option to continue shopping (for those who wish to) or return to the hotel to rest and relax before the late afternoon activities and dinner to follow.

In the late afternoon we will visit the Beyoğlu district located across the inlet known as the Golden Horn (and from the Middle Ages through the early twentieth century commonly referred to as “Pera” meaning “the other side.”) This district flourished in the nineteenth century with the settlement of foreign missions and embassies and feels more like a European city than a Turkish one. Here we will meet Professor Scott Redford, Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Koç University. He is also the Director of Koç University’s new Center for Anatolian Studies in Istanbul and he will be with us on our tour of Eastern Turkey later in the trip. Professor Redford will give us a brief introduction to the center and then we will conclude the afternoon with drinks on the terrace of the center. We will have dinner in the Beyoğlu District, also known as Pera.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 • Sunday, September 18

Istanbul/Cappadocia (Nevşehir and Göreme)

We will check out of the Four Seasons Hotel for a morning flight to Nevşehir. Upon arrival we will set off on the day’s tour, traveling via coach into the Göreme National Park. An open-air museum is at the center of a large monastic settlement, where we will see the well-preserved rock-hewn Byzantine churches and monasteries, such as Karanlık Kilise (Dark Church) and Tokalı Kilise (Buckle Church). These structures date from the 10th and eleventh centuries and preserve distinctive fresco decoration. UNESCO and the Turkish government have sponsored restorations at these sites.

Just outside the national park, our next stop will be the eleventh-century Meryem Ana Kilisesi (Church of the Virgin Mary), a 2008 World Monuments Watch site. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, and we will check in to our hotel, the Argos in Cappadocia Hotel, in Uchisar, in the late afternoon, followed by sunset cocktails on the terrace of the recently restored Sarıca Church.



MERYEM ANA KILISESİ

Built in the eleventh century, Sarıca Church was recently awarded the Europa Nostra prize, which celebrates exemplary conservation projects in Europe. We will then have dinner at Gül Konkakları, a restored mansion in nearby Sinasos. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 5 • Monday, September 19

Cappadocia (Göreme, Paşabağı, Çavuşin, Sivrihisar, and Güzelyurt)

For those who wish to do so, begin the day with a hot-air balloon ride for a birds-eye view of Cappadocia and once-in-a-lifetime experience! (Note: this will require a 6 a.m. departure from the hotel and there is an additional fee for this activity.)

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel and then take a short walk around the Avcılar district of Göreme, where we will visit the Durmuş Kadır Kilisesi, a three-aisled basilica from the sixth century. Next we will travel by coach to explore the Valley of the Swords, including, if possible, a visit to the Kılıçlar Kilise (Church of the Swords), with exquisite frescoes that date from the tenth centuries, now under restoration.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will visit the monastic hermitages in Paşabağı and, time permitting, the Church of Nikephoros Phokas in Çavuşin, built, according to its inscription, between 965 and 969. We will continue driving along the old Silk Road to Güzelyurt (formerly Gelveri), stopping briefly to visit the Ağzıkarahan caravanserai, which dates from the thirteenth century. One of many caravan palaces built by the Seljuk



RED CHURCH

Turks along major routes of transportation, the complex provided accommodations and amenities for merchants and others traveling through the region.

Upon arriving in Güzelyurt, we will check in at the Karballa Hotel, a charmingly restored nineteenth-century school for girls. After check-in we will make a sunset visit to the Kızıl Kilise (the Red Church) in nearby Sivrihisar, a distinctive domed church of the sixth century built of red stone, and a 2008 World Monuments Watch site. We will then return to the hotel for dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 • Tuesday, September 20

Cappadocia (Güzelyurt)/Ankara

There will be an optional early-morning walk through old town, followed by a visit to the Church of St. Gregory Nazianzenus, a Byzantine church rebuilt in the nineteenth century that once housed the relics of the saint.



DIVAN ÇUKURHAN

We will check out of hotel at 10 a.m. and depart for Ankara, enjoying a light picnic lunch en route. After a mid-afternoon arrival in Ankara, we will visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which houses one of the finest archaeological collections in all of Turkey. Housed in a fifteenth-century caravanserai and covered bazaar that was constructed under the reign of Mehmet the Conqueror, the museum contains a remarkable record of every civilization that passed through Anatolia, beginning with artifacts that are believed to date from the Paleolithic Age.

From there, we will check in at our hotel, Divan Çukurhan, a boutique hotel housed in a traditional Anatolian caravanserai that was built in 1522, followed by dinner at Cengal Han, a restored caravanserai and site of the Rahmi Koç Museum.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 • Wednesday, September 21

Ankara/Erzurum and Yusufeli

We will have an early-morning check-out and then travel by coach to the airport for a flight to Erzurum, arriving mid-morning.

Upon arrival, we will be joined by professor Redford, and will then have a short visit to the Çifte Minareli Medrese in Erzurum. Built as a theological school in the thirteenth century, it takes its name, Twin Minaret Madrasa, from the two fluted minarets that crown the monumental façade. We will then sample the local meat specialty, çağ kebab, at a nearby restaurant.

After lunch, we will travel by coach into the Tao-Klarjeti region, part of the medieval Georgian kingdom and noted for its dramatic, deeply carved mountain valleys and unique medieval architecture. We will then make a visit to the Oshki Monastery, the most important Georgian royal foundation of the late tenth century, and Ishan, a lavishly



ÇIFTE MINARELI MEDRESI

decorated Georgian cathedral completed in 1032.

We will continue via coach to the town of Yusufeli. Upon arrival, we will check into the Barcelona Hotel, where we will also have dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 • Thursday, September 22

Yusufeli/ Kars

We will check out of the Barcelona Hotel and travel via coach to Kars. Upon arrival, we will check in to our hotel,



ANI CATHEDRAL

the recently built Büyük Kale Hotel, and then set off via coach for our afternoon excursion to Ani, a medieval capital of Armenia. Known for its breathtaking scenery and spectacular architecture, Ani was listed on the World Monuments Watch in 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. We will enjoy a picnic lunch en route to Ani. Upon arriving in Ani, we will walk along the southern route to visit the Church of the Redeemer; St. Gregory of Tigran Honetz, currently under restoration; the Ani Cathedral, a WMF project built by the architect Trdat at the end of the tenth century; and finally the Seljuk Mosque.

We will return to the hotel and have dinner at a local restaurant.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 • Friday, September 23

Kars and Ani/Istanbul

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel and travel via coach for a morning excursion back to Ani, where we will walk the northern route and visit the Palace, St. Gregory of Gagik, the Church of St. Gregory Abugamrentz, the Church of the Holy Apostles, and the Citadel.



ST. GREGORY OF GAGIK, ANI



ST. GREGORY ABUGAMRENTZ, ANI

We will have lunch at a local restaurant on the way to the Kars airport and take a 2:45 p.m. flight back to Istanbul, arriving at around 5 p.m.

Upon arrival in Istanbul, we will transfer to the Four Seasons Hotel and gather for a farewell dinner.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 10 • Saturday, September 24

Istanbul

We will transfer to the airport and return home.