

'TURKISH DELIGHTS!'

Our Music-Lovers Tour to Exotic Turkey

PRESENTED BY OPERATIF - OPERA, SONG & MUSICAL TRAVEL

22nd May - 16th June, 2015
- 20 NIGHTS IN TURKEY
- 2 STOP-OVERS IN DUBAI WITH CRUISE
- 4 STAR HOTELS OF CHARACTER & CHARM
- EXPERT TOUR LEADER



*"Oh East is East and West is West
and never the twain shall meet"*

Rudyard Kipling (*..except in Istanbul!*)

TURKISH DELIGHTS

22nd May to 16th June

Spend 3 wonderful weeks indulging in the varied delights of fascinating Turkey. We fly Emirates A-380s from all capitals with Dubai stop-overs. Our tour features Western and Traditional music, incredible ancient sites, stunning landscapes, mosques, palaces, bustling bazaars and more! There is too much to cover in this Overview but a full day-by-day Itinerary is issued to you well before departure. You will dine on the best of Turkish cuisine, enjoy marvellous cultural displays, see amazing things and have lots of fun!



Join Jennifer, Stewart and their expert tour director / guide on this 4 star tour of a life-time.

Join like-minded, fellow-travellers on this truly memorable exploration of exotic Turkey

TOUR INCLUDES

Emirates Flights * 20 Nights in Turkey
* Dubai stop-overs * Performance tickets * All scheduled entries * Daily buffet breakfast * 10 x dinners and 1 x Lunch, all with wine * All tips paid by us * Professional Tour Director and Guide * Hosted by Jennifer & Stewart

TOUR COST

For Twin-share, Single Supplement, Business Class, Delayed Return or 'Land only' options please contact us.

CALL US NOW...

or submit an enquiry form on our website. Secure your place with a completed Booking Form and deposit of \$2,250. (2 part-payments will be invoiced before February)
Only 30 places available.

PHONE - 1300 308 385

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

We leave Australia in the early evening and arrive into Dubai early morning. With immediate hotel check-in you've time to shower and unwind before we meet to enjoy a fabulous lunch on our chartered French Bateau boat, cruising along the Dubai Creek. Arriving in Istanbul the next day, we meet our Tour Director and head to Lake Sapanca to spend the night relaxing in our lovely lake-side resort. It's then off to Turkey's capital, Ankara, in central Anatolia to visit the Ataturk Museum and Mausoleum, dedicated to Turkey's great wartime leader, Kamal Ataturk. This truly fascinating and forward-thinking man is still revered by the Turks as the 'father' of modern Turkey. We visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisation and learn about the region's former inhabitants, before heading to Cappadocia to see



first-hand the way they lived. Cappadocia is known for its moonscape land forms, (as seen in the Star Wars movies!) especially the tall, tufa 'chimneys,' which were ready-made homes for many ancient peoples. We visit these cone houses as well as cave dwellings and the incredible Underground City of Dirinkuyu, a labyrinth of rooms and passages carved some eight floors below ground level! It was used by 6th C. Christians to hide from their persecutors,

often for many months and is one of many that have been discovered. Our base will be the little town of Goreme, where we'll sleep in a luxury cave hotel! We visit the Agzikarahan Cervansersai, a resting place on the old Silk Road, the monastic valley of Pasabagi and the local Carpet co-op where we see the various styles and techniques of Turkish rug making. There is free time in Goreme too, to browse the local shops, indulge in wonderful dips and hot crusty bread, even float over the moonscape in a scenic hot-air balloon. We'll see a colourful Turkish music and dance performance too! Our next stop is Konya to see the Mevlana Monastery & Museum and learn about Saint Rumi, the founder of the famous order of the Mevlevi (Whirling) Dervishes. We'll even attend an authentic Sema religious ceremony and witness first-hand, the entranced devotees twirling in their big, billowing coats, buoyed by song and music. From Konya we drive to the spa town of Pamukkale to 'take the waters' at our thermal hotel. We visit Hierapolis with its spectacular white silica terraces and pools, formed over 14,000 years by the steady flow of calcium-rich thermal water. It's then time for a change of pace and the sea-side resort town of Kusadasi. En route to the coast is Aphrodisias an important centre for arts where we'll see marvellous marble statues and the world's largest classic arena seating 30,000! Our lovely Kusadasi hotel is right on the waterfront



making it easy to pop out and shop, enjoy a fresh seafood dinner or just stroll along the promenade. There will be free time to walk over to Bird Island and see the castle and museum, visit the old central markets, take a ride on a traditional Turkish boat (gulet), or just sip a drink and watch the stunning array of cruise ships and sailing vessels. Our rooms will have views of the Aegean Sea and islands. A highpoint here will be a tour of the magnificent ancient city of Ephesus, once home to 300,000 people. It boasts a 24,000 seat amphitheatre, still used today for performances. There are terrace houses, a library, bath houses and the Temple of Artemis. We then visit the House of the Virgin Mary where Mary was believed to have lived her last days. A great day out will be spent in the pretty, historic village of Sirince, surrounded by hills of olive groves, peach trees and vineyards. Here you can enjoy lunch among picturesque 19th C. houses and browse the many wine shops, cafes, bars and gift shops along the cobbled streets. Leaving Kusadasi we make our way to Assos (Berham) and stay at a former fishing village Caravanserei, now a hotel. En route we visit the incredible ancient city of Pergamum and explore the Acropolis. (Parchment paper was invented here and there was once a library housing some 200,000 volumes!). In Assos you will have free time to explore this



jewel before we visit the magnificent 6th C Doric Temple of Athena. We'll visit it at twilight, the best time to see it, standing in its commanding position, over-looking the ocean as the sun sets.... Magic! From Assos, we head to Canakkale a port city on the Dardanelles, literally our launching pad for Gallipoli. Here you've the afternoon to visit the excellent Naval Museum or just enjoy exploring. We've an early morning ferry ride across the

Dardanelles before, with our expert guide, we take a moving tour of the various Gallipoli sites and memorials and the new museum. This will be a profound experience and one we know will stay with you. Our respects paid to so many young men, on both sides, we board our coach mid-afternoon and head to our final destination, the exhilarating city of Istanbul! Here we will spend 5 magical nights, sleeping with the artifacts in our unique and luxurious museum hotel with it's roof-top terrace. There are many highlights in Istanbul...We'll catch some of the Istanbul International Music Festival, dine in a couple of top restaurants, see the incredible Roman Underground Cistern, the Sultan Ahmet Cami (Blue Mosque), the vibrant and colourful Grand Bazaar, built in 1457, where Stewart will teach you to 'haggle' Turkish-style for those treasures and goodies to take home! We will take a cruise on the Bosphorus, joining the many and varied craft crossing this busy waterway from Asia to Europe, as we sail past stunning palaces, landmarks and mosques. We'll tour the very



opulent 19th century Dolmabahce Palace and the former home of the great Sultans, Topkapi Palace, with its intriguing Harem, kitchens and many varied treasures. Other highlights are the Suleiman Mosque, the Spice Bazaar, the Obelisk, the Hippodrome and the magnificent Hagia Sofia, a place of worship constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great. It's huge dome still confounds architects today. Standing for so long, Hagia Sofia has been a cathedral, a mosque and now a museum. You'll have a free day in Istanbul, perhaps



take the long ferry cruise further up the Bosphorus to Anadolu Kavagli, a popular little town right near the mouth of the Black Sea where you can explore the quaint streets or have a long, fresh seafood lunch. Arriving back in Dubai after our amazing tour of Turkey, we check in to our hotel with views of 'The Creek' from your room. After a good night's sleep you've a free day to explore Dubai. Rest, shop in a sparkling mall, walk to the gold and spice souks right near our hotel...there's lots to see. The

next morning we fly back to our homes in Australia, arriving early on the 16th June. We'll be brimming with new knowledge, exotic purchases, friendships made and of course, marvellous memories to treasure always!

We hope you will join us on this never-to-be-forgotten Turkish adventure !