

# Turkey

## Crossroads of Continents & Cultures

### September 22 to October 6, 2013



**Back by popular demand**, we return to Turkey in 2013 after a sold out and most successful trip in 2012. This vast and beautiful country, spanning Europe and Asia, is often considered the cradle of civilization. Our journey takes us from Istanbul in the west to Urfa in southeast Anatolia as we see sites of infinite variety from elaborate mosques and palaces to natural wonders and archaeological marvels. You will enjoy the comfort and luxury of top hotels in each location.

Beginning in vibrant **Istanbul** for five nights, we explore Byzantine and Ottoman treasures, including: St. Sophia Church, a 6<sup>th</sup> century Basilica, one of the largest in its time, later a magnificent mosque; the Hippodrome, one of the largest chariot race grounds; the Blue Mosque with its famous six minarets and interior covered with decorative blue Iznik tiles; the fabulous Topkapi Palace, once an imperial residence; and the Grand Covered Bazaar with over 4,000 shops, cafes and tea houses. We relax while cruising the Bosphorus and learn the secrets of delicious Turkish cuisine at a culinary school.

The next stop is the pilgrimage town of **Sanliurfa**, City of the Prophets. Highlights include Gölbäşi ('at the lakeside') to view pools of sacred carp, and the Husep Castle. From Sanliurfa, we visit **Göbekli Tepe**, a recently discovered Neolithic temple site dating to 9000 BCE. At **Mount Nemrut**, we come nose to nose with the gigantic heads of gods and goddesses, built by Antiochus dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE. These statues are often called the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World. We travel to **Gaziantep** to visit the new Archaeological Museum and gaze at the charismatic Gypsy Girl, the Mona Lisa of Anatolia.

We fly to the magical region of **Cappadocia** to explore the moonscape "fairy chimneys", and hike along the paths of **Goreme's** UNESCO Open Air Museum with its cave churches and primitive 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century biblical frescoes. We walk through the **Zelve** Open Air Museum, a true journey into the past, with its cave dwellings and early

monastic settlements. Visits to the pottery town of Avanos and a Whirling Dervishes show are also part of the itinerary.

We then fly to **Izmir** to explore its ruins and modern multicultural precincts. We continue to **Kusadasi** on the Aegean coast for 3 nights. From here we spend a day at the incredible site of **Ephesus**, a veritable cradle of early Christianity and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We also take a scenic drive to **Miletus**, a principal Ionian city visited twice by St. Paul, and continue to **Didyma** to admire the Temple of Apollo with its gigantic columns.



### Tour Itinerary and Hotels

<b>Days 1-5</b>	<b>Istanbul</b> Grand Hyatt Hotel
<b>Days 6-8</b>	<b>Sanliurfa (Urfa)</b> Hilton Garden Inn
<b>Days 9-11</b>	<b>Cappadocia</b> Alfina Hotel
<b>Days 12-14</b>	<b>Kusadasi</b> Charisma Hotel
<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Depart for home</b>

### ROM Resource Person

**Trinity Jackman** is a Toronto-based archaeologist and historian. She received her PhD in Classical Archaeology from Stanford University and has taught at Columbia and York. Trinity has excavated Bronze Age and Classical sites in Turkey, Sicily and Cyprus.

She can also be seen in many of the educational videos in the ROM's Roman and Byzantine Galleries. Her current research focuses on the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire and the motivations for large-scale religious conversions. Trinity fell in love with Turkey in the late-1990s when she participated in the excavations at Miletus. She has returned to Turkey many times and looks forward to sharing the country's rich archaeological history, fascinating contemporary culture and delicious cuisine with ROMtravel participants.

### ROMtravel Coordinator

**Yolande Baldachin** is a former Chair of the ROM's Volunteer Docent Committee. She recently led ROMtravel trips to Turkey, Egypt and Brazil, and several ROMbus trips in Ontario. Yolande comes from the Middle East, travels extensively and speaks several languages.

### Tour Escort

**Nihat Mercan**, Operational Manager, Stellar Travel, hails from Turkey where he trained as a guide before moving to Canada. He speaks Turkish fluently, and is familiar with the sites and cities we will be visiting.

<b>Land Only Cost</b>	
<b>Double Occupancy</b>	<b>\$7,150</b>
<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>\$1,320</b>

**Excludes international flights.**  
**Includes local flights.**  
**Tour begins and ends at Atatürk airport.**  
**This trip involves considerable walking,**  
**often on uneven surfaces.**

### Photos

- Suleymaniye Mosque, Istanbul, courtesy Yolande Baldachin
- Gypsy Girl Mosaic, Gaziantep, courtesy Katy Ginn
- Library, Ephesus, courtesy Phil Leavitt

# Terms & Conditions

## Turkey – Crossroads of Continents & Cultures

### September 22 – October 6, 2013

#### Tour Cost

**Twin Sharing:** \$7,150 per person

**Single Supplement:** \$1,320

**Tour cost does not include international flight costs to/from Turkey.**

Stellar Travel Inc. can assist with booking flights.

#### Tour Cost Includes

- Local flights: Istanbul / Urfa; Gaziantep / Cappadocia; Cappadocia / Izmir; Izmir / Istanbul.
- Ground transfers to/from Atatürk Airport for those travelling on the same flights as the Tour Escort .
- Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person.
- Ground transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned bus for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Mini-buses for Mount Nemrut climb.
- Shared accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities.
- Meals: breakfast daily; 4 lunches; 11 dinners including welcome and farewell dinners with wine; culinary course and meal.
- Coffee, tea and bottled water with included meals.
- Bottled water daily on the bus.
- All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.
- All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes; all airport taxes and security fees.
- Services of a ROMtravel Coordinator, ROM Resource Person, Stellar Travel Tour Escort and professional English-speaking local guide(s).
- Pre-trip orientations, a travel handbook, and a post-trip reunion.
- Turkish Tourist Visa fee for Canadian and US passport holders.

#### Not Included

- Items of a personal nature, e.g. laundry, telephone calls, internet.
- Excess baggage.
- Beverages not included with meals.
- International airfare; trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance.

#### Costs

All prices quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of December 20, 2012. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should tour costs increase, Stellar Travel Inc. (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the price accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Note that the itinerary may be subject to change without notice.

#### ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. Individual annual membership is \$97; family annual membership is \$149 (if both partners join the tour, only one needs to be a member). Non-resident family annual membership (outside L/M postal zones) is \$102. Prices are subject to change without notice.

#### Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$900.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Optional trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance, and single supplement of \$1,320.00 are also payable at this time. A second deposit of \$1,500 per person is due on February 1, 2013. The remaining balance of \$4,750.00 is due on June 22, 2013.

#### Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

#### Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made. Stellar Travel Inc. and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

#### Cancellations

If a confirmed participant must cancel, all cancellations must be received in writing at Stellar Travel Inc. Cancellation charges will be as follows:

Up to January 31, 2013: initial deposit is 100% non-refundable.  
February 1 to June 22, 2013: initial and second deposits are non-refundable.  
June 23, 2013 to departure date: 100% of tour cost is non-refundable.

Optional trip cancellation insurance, if purchased, may reimburse some or all non-refundable amounts. No refund will be issued for unused services. No claim or refund will be considered unless submitted in writing and received by Stellar Travel Inc. within 30 days of the termination of the tour.

#### Documents

A passport valid for six (6) months after the return is required. Neither Stellar Travel nor ROMtravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents.

#### ROMtravel Values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the Trip Handbook unless you advise NOT to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMtravel and the Travel Agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

#### Insurance

Comprehensive insurance to afford protection against penalties caused by cancellation of trip due to injury, illness or death of tour participant or member of participant's family is recommended. It is underwritten by RBC Insurance. The insurance premium is non-refundable and must be submitted at time of deposit. A waiver will be necessary if insurance is not taken. HST is included in the quoted prices. The rates quoted below are subject to change until insurance policy is issued.

Based on shared accommodation			Based on single accommodation		
Age	Comprehensive	Non-Medical	Age	Comprehensive	Non-Medical
To 59	\$448	\$390	To 59	\$504	\$446
60-64	\$564	\$458	60-64	\$634	\$529
65-69	\$657	\$529	65-69	\$741	\$613
70-74	\$962	\$607	70-74	\$1,058	\$706

For those aged 75 and over, or for other coverage, please contact Nihat Mercan at Stellar Travel at 416.596.6886 ext 205 or 1.888.596.6886.

#### Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the tour, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this tour however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the tour. The applicant by applying to join the tour hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

#### Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Stellar Travel Inc. and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any tour, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor Stellar Travel Inc. nor any affiliated or subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Stellar Travel Inc. and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors.

**Stellar Travel Inc.**  
**Ontario Registration #: 50015769**

**Organized by ROMtravel for**  
**The Department of Museum Volunteers**  
**Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Canada**

The Department of Museum Volunteers' ROMtravel Program was established to provide superior quality tour opportunities for members and to generate income for the Royal Ontario Museum.

#### For further information, contact:

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