



**Adventurous Eastern  
Turkey  
8 Sept 2019**



**TOUR PROGRAM – LAND PACKAGE**

Day 1	Monday 9 Sept 2019	Istanbul - Hatay	Journey from Istanbul to Hatay. Dinner & briefing at Hotel. Anemon Hatay Hotel – 4* (D)
Day 2	Tuesday 10 Sept 2019	Hatay (Antakya)	Following an early breakfast at the hotel we will proceed to Antioch-on-the Orontes, a city thought to have been founded in 300 BC. Due to its geographical position, Antioch (or present-day Antakya) became a meeting pot of Hellenistic and Oriental worlds. Our first stop, the Antioch Museum, has a superb collection of mosaics found in Antioch, Daphne and Seleucia Pieria. St Peter's Grotto, next on our itinerary, is a cave church known as the meeting place of the early Christians. Nearby Daphne has been claimed to be one of the places where Paris chose Aphrodite as the "most beautiful" among the goddesses. Our next stop, Seleucia Pieria, was the port city of Antioch. St. Paul and Barnabas sailed to Salamis from here. The two rock tombs and the Tunnel of Titus will be our highlights. Afternoon at leisure. Anemon Hatay Hotel – 4* (B, D)
Day 3	Wednesday 11 Sept 2019	Antakya – Urfa (Sanliurfa) 350 kms	After an early breakfast, we proceed to Sanliufa (commonly referred to as Urfa). An important stage on the "Fertile Crescent" route from the Mediterranean shore to Upper Mesopotamia, Urfa saw the rival armies pass beneath her walls. Tradition has it that Abraham stopped here on his way to Ur in the land of Canaan or that he was born at the mosque of Halil Rahman which will be one of the highlights. See here the Lake of Sacred Fish. Dedeman Hotel Urfa 4* (B, D)

Day 4	Thursday 12 Sept 2019	Urfa – Adiyaman or Kahta 114 kms	On our way to Adiyaman from Urfa this morning, we will stop by Harran, referred to in Genesis (XI, 31,32; XII, 4,5) as Charan. Among the ruins we shall visit are the Citadel, the Grand Mosque and the city walls. Visit <a href="#">Gobekli Tepe</a> before travelling on to Kahta. Time to explore the town before dinner and overnight. Nemrut Kervansaray Hotel 3* (B, D)
Day 5	Friday 13 Sept 2019	Adiyaman or Kahta – Diyarbakir 205 kms	We leave very early in the morning for <a href="#">Mt. Nemrut</a> . Sunrise from the top of Mount Nemrut will be incomparable to anything you have seen before. This is where King Antiochus I of Commagene built a colossal funerary sanctuary, a temple dedicated to himself, to the Greco-Persian gods and to his Persian ancestors. The East and West terraces have a central courtyard surrounded with colossal statues of lions, eagles, etc. Colossal statues of seated figures are Apollo, Hermes, Zeus and Hercules. If a sunrise is not possible, we will arrange to be there for sunset, instead. Continue to Diyarbakir for dinner and overnight. Hilton Garden Inn, Diyarbakir 4* (B, D)
Day 6	Saturday 14 Sept 2019	Diyarbakir – Mardin 85 kms	We will have a city tour of Diyarbakir in the morning. This city's history stretches back to the Hurrian Kingdom of Mitanni (1500 BC). Arabs conquered the city and renamed it "Diyar-ı Bakr" (land of copper). In 1085 it was conquered by Seljuks and then the Ottomans took over in 1515. Highlights will be the four old city gates, the Grand Mosque and the Church of St. Mary (17th Century). In the afternoon we will visit Mardin, a city on the south slope of a mountain where we will see a 1500 years old Monastery. Also in Mardin are the remains of a medieval citadel. Afternoon at leisure. Hilton Garden Inn, Mardin 4* (B, D)
Day 7	Sunday 15 Sept 2019	Mardin – Van 466 kms	We leave early in the morning for our drive to Van having a stop by the Malabadi Bridge. We will pass by an ancient city called Ahlat where the ruins of a citadel from 16th century await our visit. Afternoon at leisure. Double Tree by Hilton, Van 4* (B, D)
Day 8	Monday 16 Sept 2019	Van	We will have a city tour in the morning. Van was the capital of the Kingdom of Urartu and the castle dates back to the 9th century. The museum in Van contains some very impressive Urartian jewellery, inscriptions, cylindrical seals, bronze belts. At Gevas, a small port on the south shore of

			<p>Lake Van we will take a boat to Akdamar Island where we will visit the Armenian Church of the Holy Cross. We then drive to Cavustepe that is composed of two citadels on a hill with two summits connected by a saddle. Double Tree by Hilton, Van 4* (B, D)</p>
Day 9	Tuesday 17 Sept 2019	Van – Dogu Beyazit 249 kms	<p>We drive to Dogu Beyazit in the morning. Behind the city rises the spectacular Mount Ararat where the search for Noah's Ark still continues. We will visit the Ishak Pasa Palace that is an amalgamation of castle-palace-mosque, built in 17th century. Sim-Er Hotel, Dogu Beyazit 3* (B, D)</p>
Day 10	Wednesday 18 Sept 2019	Dogu Beyazit – Kars 192 kms	<p>We start early in the morning for our trip to Kars, which got its name from Turco-Bulgarian tribe called Karsaks during the 1st cent. BC. Kars was held by the Russians between 1878-1920 which accounts for the 19th century Russian aspect of the town. We drive east to visit Ani that was the capital of, first an Urartian State, later, Capital City of the Armenian Kingdom. Byzantines took it over in the 11th century. In 1239 the Mongols arrived and cleared everybody out and the place became a ghost city. The castle and the ruins of 8 churches date from the 10th and 11th centuries. Afternoon at leisure. Sim-Er Hotel, Kars 3* (B, D)</p>
Day 11	Thursday 19 Sept 2019	Kars – Erzurum 203 kms	<p>We drive to Erzurum in the morning. This is the largest city of Eastern Anatolia. Highlights are Cifte Minareli Medrese (the twin minaret) an outstanding example of Seljuk architecture, the Yakutiye Theological School which dates back to 1310, the time of the Mongols. Afternoon at leisure. Polat Palandoken Hotel 4* (B, D)</p>
Day 12	Friday 20 Sept 2019	Erzurum – Hopa 257 kms	<p>We enjoy a very scenic drive along the Tortum Lake visiting two significant Georgian sites along the way, namely, Vank Monastery and Ishan Church. Follow the course of the Coruh River where there are narrow yet very attractive gorges before going over the mountains of the Black Sea to reach the picturesque coastline. Peronti Hotel, Hopa 4* (B, D)</p>
Day 13	Saturday 21 Sept 2019	Hopa – Trabzon 171 kms	<p>Leaving Hopa behind us we proceed westward to Trabzon along the coast of the Black Sea that will give us some magnificent views of the mountains on one side and the inviting Sea on the other. We will visit the famous Greek Sumela Monastery built on a</p>

			steep and rocky slope in the 6th century and abandoned in 1923. The various chapels and rooms are mere shells but with a good deal of fine fresco paintings. It is mysterious and impressive. Afternoon at leisure. Yalipark Hotel, Trabzon 4* (B, D)
Day 14	Sunday 22 Sept 2019	Trabzon – Antalya	After check out we drive to the church of St. Sophia before continuing to the airport for our afternoon flight to Antalya. Overnight in Antalya. The Mediterra Art Hotel - 4* (B)
Day 15	Monday 23 Sept 2019	Antalya - Kaş	This morning we travel to Kaş (2.5 hrs) which is a seaside town on the Mediterranean coast in south-western Turkey and is a complete contrast to what we have just experienced in Eastern Turkey. The modern town occupies the site of ancient Antiphellos, with still-visible ruins including a theatre. The 4th-century-B.C. Lion Tomb, with 2 carved lion heads, is one of many Lycian rock tombs in the area. The town centre has whitewashed houses and buildings covered in bougainvillea. The Lycian Way, a marked trail, passes by the town. Three days to explore Kaş and surrounds or just to sit back and watch the world go by. Options include boating day trip to nearby islands including the Greek island of Kastellorizo (known as Meis in Turkey), visit to Kekova sunken village, Gombe's Green Lake or to just relax and explore Kaş. Aqua Princess Hotel – 4* (B,)
Day 16	Tuesday 24 Sept 2019	Kaş	
Day 17	Wednesday 25 Sept 2019	Kaş	
Day 18	Thursday 26 Sept 2019	Kaş – Istanbul	After check out we drive to Antalya for our flight to Istanbul in the late afternoon and transfer to hotel. Grand Durmaz Hotel – 4* (B, D) 3 nights
Day 19	Friday 27 Sept 2019	Istanbul	City Tour of Istanbul including St. Sophia Museum, Hippodrome, Grand Bazaar, Hagia Sophia & Galata Tower. Afternoon free.
Day 20	Saturday 28 Sept 2019	Istanbul	Free time in Istanbul – where East meets West and the only city in two continents. (B, D)
Day 21	Sunday 29 Sept 2019	Istanbul	We have time for a leisurely breakfast this morning ahead of our transfer to the airport for our lunchtime flight from Istanbul or your continuing land arrangements. (B)

**Hotels to be used**

Hatay	Anemon Hatay Hotel (4 star)	2 nights	Kars	Simer Hotel (3 star)	1 night
Urfa	Dedeman Hotel Urfa 4*	1 night	Erzurum	Polat Palandoken Hotel (4 star)	1 night
Kahta	Nemrut Kervansaray Hotel 3*	1 night	Hopa	Peronti Hotel (3 star)	1 night
Diyarbakir	Hilton Garden Inn (4 star)	1 night	Trabzon	Yalipark Hotel (4 star)	1 night
Mardin	Hilton Garden Inn (4 star)	1 night	Antalya	The Mediterra Art Hotel (4 star)	1 nights
Van	Double Tree by Hilton (4 star)	2 nights	Kaş	Aqua Princess (4 star)	3 nights
Dogbeyazit	Simer Hotel (3 star)	1 night	Istanbul	Grand Durmaz Hotel (4 star)	3 nights

**Inclusions:**

- \* Turkish domestic airfares as required\* (Istanbul/Hatay, Trabzon/Antalya, Antalya/Istanbul)
- \* 20 nights 3 & 4 \* hotel accommodation
- \* 20 Breakfasts
- \* 16 Dinners
- \* A/C vehicle during transfers & tours
- \* English speaking guide during tours
- \* Entrance fees to museums specified in the tour itinerary
- \* Comprehensive Travel Insurance
- \* Drink bottle and daily refills
- \* *above airfares are subjected to change without prior notice.*

**Exclusions:**

- \* Personal expenses
- \* Airport portorage
- \* Tips to guide and driver
- \* Soft drinks, tea and coffee during tours & meals
- \* Hotel portorage

