



theReal
Traveller™

ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES OF WA, INC

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TURKEY: A MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ODYSSEY

Known the world over as “the cradle of civilizations”, Turkey lies between Asia and Europe, serving as a bridge between the east and west. As we explore this historic land, tracing the roots of the Greeks, Lycian, Roman Byzantine, Ottomans, we’ll have a unique focus on the matriarchs and the mother goddesses of this land: Cybele, Queen Ada, Hurrem Sultan, Empress Zoe, and many other remarkable women. After three enchanting days in Istanbul, we’ll continue to Izmir, visiting Ephesus, one of the world’s best-preserved ancient sites. Next we board our traditional Turkish Gulet, a beautifully handcrafted motor yacht that will be our home for five nights while we explore the Turquoise Coast and unspoiled countryside. Our journey offers ample time to walk, swim, snorkel, and reflect on the magical significance of this region. Our **Cappadocia extension** takes us onto Catalhoyuk, one of the most important sites in the world for women's history. Come join us, along with your expert guide, for an unforgettable Mediterranean coastal odyssey.

**Trip Dates: April & June and September – November (ideal weather)
(Sample Itinerary)**

Land Costs:

DAY 1 *Depart hometown for Istanbul, Turkey.* Meals and accommodations on own.

DAY 2 *Arrive Istanbul.*

Met by your guide, transfer to your comfortable hotel in the Old Quarter of Istanbul. Free afternoon to rest. Welcome banquet and orientation at traditional Turkish restaurant. (D)

DAY 3 *Istanbul Sights & Sounds*

After breakfast, we’ll explore Istanbul’s ancient monuments and learn stories of Byzantine and Ottoman women throughout the centuries. Visit historically and culturally significant places such as Sultan Ahmet Square, the Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, and Topkapi Palace. (B, L)

DAY 4 *Istanbul Sights & Sounds*

A second full day to explore Istanbul. Enjoy a ferry ride - the Bosphoros River cruise - taking us to the Asian side of Istanbul, returning to the European side by bridge in time for Turkish coffee. Today we'll focus on the bazaars and market culture influenced by centuries of trade between Asia, Europe and Africa. We'll finish the afternoon at one of the oldest Turkish baths, an opportunity to experience a traditional bath and massage. (B)

DAY 5 *Ruins of Ephesus*

Early morning transfer to the airport for a short flight to Izmir. From Izmir we drive 1.5 hours to the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, visit the Selcuk museum featuring a special exhibit of the goddesses of Ephesus. Then we'll explore the ancient city of Ephesus, once called the "star of Asia Minor", it's the largest and most important Roman city in Anatolian antiquity and one of the best archaeological sites in the country. As we wander through the streets of Ephesus, explore the library, brothel, marble streets, baths, agora and theater. At the end of the day, we'll check into our hotel located on a peninsula, overlooking the Mediterranean and relax! (BLD)

DAY 6 *Begin Gulet Cruise*

After breakfast, drive a few hours to the harbor town, Gocek, to board our Gulet (a motorized yacht), which will be our home for the next five days. Spend some time strolling through Gocek, a small village where there's a community of artists who escaped from Istanbul; we'll visit some boutiques of these artists before boarding the yacht for a cruise in the bay and a refreshing swim. Evening welcome dinner aboard the Gulet. (B, D)

Day 7 *Temple of Athena in Lydae*

After breakfast you'll cruise along the coast for half an hour to visit a secluded bay where you'll enjoy swimming and snorkeling in the clear waters. Enjoy optional water-sports provided by speedboats such as "ringo" rides on inner tubes, water skiing, para sailing and more.... After a delicious lunch on the boat you'll cruise to Agalimani, another secluded bay where you can take an optional hike to the ancient site of Lydae to explore the remains of the Temple of Athena. As you hike up into the hills you'll pass secluded farms perched high above the turquoise sea. Scents of sage, lavender, and oregano greet you at each turn. You may encounter local nomads tending their flock around the ancient site and perhaps enjoy a cup of tea in a traditional goat hair tent. Overnight: onboard Gulet in a secluded bay. (BLD)

Day 8 *Royal Lycian Tombs of Kaunos*

Cruise to the Dalyan river mouth and board a small boat to travel up the river to the Roman ruins of ancient Kaunos (2nd century AD). Here you can visit the theater and Basilica, and perhaps witness a team of archeologists excavating the site. Just down the slope are the Royal Lycian cliff tombs dating from the 6th century BC, magnificently perched above the emerald green waters of the Dalyan River. As you travel up the river you will be traversing a sanctuary for endangered sea turtles so keep your eyes on the lookout. Imagine yourself on the African Queen as you wind through the tall reeds of this spectacular delta; parts of the famous film were shot here. Overnight in a secluded bay onboard the Gulet. (B, D)

Day 9 *Gemiler Island*

Depart for Olü Deniz (Dead Sea), where you will anchor beneath impressive limestone cliffs. We will arrange a visit by private transfer (15 minutes) to the ghostly remains of Kayakoy, an abandoned Greek town. The inhabitants left the town in the 1920s, but the roofless houses and cobbled paths seem as ancient as any site on your voyage. In the early summer, wildflowers grow profusely in the village streets and inside the exposed rooms of the vacant houses. After exploring this site you can return to the boat and have a swim. Cruise to Ship Island (also known as Gemiler Island) in the late afternoon. There will be more opportunities to enjoy water sports in this bay. At sunset explore the extensive Byzantine ruins of the island. Tunnels and stone paths used by Byzantine monks

wind their way up through arches and alleys towards the summit where you'll be rewarded with fabulous views of the Mediterranean and nearby islands. Make sure to bring your camera if you're a photographer! Overnight: onboard Gulet. (B, D)

Day 10 *Gulf of Fethiye*

Cruise to Fethiye, ancient Telmessos, now a quaint modern town with a bustling marketplace, many fine craft shops and wonderful fish restaurants. Explore nearby Amintas tomb (optional, by local taxi or a half hour walk), an impressive rock carved tomb honoring the famous 6th century B.C. Lycian ruler. After visiting the bustling markets of Fethiye, you'll return to the Gulet and perhaps set out for an afternoon sail if the winds are right. Cruise to another secluded bay for dinner and overnight onboard. (B, D)

Day 11 *Gocek Bay and Cleopatra's Bath*

Explore the exquisite islands and inlets of Gocek Bay including Bedri Rahmi, famed for its painted rocks, Gocek Island where you can kayak on the emerald waters, and Sarsala Bay, where the pine forest meets the sea. This is also an excellent bay to sail in. A grand regatta is held every year in this bay for the best sailing Gulets. Spend your final afternoon exploring the exquisite underwater ruins of Cleopatra's bath. Local legend has it that these baths were built especially for Cleopatra by her love, Marc Anthony. Snorkel and swim along the ruins then enjoy an optional hike into the nearby pine forests. Late afternoon sail to the marina in Gocek and enjoy a farewell dinner on the boat. Late evening free to enjoy the bars and cafes in this quaint port side town. (BLD)

Day 12 *Taurus Mountains, Antalya Coast*

Disembark the yacht and continue on minibus to Antalya via mountain road. You'll have beautiful vistas of the Taurus Mountains and small remote villages along the way. When we arrive in Antalya (3 hours), we'll check into our hotel, an Ottoman House located in the charming old quarter of Antalya by the harbor. (B, L)

DAY 13 *Antalya Coast*

Visit one of the most impressive ancient sites in what was once the heart of Lycian, Pamphylian, Greek and Roman civilizations. People have lived on this fertile coast for more than 50,000 years, which over the years has been conquered by Alexander the Great, the Romans, the Greeks, and the Seljuk Turks each adding to the rich cultural heritage of this region. Visit Perge, the ruins of Aspendos, walk on cobblestone streets admiring the Ottoman architecture, and optional visit to the Antalya Museum. Enjoy a farewell banquet at a traditional restaurant in the old quarter of Antalya. (BLD)

DAY 14 *Depart for home*

Continue on for 5 more days exploring the geologically fascinating **Cappadocia** region, rich with women's history – or – Transfer to Antalya airport to fly back to Istanbul and connect to homeward bound flights. (B)

Land Costs☐	Deposit	In-country Flight(s)	Single Supplement☐	Trip Dates☐	Group Size☐	Difficulty☐	Activities☐
☐	\$500 (non-refundable)	Approx. \$150 per segment	☐	☐	* See note below	No Experience Needed☐	Ruins, Cruise, Hiking, Swimming Cultural Exchange, Lodges☐

*Pricing may be subject to revision due to extreme rate changes

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

Itinerary Note: While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of the trip route and activities, rather than an inflexible schedule. The itinerary, hotels and flights and prices are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Included in your Trip Fee: Standard accommodations (twin share) in cities and onboard Gulet cruise; meals indicated on itinerary (BLD) = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; airport transfers and ground transportation; sightseeing with a national English-speaking guide; taxes; entrance fees.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare & any accommodations en route; In-country flight (Istanbul to Izmir), and if not adding Cappadocia extension, in-country flight Antalya to Istanbul; Visa fee & airport departure tax; passport; meals not mentioned, alcoholic beverages, tips to your guides, travel/medical/evacuation insurance and items of a personal nature; Turkish bath admission, single supplement fee if unable to share a room based on double occupancy. There will be surcharge if the trip falls below 8 participants.

Single Supplement: If you choose to pay the single supplement fee, you will be given single accommodations in hotels only. Due to limited cabin space onboard the Gulet, there are only shared cabins onboard. See next note below.

Aboard the Gulet: For five nights, a traditional Turkish vessel will be our home as we explore the Anatolian coast and unspoiled countryside. Onboard, you will have the option to sleep on the deck in the warm sea breeze. The cabins are shared with double beds and private baths – you may sleep or rest in them during the day. Please understand that if you choose to pay a single supplement fee, you will not have a cabin to yourself onboard the Gulet. All rooms are shared onboard.

Do I need a Visa for travel to Turkey: Yes. Upon arrival in Turkey, you can obtain your visa at the Istanbul International airport as you pass through customs. You will pay the visa fee (approx. US\$20) upon arrival. You must hold a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.

Travel & Trip Insurance: As all payments are non-refundable, we strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The time and expense that you have put into planning and paying for your trip warrant protection through the purchase of travel insurance. Our primary interest in the Access America travel Insurance package is that it covers trip cancellation as well as “emergency medical transportation” - this is important when traveling and preparing for the unexpected. Emergency services are very costly. This coverage is very inexpensive in comparison. The insurance also protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover “preexisting” conditions, if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration or flight purchase. Please call or write for details.

Transportation/Flight Arrangements: Upon your registration, Adventure Associates will work closely with you on your individual flight plans. Certain programmed activities are dependant on flight schedule - you should verify your flight itinerary with Adventure Associates **before** purchase.

How to Register: If you have not downloaded an application form from our website, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and final details about your pre-trip preparation. For immediate confirmation, you may charge your deposit to Visa, Master Card or American Express by phone or fax.

Payment Schedule: We accept checks, Visa & MasterCard.

\$500 deposit due at time of registration (Non-refundable)

\$1200 due four months out from departure date

Final payment due 90 days prior to departure

Exchange Rate Note: The American dollar fluctuates constantly in Turkey. Trip cost is subject to change due to exchange rate increases. Turkey now uses the Euro.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Continued...

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

120 or more \$500
90 to 119 50% fee
1 to 89 100% fee

Itineraries are subject to change.

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.



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