

ANATOLIAN ARTISANS (AnART)



Interwoven Cultures of the Aegean

A Cultural Tour of Western Turkey

June 2- 12, 2010 (11 days, 10 nights)

Dear Friends of AnART,

As part of its mission to raise awareness of the arts and culture of Turkey, Anatolian Artisans is pleased to announce its fourth annual Cultural Tour in Turkey, in June 2010. We hope you will join us for a unique experience as we explore the part of Turkey that was home to civilizations considered the foundation of Western, as well as Turkish, culture both past and present.

We are partnering again with Fest Travel agency for our tour. One of their outstanding guides will escort the group. Anatolian Artisans' President and several of its Board members will also travel with the group.

On the eve of the tour, we will have a reception in Istanbul to welcome our guests. Our favorite venue for reception, the historic Ottoman mansion overlooking the Bosphorus, is undergoing a renovation. We will have a back-up location in case the Mansion is not ready by June 1st.

The following morning, the group departs from Istanbul for Edirne in the European part of Turkey (Thrace). Known formerly as Adrianople, Edirne was the second capital city of the Ottoman Empire. It was founded by ancient Greeks and conquered by the Romans, and much later by the Ottomans. Among its many wonderful mosques, we will visit the elegant Selimiye mosque, which is the pinnacle of architect Sinan's achievements. The mosque was built in the 1570's for Selim II, the son of Suleyman the Magnificent.

Crossing the Dardanelles, we arrive at the ruins of the legendary city of Troy. You can visualize Agamemnon, Helen, Paris, Odysseus, the unforgettable characters from Homer's Iliad, coming to life in this World Heritage site.

At the foothills of Mt. Ida (Kaz Daglari), we visit Assos (Behramkale), where Aristotle lived at one time, and St. Paul visited. We will visit the Temple of Athena, daughter of mighty Zeus, goddess of handicrafts and war, and the protector of Assos. Anatolian Board members and long-time friends Mehmet and Deniz Betil invite the group for lunch at their lovely village of Adatepe, near the Temple.

As on previous AnARt tours, we have included artisan visits in the itinerary. We will visit the Orselli village on Yuntdag, where the famous DOBAG natural dye weaving project has been collaborating with Marmara University for more than twenty years. We will see the women's cooperative and weavers at work in their homes creating beautiful carpets.

Visiting the great Hellenic city of Pergamum (Bergama) and the capital of the Lydian empire, Sardis, we continue on to Kula with its beautiful Ottoman houses. In Tire we will experience felting at the studio of a master felt-maker and explore the colorful weekly bazaar.

We return to antiquity at the magnificent and unmatched Ephesus. Nearby Selcuk is home to the Basilica of St. John and the House of the Virgin Mary. It is believed that Mary (known in Turkey as Meryem Ana) came with St. John to Ephesus between 37 AD and 48 AD and died there.

We will visit Buldan, which has been a textile center since Ottoman times. Special hand-woven Buldan cloth and all kinds of high quality fabrics make this place a textile lover's paradise.

Another of Turkey's World Heritage sites is Pamukkale ("cotton castle"), a fantastic landscape of mineral forests, waterfalls, and a series of terraced limestone basins. At the end of the second century BC, the kings of Pergamon established the nearby thermal spa of Hierapolis. The ruins of the baths can be seen at the site.

Named for the goddess Aphrodite, Aphrodisias is our last archeological site before Bodrum. It was the center of medicine, philosophy, sculpture and the arts. This beautiful city, one of the finest archeological sites in Anatolia, is partly excavated and partly undiscovered.

In Bodrum we will visit the Underwater Archeology Museum and King Mausolos' Mausoleum, one of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World. After an extraordinary few days of history, archeology, arts and culture, we will be ready to relax on a half-day cruise on a traditional Turkish *gulet* around Bodrum, swimming, if you wish, in the silken waters of the Mediterranean. We fly back from Bodrum to Istanbul in the early evening.

Our tour will be limited to thirty travelers, plus representatives of AnARt and our guide. Please reserve your place early, to join us on this extraordinary adventure.

Yildiz Yagci

President
Anatolian Artisans, Inc.

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ITINERARY

1 June 2010, Tuesday: İSTANBUL

Evening cocktail reception to meet the group and review the itinerary; location and time to be announced.

2 June 2010, Wednesday: İSTANBUL -- EDİRNE

Departure for Edirne. On the way, visiting Sokullu Mehmet Pasha complex in Lüleburgaz. Lunch in Edirne and then visiting the city: Üç Şerefeli Mosque, Bayezid complex and Muradiye Mosque. Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at Rüstempaşa Kervansarayı hotel. (L, D)

3 June 2010, Thursday: EDİRNE -- ÇANAKKALE

Visiting Selimiye Mosque. Departure for Çanakkale. After crossing the Dardanelles, touring the site at Troy. Dinner and overnight in Kolin Hotel in Çanakkale. (B, L, D)

4 June 2010, Friday: ÇANAKKALE – ASSOS

Travel to Assos; visiting the Temple of Athena. Lunch with the Betil Family in their village. Dinner and overnight in Eden Gardens Hotel in Assos. (B, L, D)

5 June 2010, Saturday: ASSOS -- AYVALIK

Depart for Ayvalık; enroute visiting the Tahtakuşlar Ethnographic Museum near Edremit. In the afternoon a relaxing excursion by boat to Alibey Island (Cunda). Dinner and overnight in Grand Temizel Hotel in Ayvalık. (B, L, D)

6 June 2010, Sunday: AYVALIK -- BERGAMA

Travel to Pergamum, there visiting the Asclepieum, the Acropolis, and the museum. Dinner and overnight in Berksoy Hotel in Bergama. (B, L, D)

7 June 2010, Monday: BERGAMA – KULA – BİRGİ -- SARDIS -- GÖLCÜK

Visiting the DOBAG (Natural Dyed Rugs Project) village in Orselli village. Later to the lovely houses in Kula, the Çakırağa Konağı at Birgi, and to then Sardis, with its Temple of Artemis (one of the seven Churches of the Bible), the Gymnasium and the restored synagogue. Dinner and overnight at Gölcük Motel at Gölcük Lake. (B, L, D)

8 June 2010, Tuesday: GÖLCÜK – ÖDEMİŞ – TİRE -- KUŞADASI

Passing through Ödemiş, visiting the *pazar* in Tire and stopping to see traditional felt production there. Depart for Selçuk. In the late afternoon visiting the Museum of Ephesus, the basilica of St. John and İsa Bey Mosque. Dinner and overnight at Charisma Hotel in Kuşadası. (B, L, D)

9 June 2010, Wednesday: KUŞADASI – PRIENE – MILETUS – DIDYMA -- KUŞADASI

Depart for Priene and Miletus. At Priene, see the Theatre, the Temple of Athena, and the Pyrtaneum. In Miletus, visit the very well preserved Theatre, the Byzantine Fortress, the Delphinion, the Nymphanion, the Bouleterion, and the Faustina Baths. Then continue to Didyma and the Temple of Apollo. Return to the Charisma Hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

10 June 2010, Thursday: KUŞADASI -- PAMUKKALE

Visiting the ruins at Ephesus and the House of Virgin Mary. Departure for Denizli. On the way visiting Buldan textile ateliers. Dinner and overnight at Thermal Colossae Hotel in Pamukkale. (B, L, D)

11 June 2010, Friday: PAMUKKALE – BODRUM

In the early morning visiting Hieropolis, then on to Aphrodisias. Drive to Bodrum. Dinner and overnight in the Marmara Hotel in Bodrum. (B, L, D)

12 June 2010, Saturday: BODRUM – İSTANBUL

After breakfast visiting the unique Bodrum Underground Archeology Museum and King Mausolos' Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. Then to the Bodrum harbor to embark on a private boat cruising the coast of the peninsula while enjoying lunch. After the cruise, a light dinner before transfer to the airport for early evening return flight to İstanbul. Transfer from Istanbul Ataturk airport to hotels in the Sultanahmet district. (B, L, D)

B – Breakfast L – Lunch D -- Dinner

Cost of the trip (11 days, 10 nights): \$2,940 based on double occupancy

Single supplement: \$335 (Total \$3,275 for single occupancy)

These costs include a \$300 tax-deductible contribution to Anatolian Artisans and an estimated \$125 cost for the THY flight from Bodrum back to Istanbul

[Note that the price of this flight is subject to change at the time tickets are issued.]

Rates include:

- Transportation to the June 1 cocktail reception and back thereafter to hotels in the Sultanahmet district
- Transportation via deluxe air-conditioned coach throughout the itinerary
- 10 nights accommodations in the hotels listed below
- 32 meals (10 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners)
- Economy class domestic flight on June 12 from Bodrum back to Istanbul
- Shuttle transport on June 12 from Istanbul Airport back to Sultanahmet district
- City tour in Bodrum and private boat tours to Alibey Island and in Bodrum
- All entrance fees to the sights visited by the tour
- All gratuities for the hotels and hotel staff
- Donations to the religious institutions visited
- Gratuities for the guide and the driver
- All applicable taxes

Rates exclude:

- International flights to and from Turkey
- International arrival and departure transfers to and from Istanbul airport
- Accommodations in Istanbul (or elsewhere in Turkey before or after the tour)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not indicated on the itinerary
- Beverages (including non-alcoholic) consumed with meals (or otherwise)
- Personal expenses

Hotels (with classes and websites):

In Edirne	Rüstempaşa Kervansarayı (Special class)	no website
In Çanakkale	Kolin Hotel (5 star)	www.kolinhotel.com
In Assos	Eden Gardens (4 star)	www.assosedengroup.com/english/gardens.html
In Ayvalık	Grand Temizel (4 star)	www.temizel.com.tr
In Bergama	Berksoy Hotel (3 star)	www.berksoyhotel.com
In Gölçük	Gölcük Motel (3 star)	www.golcukotel.com
In Kuşadası	Charisma Hotel (2 nights)(5 star)	www.charismahotel.com
In Pamukkale	Thermal Colossae (5 star)	www.colossaehotel.com
In Bodrum	The Marmara Hotel (5 star)	http://www.themarmarahotels.com/The-Marmara-Bodrum/index.asp

Important notes:

1. Travelers will make their own arrangements for flights to and from Turkey, and for accommodations in Istanbul. Fest Travel has negotiated discounted rates at a number of hotels in the Sultanahmet district, which are available anytime during the months of May or June 2010 (before or after the tour). Feel free to contact Fest Travel directly for assistance.
2. The tour will involve substantial walking. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Women travelers should bring a head scarf for visiting mosques.
3. The cultural tour will be limited to thirty travelers (plus the guide and representatives of Anatolian Artisans). **The tour is contingent upon obtaining commitments from at least twenty travelers by February 1, 2010, and full payments from at least twenty travelers by March 15, 2010.** In case the tour is oversubscribed, we will maintain a waiting list based on the order in which reservation deposits are received.
4. Anatolian Artisans and Fest Travel reserve the right to change the itinerary and related travel arrangements, if necessary to assure the safety and comfort of our travelers. Anatolian Artisans cannot assume responsibility for accident or injury or illness that may occur in the course of the tour. Travelers should check their own existing insurance coverage, and **we strongly recommend that travelers consider the purchase of supplemental travel insurance.**
5. Important information relating to the tour will be sent periodically by e-mail. **All travelers must have a working e-mail address that they check regularly.**
6. In order to reserve your place on the Anatolian Artisans cultural tour of Western Turkey, please fill out the last page of this brochure and send it with a check for \$300 per person (no credit card payments please), for receipt **no later than February 1, 2010**, to Anatolian Artisans, 11325 Empire Lane, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. **Final payment to Anatolian Artisans must be received by March 15, 2010.**
7. Refund policy: Cancellation on or before February 1, 2010, full refund. Cancellation after February 1, 2010, but on or before March 15, 2010, full refund less \$150 per person. Cancellation after March 15, 2010, no refund.
8. If you have questions about the trip, please contact Yildiz Yagci at (301) 231-8128 or e-mail vyagci@anatolianartisans.org or Sandy Pfunder at (202) 955-8227, e-mail mpfunder@gibsondunn.com
9. Anatolian Artisans is a non-profit tax-exempt Section 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing sustainable economic benefits to low-income artisans through product development, marketing and training, and to raising awareness about the arts and culture of Turkey. For more information about Anatolian Artisans, see our website at www.anatolianaartisans.org.

Anatolian Artisans, Inc.
Cultural Tour of Western Turkey
June 2 – June 12, 2010

In cooperation with Fest Travel, Istanbul

I/we want to join the Cultural Tour of Western Turkey, from June 2 through June 12, 2010. I have read the description of the tour and agree to the terms stated.

Name of traveler _____

Traveler's address _____

Home telephone _____

Office telephone _____

Cell telephone: _____

E-mail address _____

All travelers must have an e-mail address.

I will be sharing a room with _____

We prefer _____ separate twin beds or _____ one double bed.

I would like a single room (at an additional cost of \$335). _____ Yes _____ No

Please tell us (if you know) where you will be staying in Istanbul:

I am enclosing my check for \$_____ (\$300 per person payable to Anatolian Artisans, Inc.) to reserve my/our places on the tour. **I understand that full payment is due by March 15, 2010.** I also understand that this deposit is fully refundable if I cancel these reservations by February 1, 2010, that the deposit less \$150 per person is refundable if I cancel these reservations by March 15, 2010, and that the deposit is not refundable if I cancel these reservations after March 15, 2010.

Mail this application with your check to Yildiz Yagci, Anatolian Artisans, Inc., 11325 Empire Lane, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852 as early as possible, but no later than February 1, 2010.

_____ Check here if you would like Fest Travel to contact you concerning purchasing airline tickets to and from Turkey, or reservations for accommodations in Istanbul, or for any other travel arrangements in Turkey. Or you may contact Fest Travel directly at fest@festtravel.com