

OPERA-IS TRAVEL and LEARNING

a division of iain scott enterprises inc

opera tours - opera courses - opera guides

Istanbul, Troy and the West Coast of Turkey

draft itinerary

14 Feb. Monday. Toronto – Fly to Istanbul

Take a direct flight to Istanbul from Toronto.
Turkish Airlines (TK 018 at 23:50)

15 Feb. Tuesday. Arrival in Istanbul

Our guide will greet us at the Ataturk Airport and accompany to our hotel - which is in the old part of Istanbul.

In the evening, we will enjoy our Welcome Dinner in one of the famous kebab restaurants of Istanbul.

Overnight in Istanbul. (D)

Meals : Welcome Dinner
Hotel :

<http://www.hotelsultania.com/en/homepage> Or
similar, Istanbul



6 Blythwood Gardens Toronto Ontario M4N 3L3

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16 Feb. Wednesday. Istanbul

Today's sightseeing begins with a visit to the magnificent **Topkapi Palace** once home to the great Sultans.

It is filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain.



T



Then we will explore the unique **Blue Mosque** built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet. The interior walls are covered with twenty thousand blue Iznik tiles.

Our next stops are at the **Hippodrome**

and the **Basilica of St. Sophia**, which has inspired religious leaders for over fifteen hundred years.

Constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and is now a museum.

Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

Meals : Breakfast

Hotel : <http://www.hotelsultania.com/en/homepage> or similar, Istanbul

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17 Feb. Thursday.

Istanbul



After breakfast we will visit the **Chora Church** with its amazing frescos,

the **Rustem Pasha Mosque**, an Ottoman mosque famous for its large quantities of exquisite Iznik tiles

and the **Spice Bazaar** where the scent of hundreds of spices permeates the air.

Then we will explore the **Archaeology Museum**,

And the **Underground Basilica Cistern**, which is the largest surviving Byzantine monument.

Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

Meals : Breakfast

Hotel : <http://www.hotelsultania.com/en/homepage> or similar, Istanbul

Evening: **Opera : Les Contes d'Hoffmann** <http://www.idobale.com/eser/68>



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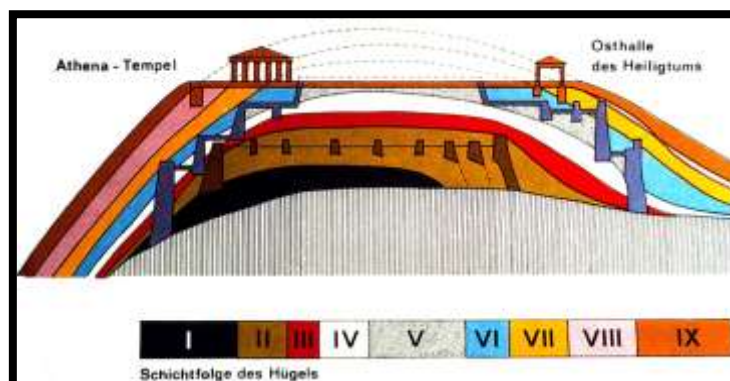
18 February. Friday. TROY



After breakfast we head to **Troy**, one of the oldest discovered sights in Asia Minor with its 9 different settlements and related 30 cities. Overnight in Canakkale. (B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : <http://www.kolinhotel.com/> or similar, Canakkale



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19 February. Saturday. Pergamum



Our road takes us to an ancient city of **Pergamum**, once ruled by Alexander the Great.

Famous for the invention of parchment paper, Pergamum had a library containing two hundred thousand books.

We will visit the **Acropolis**, the **Altar of Zeus**, the ten thousand-seat amphitheater and the marvelous **Asclepion**, a fourth century B.C. shrine to the healing God Asclepius.

Overnight in Izmir. (B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : [http://www.anemonhotels.com/en-](http://www.anemonhotels.com/en-Us/AnemonIzmir/Sayfalar/Overview.aspx)

[Us/AnemonIzmir/Sayfalar/Overview.aspx](http://www.anemonhotels.com/en-Us/AnemonIzmir/Sayfalar/Overview.aspx) or similar, Izmir



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20 February. Sunday. Sardis and Hieropolis

We will drive east to **Sardis**, known for the largest ancient synagogue and **the Artemis Temple**, which was one of the seven largest ancient temples;



and then on to **Hierapolis**, a magnificent natural formation unique all over the world. Over the last fourteen thousand years, calcium rich water from an underground thermal spring has flowed over the mountainside and slowly solidified, creating shallow white basins and twisted stalagmites.

Overnight in Pamukkale. (B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner
Hotel :

http://www.colossaehotel.com/index_eng.html OR

similar, Pamukkale

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21 February. Monday. Aphrodisias

On the way of Bodrum, we will explore **Aphrodisias**, dedicated to Aphrodite. The Sculpture School of Aphrodisias enjoyed great fame and is evident by the fine marble statues and architectural relief scattered throughout the site.



We will also see the largest (30,000 seats) and best-preserved stadium of the classical world.

Overnight in Bodrum. (B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : <http://www.kariaprincess.com/Pages/en-US/Hotel/Services.aspx> or similar, Bodrum

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22 February. Tuesday.

Bodrum



In Bodrum, we will visit the **Museum of Underwater Archaeology**, home of the remains of the oldest known sunken ship in the world.



Overnight in Bodrum.

(B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : <http://www.kariaprincess.com/Pages/en-US/Hotel/Services.aspx> or similar, Bodrum

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23 February. Wednesday. Priene, Miletus and Didyma

Built in 334 B.C. on the slopes of Mount Mycale, **Priene** is a spectacular site. We will discover the Temple of Athena, the five thousand seat Hellenistic Theater, and gaze out to the sea from atop the Acropolis.



We will also visit **Miletus** and **Didyma** to see the theaters, agoras, baths, and The Temple of Apollo - The Third Largest Temple of the ancient Greek world.

After our sightseeing we will continue to Kusadasi.

Overnight in Kusadasi. (B, D)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : <http://www.korumarhotel.com/english.htm> or similar, Kusadasi

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24 February. Thursday. Kusadasi: Ephesus – Izmir



Today's excursion takes us to **Ephesus**, the largest ancient city ever uncovered. Once populated with 300,000 people, it has an enormous amphitheatre, which can still hold 24,000 spectators. As we walk down the marble covered streets, we will see gymnasiums, bath houses, public latrines, the library of Celsus and the Temple of Artemis.

Then we will enjoy a visit to local municipal carpet cooperative, a sort of a carpet farm, where we will get the chance to explore the district from a cultural perspective. Before driving to Izmir, we will visit the **House of Virgin Mary**, where she is believed to have spent her last few days.



Overnight in Izmir. (B)

Meals : Breakfast and Dinner

Hotel : <http://www.anemonhotels.com/en-US/AnemonIzmir/Sayfalar/Overview.aspx> or similar, Izmir

Opera: La Bohème <http://www.idobale.com/eser/56>

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25 February. Friday. Izmir – Morning flight to Istanbul

After breakfast transfer to the airport for our flight to Istanbul.

Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

Meals : Breakfast

Hotel : <http://www.hotelsultania.com/en/homepage> or similar, Istanbul



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26 February. Saturday. Istanbul Departure

Depart hotel at 08:45 am for the transfer to Ataturk Airport.
Flight TK 017 to Toronto leaves at 11:30 am.



To register for this tour please contact
William Andrews (416) 928 3113 x 224
New Wave Travel, Toronto
wandrews@newwavetravel.net

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