



The Association of Former Students
of Texas A&M University presents

LEGENDARY TURKEY

From Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast

May 28 - June 11, 2015

15 days from \$4,592 total price from Houston

(\$4,195 air, land & cruise inclusive plus \$397 airline taxes and departure fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small-Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University

Tour membership limited to 28 alumni and friends

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Exotic sights, scents, and sounds reign in this fascinating land where Europe and Asia meet. From Istanbul, magnificent “Empress of the World,” to ancient ruins, stunning landscapes, and the dramatic Turquoise Coast where we board a privately chartered yacht for a distinctive four-day voyage, Turkey engages and beguiles, offering us an unparalleled small group travel experience.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Istanbul, Turkey

Day 2: Arrive Istanbul We arrive in Turkey’s cultural and spiritual heart today and transfer to our hotel located near Taksim Square, the heart of modern Istanbul. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 3: Istanbul We get our first real taste of this city straddling two continents today as we set out on a walking tour along lively pedestrian Istiklal Street, lined with boutiques, galleries, restaurants, and late Ottoman-era buildings. We see the acclaimed mosaics and frescoes at Chora Church (now Kariye Museum) then take a panoramic drive along Istanbul’s Old City walls. Then we visit intimate Rustem Pasha mosque, followed by the renowned Spice Market. After lunch on our own here, we take a private cruise on the Bosphorus, which separates Europe from Asia. This evening we take a short walk to a local restaurant for a welcome dinner of traditional Turkish fare. **B,D**

Day 4: Istanbul Today we encounter Old Istanbul, beginning with the ancient Roman Hippodrome, the 3,500-year-old obelisk brought from Egypt in 390 CE. Next we visit the Blue Mosque, with its 20,000 blue Iznik tiles and signature six minarets. We then visit the renowned Museum of Turkish & Islamic Art, housing priceless artifacts from the 8th to 20th centuries. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on to Hagia Sophia, the 6th-century church that was Christendom’s most important before becoming a mosque in the 15th century. **B,L**

Day 5: Istanbul This morning we tour splendid Topkapi, for 400 years the palace of Ottoman sultans that today ranks among the world’s richest museums. We continue on to the Basilica Cistern, the marble-columned underground chamber that provided water to Istanbul in antiquity, and the

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Exotic Istanbul, including Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia ... Private Bosphorus cruise ... WWI battlefield of Gallipoli ... Ruins at ancient Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus ... Rustic village of Sirince ... Four-night “Blue Voyage” aboard privately chartered gulet yacht ... Opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, hiking ... Sunken Baths of Cleopatra ... Ancient site of Perge ... Antalya’s acclaimed Archaeological Museum

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Istanbul		
2-5	Istanbul	Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus	Deluxe
6	Assos/Troy	Nazlihan Hotel	Not rated
7-8	Izmir	Swissotel Grand Efes	Deluxe
9-12	Turquoise Coast cruise	Gulet yacht	Not rated
13-14	Antalya	Rixos Antalya Downtown	Sup. First Class
15	Depart Antalya for U.S		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover Photo: Our tour includes a four-night “Blue Voyage” along the legendary Turquoise Coast.



Istanbul's Blue Mosque combines Ottoman and Byzantine design.

Grand Bazaar, housing some 5,000 shops along 60 “streets.” The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. **B**

Day 6: Istanbul/Gallipoli/Troy/Assos

Leaving Istanbul this morning, we travel to the northern Aegean Coast for a brief visit to Gallipoli, haunting site of 31 Allied cemeteries from World War I. Then we ferry across the Dardanelles to Troy, once believed to exist only in Homer's epic poem until the present site was discovered in the 1870s. After touring here we continue south to Behramkale, ancient Assos, where we spend the night. **B,L,D**

Day 7: Assos/Pergamum/Izmir Today we explore one of Turkey's most spectacular ancient sites: windswept Pergamum, a major power in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE, with a wealth of Hellenistic ruins. Then we continue on to Izmir. **B,L,D**

Day 8: Izmir/Ephesus Few ancient sites compare to Ephesus, the world's best-preserved classical city which we explore today. Dating to at least 1300 BCE, Ephesus was Asia Minor's largest metropolis and principal port. Our tour includes the Terrace Houses, with their outstanding mosaic floors and frescoed walls. Lunch is in the rustic village of Sirince. **B,L**

Day 9: Izmir/Göcek Today we journey south to coastal Göcek, stopping along the way at a carpet factory to watch a demonstration of this age-old craft. Late afternoon we board our *gulets*. **B,L,D**

Day 10: Cruising – Aga Limani/Cleopatra Baths We begin our “Blue Voyage” this morning as we cruise to the hidden cove of

Aga Limani. From here we have the option of taking a three-hour hike to the Greco-Roman ruins at Lydea, ending at the Sunken Baths of Cleopatra. Set in a breathtaking inlet, the Baths offer crystal-clear waters for swimming and snorkeling. Those who prefer a less strenuous day can stay aboard the *gulets* as they sail to the Sunken Baths. **B,L,D**

Day 11: Cruising – Ekincik Cove/Dalyan This morning we disembark and coach to Dalyan, an environmentally protected area known for its loggerhead sea turtles. Here we board a small skiff for a trip through an intriguing maze of channels; high on the hills above we see well-preserved ancient Lycian rock tombs. **B,L,D**

Post-Tour Extension

June 11-15, 2015

CAPPADOCIA & ANKARA

5 days/4 nights for \$995 total price

Single Supplement: \$195

We explore the bizarre rock formations and underground cities of Cappadocia and the Goreme Valley; and also tour Ankara, Turkey's capital.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 4 nights' accommodations: 3 nights in Cappadocia at Uchisar Kaya Hotel (First Class); 1 night in Ankara at Hilton Ankara (Deluxe)
- 11 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Extensive included sightseeing
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation Antalya/ Cappadocia/Ankara
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Day 12: Cruising – Gemiler Island/Kayakoy

Today we cruise to Gemiler Island to tour its 6th-century Byzantine monastery. Then we coach to the Greek “ghost town” of Kayakoy, abandoned after World War I and now preserved as a historical monument. We explore the town and its churches then return to our *gulets* for our last night on board. *B,L,D*

Day 13: Fethiye/Antalya We cruise this morning to Fethiye, where we disembark then set out by motorcoach through the Taurus Mountains for Antalya. After stopping for lunch en route, we reach the seaside city mid-afternoon and visit the acclaimed Archaeological Museum here. *B,L*

Day 14: Antalya/Perge This morning we visit the ruins at Perge, an ancient Greek city once among the world’s prettiest and most prosperous. Then we return to Antalya for a walking tour of its charming Old Town, including Hadrian’s Gate and the lovely Yivli Minare (Fluted Minaret). This afternoon is at leisure before tonight’s farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 15: Depart for U.S. This morning we board an early flight for our return to the United States. *B*



On Day 8 we visit the impressive ruins at Ephesus.

Our Private Turkish Gulets



Crew: 4
Passenger Capacity: 14

Avg. Length: 85 ft
Avg. Width: 21 ft

This tour includes a four-night cruise aboard privately chartered gulet yachts. Gulets are teakwood with a broad sun deck plus both indoor and outdoor dining areas. Cabins are small but comfortable, each with private facilities.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations: 9 nights in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and unrated hotels; 4 nights aboard privately chartered gulet yacht
- 30 meals: 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: May 28, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, Houston, New York \$4,592

Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, DC \$4,892

Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa \$4,992

Denver, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle \$5,092

Land only (transfers not included) \$3,595

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$397, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$995.

All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$2,995 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking on uneven or cobblestone streets and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514.



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS[®]
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY[®]

Traveling Aggies

Howdy, Ags!

Join us on a special 15-day tour to legendary Turkey and the magnificent Turquoise Coast. You'll explore this vast country where Europe and Asia - past and present - meet to form the "cradle of civilization." Accompanied by a seasoned Turkish tour director, you'll visit remote villages, explore fascinating archaeological sites, and cruise the Turquoise Coast in a privately chartered yacht.

Your odyssey begins in Istanbul with its many treasures: the legendary Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, and the 6th-century Hagia Sophia. Travel south to explore the World War I battlefield of Gallipoli, the fabled ruins of ancient Troy, and spectacular Ephesus, the world's best preserved classical city. In Göcek, board a traditional private *gulet* yacht, equipped with individual cabins and baths. Visit tiny fishing villages, walk among ancient ruins, and swim and snorkel in the Mediterranean's brilliant bracing blue waters. Your tour concludes with two nights in the seaside resort of Antalya.

With space for only 28 guests on this Traveling Aggies exclusive departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot on our exciting tour to Turkey!

Gig 'em,

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: LEGENDARY TURKEY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on **Legendary Turkey** departing **May 28, 2015**. I/we understand the final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and mail (along with completed reservation form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918**. Or call **The Traveling Aggies** at **979-845-7514** or toll-free at **800-633-7514**. Or fax the reservation to **979-845-9263**.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Yr. _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Yr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Bus. Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade ☐

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

Post-Tour Cappadocia & Ankara Extension: Please sign me/us up ☐

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Legendary Turkey, May 28-June 11, 2015**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due by 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities, \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing or shore excursions; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline.

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-95 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 64-90 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-90 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and ships on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and The Association of Former Students assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to: frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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