Legendary Turkey
from Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast
April 11-25, 2023

15 days for $4,992 total price from Detroit
($4,595 air & land inclusive plus $397 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, seven-time honoree Travel + Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.
Dear MSU Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to join us on a special 15-day small group journey to a fascinating land where Europe and Asia meet. With its ancient ruins, stunning landscapes, and dramatic Turquoise Coast, Turkey offers an unparalleled small group travel experience.

This engaging Turkish sojourn begins with four nights in magnificent Istanbul, where highlights include the Hagia Sofia and a private Bosphorus cruise. Experience haunting Gallipoli, then ferry across the Dardanelles to storied Troy. Discover Pergamum, one of Turkey's most spectacular ancient sites. After touring magnificently preserved classical Ephesus, stop in rustic Sirince. Boarding a privately chartered yacht, take a distinctive “Blue Voyage” day cruise along the exquisite Turquoise Coast. In Antalya, tour the acclaimed Archaeological Museum, then encounter Perge's outstanding Grecian ruins. Discover ancient Konya and the unique Cappadocia region with an optional 5-day/4-night post tour extension.

We are pleased to be sharing this departure with alumni and friends from Georgia Tech. This exciting small group journey is limited to 24 guests, and will fill quickly. Your deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Reserve risk-free today!

Go Green!

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Office
(888) 697-2863

THE MSU RESERVATION FORM: LEGENDARY TURKEY

To reserve your place on tour, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to:  Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

LEGENDARY TURKEY  •  APRIL 11-25, 2023

I/We would like to request __________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name __________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender __________
Full Passport Name __________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender __________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________________ State ______________________ ZIP __________________
E-mail(s) ___________________________________ Badge Name(s) ___________________
Home Phone (______)___________________ Cell Phone (______)_______________________________

Please book my/our air from _________________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade q
I will share a room with ____________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) q

Post-Tour “Cappadocia & Konya” Extension: Please sign me/us up q
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; on our own we can explore the area surrounding our hotel or simply relax. 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, with its exquisite Iznik tiles, followed by the renowned Spice Market. After lunch on our own here, we take a private cruise on the Bosphorus, the waterway that 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. Our next stop is the Grand Bazaar, the covered market housing some 5,000 shops along 60 “streets.” The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration. B

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 – and legendary – Turquoise Coast, Turkey engages and beguiles, offering us an unparalleled small group experience.

Small Group Tour Highlights

Exotic Istanbul, including Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern, Grand Bazaar
• Private Bosphorus cruise • WWI battlefield of Gallipoli • Ruins at ancient Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus • Rustic village of Sirince • “Blue Voyage” day cruise aboard privately chartered yacht • Secluded coves and hidden sites along Turquoise Coast • Lycian rock tombs • Church of St. Nicholas • Ancient sites of Phaselis and 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
7-9  Kusadasi  Charisma Hotel  Deluxe
10-11 Fethiye  Alesta Yacht Hotel  First Class
12-14 Antalya  Akra Barut  Deluxe
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.

Avg. High (°F)  Apr  May
Istanbul  62  69
Antalya  71  79

Cover photo: An Antalya landmark, the Yivli Minare (fluted minaret) overlooks the Turquoise Coast.
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/Kusadasi  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 Kusadasi.  B,L,D

Day 8: Kusadasi/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, the recently restored “houses of the rich,” with their outstanding mosaic floors and frescoed walls. Then we enjoy lunch in the rustic village of Sirince.  B,L

Day 9: Kusadasi/Ephesus  We return to Ephesus to visit the Basilica of St. John, the 6th-century ruins that stand over what is believed to be the burial site of John the Apostle. Then we learn about Ephesus through the ages, as we tour the Ephesus Museum, housing treasures from the archaeological site. After lunch together, we stop at a carpet factory to watch a demonstration of this age-old craft.  B,L,D

Day 10: Kusadasi/Fethiye  En route to Fethiye today, we stop in Dalyan, where we board a small skiff for a trip through a maze of channels. Reaching the Lake of Koycegiz, we see our first Lycian rock-cut tombs on the cliffs above. Dating to 350 BCE, the tombs number more than one thousand along Turkey’s Mediterranean coast. Then we continue our journey to the port town of Fethiye, known for its beautiful natural harbor.  B,L,D

Day 11: Fethiye/Cruising  This morning we coach to the Greek “ghost town” of Kayaköy, abandoned and then sail to the Greek island of Hydra. We then return to Fethiye to celebrate the end of our tour.  B,L,D

Post-Tour Extension

April 25-29, 2023
Cappadocia & Konya
5 days/4 nights for $1,095 total price
Single Supplement: $245

We visit ancient Konya then explore in depth the bizarre rock formations and underground cities of Cappadocia and the Goreme Valley.

Your Tour Price Includes

• Private motorcoach transportation Antalya/Konya/Cappadocia
• 4 nights’ accommodations: one night in Konya at Hilton Garden Inn (First Class), 3 nights in Cappadocia at Yunak Evleri Hotel (First Class)
• 11 meals: 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
• Extensive included sightseeing: Meviana (Whirling Dervish) Museum in Konya, rock churches of Goreme Valley (including open-air museum), Kaymaklı’s underground city, Zelve Valley, Avanos and Troglodyte villages of Cavusin and Uchisar
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
after WWI and now preserved as a historical monument. Then we board a private yacht for our Turquoise Coast “Blue Voyage” cruise along the stunning coastline that Antony is said to have given to Cleopatra as a wedding gift. We visit secluded coves (including Aquarium Cove, with its waters of brilliant blue and green), have the opportunity to swim and snorkel, and enjoy lunch on board. B,L

Day 12: Fethiye/Antalya We set out this morning on a scenic drive along the coastal road to Antalya, stopping along the way in Demre (ancient Myra). Here we visit the 6th-century Church of St. Nicholas, known for its impressive frescoes, its significance to both Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians, and as its namesake’s inspiration for Santa Claus. Then we travel on to the evocative seaside ruins of Phaselis, the ancient Greek and Roman port city now a national park. Following our visit here, we continue on to Turkey’s premier resort town of Antalya. B,L,D

Day 13: Antalya We discover Antalya’s charming old city (Kaleici) on a morning walking tour through its narrow streets, past historic buildings, mosques, and parks. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit Antalya’s acclaimed Archaeological Museum, housing priceless artifacts unearthed from sites throughout the region. B,L

Day 14: Antalya/Perge This morning we tour the ruins at Perge, an ancient Greek city once among the world’s prettiest and most prosperous. We also visit the Duden Waterfalls, which tumble about 130 feet into the Mediterranean. Returning to our hotel, this afternoon is at leisure. Tonight, we celebrate our Turkish adventure over a farewell dinner at a harborside restaurant. B,D

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

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, First Class, and Not Rated hotels
- 29 meals: 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 7 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

No road is long with good company.”

– Turkish Proverb

Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia

Exquisite Iznik tiles

Tour Departs: April 11, 2023

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Boston, New York, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Land Only (transfers not included)</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $397, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. Your $500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $4,195 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 must be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For information about logistics or registration, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time
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 package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Tour Director which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); communication charges; optional sightseeing or shore excursions, and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-45 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your 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. It appears on your passport, as well as 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.

Insurance: We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be included with your email confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Office.

Responsibility: The liability of the MSU Alumni Office, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and 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, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The MSU Alumni Office, 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 of the air carriers, cruise lines, 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.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats 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 many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. 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, the MSU Alumni Office and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 the company feels 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 assignment on your international flight is usually done at the airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 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 air reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priority. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided to you prior to your departure.

JOIN MSU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ON A SPECIAL TOUR TO TURKEY!

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days before departure.