

TURKEY – A JEWISH HERITAGE DISCOVERY

Visiting many of the world's most ancient synagogues, historical Jewish, Christian, Greek, & Roman sites and the region's most renowned, unique, striking and breathtaking landscapes

October 15 - 28, 2012 • Shomer Shabbat Tour

Journey Outside Yourself with Joy!



Joy Katzen-Guthrie

Allow yourself to be swept away by the wonders of Turkey as you explore Turkey's rich Jewish Heritage. Visit Ashkenazi Synagogue - one of the world's oldest - and Sephardic Jewish settlements in Istanbul and Izmir. Learn how Jews not only shaped their own history here, but how they made a mark on the continent through their talents in finance, art, literature, philosophy, science and politics. Turkey is the only country to span two continents, and is literally a bridge between East and West. Geographically, it is the point where Europe and Asia meet. Culturally, Turkey has evolved through a succession of some of the world's greatest civilizations and is a strong blend of the sensibilities of both East and West. The Jewish synagogues of the Ottoman Empire are incredibly beautiful and are unlike any synagogues in the USA. The unique and surreal landscape of Cappadocia will captivate you with its rock formations called fairy chimneys and richly-frescoed churches carved from caves. Marvel at Kaymakli, the underground city which extends eight floors below the surface of the earth. Turkey is a land of exotic treasures and rich with a deep Jewish history.

Tour Cost: \$3,199.00

Based on minimum group of 12 travelers
Single Supplement from \$720.00

Tour price includes:

All transfers per program itinerary
12 Nights accommodation
3 Domestic Flights in Turkey
Meals as specified in the itinerary.
Welcome and Farewell dinner
All ground transportation
Baggage Handling at the hotels
Professional Tour Guide
(Spiritual and history specialist)
All entrances Fees
All applicable Taxes

Does not include:

Visa Fee \$20 / Travel Insurance
International flight to Istanbul
Customary tips for guide and driver
Personal items drinks, phone calls.etc.

Contact:

Gayle Lawrence
Journeys of Discovery
Carlson Maritime Travel

Palm Harbor, Florida

727-785-5563

info@ajourneyofdiscovery.com
www.ajourneyofdiscovery.com

Daily Itinerary



Day 1: Oct. 15, 2012 Monday

Depart your home city for Istanbul, Turkey

Day 2. Oct. 16, Tuesday, Arrival in Istanbul

Upon arrival meet with tour guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel.
Overnight in Istanbul. Group welcome dinner

Day 3: Oct. 17, Wednesday Istanbul B,D

Today we visit the old Jewish districts of Istanbul, including Neve Salom Synagogue (meaning "Oasis or Valley of Peace"), still Istanbul's most modern and magnificent synagogue, witness for some 75 years of the Galata district's observances, festivals, ceremonies, weddings, b'nei mitzvah and funerals. We'll visit the more than a century old Ashkenazi Synagogue, so called because it was founded by Jews of Austrian origin. Of three such synagogues in Istanbul, it is the last remaining and still in service. Our tour also includes one of Istanbul's oldest synagogues, the Ahrida Synagogue built by Greek Jews migrating from the city of Ohrid in the 15th century. And we'll see the early 19th-century Zulfaris Synagogue, now restored as the Jewish Museum of Turkey. In the afternoon, we'll explore the 17th century Etz Ahayim (Tree of Life) Synagogue, also known as the Ortakoy Synagogue (the district in which it is located), which was tragically destroyed by fire in 1941. Today only the marble Aron Kodesh remains intact (within a lovely garden overlooking the sea) . Overnight in Istanbul. (B, D)

Day 4: Oct. 18, Thursday Istanbul – Bursa B,D

This morning we take to the road for a guided tour to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, built in the fourteenth century. We'll enjoy seeing the Gerush Synagogue and then the Bursa Grand Mosque, both the largest mosque in Bursa and one of the most striking examples of Ottoman art. Overnight in Bursa. (B, D)

Day 5: Oct. 19, Friday Bursa – Izmir B,L

Today we drive southwest to Akhisar ("White Castle"), site of ruins of the ancient Turkish city of Thyatira. In early Christian times, Thyateira was home to a significant Christian church and may have been visited by the apostles. We'll continue to Sardis, in ancient times the capital of the kingdom of Lydia and one of the most important cities of the Persian Empire. It was conquered by Alexander in 334 BCE, growing considerably prosperous during Hellenistic and Roman rule. We'll visit the Temple of Artemis, Roman Stadium, Roman baths, theatre and one of the world's oldest synagogues, Sardis Synagogue, dating from the 3rd century BCE when King Antiochus III encouraged Jews from Babylonia and other nations to move to Sardis. Excavations of this site since 1958 have unearthed arguably the most impressive synagogue from antiquity in the Western Diaspora, with Greek and Hebrew inscriptions as well as mosaic floors. After this striking site, we'll drive to Izmir, home to an ancient and deeply historic Jewish community

dating to the 2nd century CE when Greeks renamed the city Smyrna. Witness to centuries of Jewish life, this city will be a highlight of our tour. We will settle into our hotel by late afternoon. Tonight we have the possibility of Kabbalat Shabbat at the 200 year-old Seniyora Synagogue, most active of the remaining synagogues on Havra Street, Izmir's "Street of Synagogues." The Seniyora is only a 20-minute walk from our hotel. Overnight in Izmir. (B, D)

Day 6: Oct. 20, Saturday Izmir (Shabbat no driving - Walking Day) B,D

This Shabbat morning is free for you to walk along the Street of Synagogues on your own. Home to nine synagogues, three are in use still today. If you desire, visit the Kadosh Mizrahi Synagogue and Shalom (Aydin) Synagogue (Both are open only on Saturday mornings.) near the Seniyora Synagogue. This afternoon we'll take a guided walking tour to Karatas, a 25-minute walk, and the location of Beth Israel Synagogue — the city's largest — as well as Beth Shalom Social Club and Karatas Hospital, owned and actively operated by the Jewish foundation of this city. We'll visit the Asansor (approximate 30-minute walk), a 19th-century funicular (incline railway) that was created to lift passengers up the sheer rock cliffs to the residential district above. From the top of the funicular, one experiences an exquisite bird's-eye view of the city and the bay. Inscriptions above the railway door are in both French and Hebrew. We have the possibility of meeting with the Asansör, President of the Izmir Jewish Community Center in the late afternoon, depending on his schedule. Overnight in Izmir. (B, D)

Day 7: Oct. 21, Sunday Izmir – Ephesus – Pamukkale B,D

Today's full-day excursion includes Ephesus, one of the world's greatest archaeological sites and the largest ancient city ever unearthed, once home to a population of some 300,000. One of the main centers of early Christianity and home to apostles, it became an important site of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. Ephesus' enormous amphitheater still can hold 24,000 spectators. Walking the marble-covered streets, we'll view gymnasiums, baths, houses, temples, and the breathtaking two-tiered Library of Celsius, erected in 110 CE. The reading room was destroyed by fire during the 3rd century, but the monument façade did not suffer damage. It has been restored and open to the public since the 1970's. Afterward, we continue our drive to Pamukkale, location of astonishingly beautiful sparkling white terraced hot springs formations. Overnight in Pamukkale. (B, D)

Day 8: Oct. 22, Monday Pamukkale – Cappadocia B,D

Pamukkale is Turkey's foremost natural mineral-bath spa, thanks to its hot calcium-rich springs cascading over a cliff. As they cool, they form dramatic brilliantly white calcium limestone formations and magnificent mineral pools. Visitors come here to soak or wade in the healing waters that have soothed the ailments of residents and visitors for more than 2,000 years. This city too was home to a significant Jewish community, mentioned by Paul in his Letter to Colossians. Our tour includes a visit to Hierapolis ("Sacred City"), a 2nd century BCE UNESCO World Heritage Site believed by its ancient population to have been founded by the god Apollo. The ancient Greco-Roman city of Hierapolis sat on top of hot springs — its great baths, library, and gymnasium constructed with huge stone blocks without cement. From here we drive to Cappadocia. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)

Day 9: Oct. 23, Tuesday Cappadocia B,D

Today begins with a visit to the fascinating Cappadocia town of Goreme and the Goreme Valley. The lunar-like landscape of this region is eerie, yet exquisite. Over thousands of years, rain has eroded this landscape to give rise to strange rock formations known as "Fairy Chimneys." Many homes and churches have been carved into these formations, some grottos magnificently decorated with colorful frescoes depicting biblical scenes. The modern city is home to a population of some 2,500. This region is known for its carpet-making shops, and we'll visit a local carpet cooperation, a carpet "farm" of sorts. This afternoon we'll tour the hidden "Monk's Valley" of Pasabagi, just outside Goreme, with its many astonishing carved rock houses, hermit shelters, and chapels in which residents and visitors have lived and prayed for centuries. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)

Day 10: Oct 24, Wednesday Cappadocia B,D

Following breakfast we'll explore the Underground City of Kaymakli, with its houses constructed underground. In about the 6th century, the Christian inhabitants of this region began to tunnel into the soft volcanic rock of these large hills. The subterranean city that they created is some 275 feet deep with eight distinct levels that housed several thousand residents and, astonishingly, a church, wine or oil press, kitchens, and copper mine. Next stops are the old Greek town of Mustafapasa (Sinasos), with its spectacular old Greek houses and Castle of Ortahisar. After testing the local wine, we'll visit a local family to learn about the region's culture while enjoying Turkish tea and Baklava. Next, we'll visit a historic and typical Turkish village, Avanos, renowned for its production of earthenware pottery. Here we'll see techniques of ceramic art dating from the 12th to 3rd centuries BCE. Overnight in Cappadocia. (B, D)

Day 11: Oct. 25, Thursday Cappadocia – Fly to Istanbul B, D

This morning we fly back to Istanbul. The afternoon is free to explore Istanbul on your own or for optional activities that can be arranged for you at the hotel. (costs not included) Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 12: Oct. 26 Friday Istanbul B,L

We'll spend the morning at the magnificent Topkapi Palace, once home to the great Sultans of Turkey and filled with treasures and antiquities that include 12,000 pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. This is home to the unique Blue Mosque, the interior walls of which are covered with 20,000 blue Iznik tiles. We'll see the Hippodrome and the spectacular domed Basilica of St. Sophia — first a cathedral constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, then a mosque, now a museum — the beauty of which has inspired architects and spiritual seekers for more than 1,500 years. We will return to our hotel by 4 pm to observe Shabbat, either attending a nearby synagogue for Kabbalat Shabbat, or sharing a Kabbalat service together in our hotel. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, L)

Day 13: Oct. 27, Saturday Istanbul B,D / Farewell Group Dinner

Observe Shabbat - Free day in Istanbul. (Optional activities can be arranged for you, costs not included in tour price). Perhaps shopping at the Grand Bazaar, the largest and oldest covered market in the world or a boat ride on the Bosphorus River. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 14: Oct. 28 Sunday B

After a farewell breakfast transfer to Ataturk Airport for your flight home. (B)

Don't Miss this Extraordinary Opportunity to Travel with Joy! Call or E-mail Gayle Lawrence Today!
Journeys of Discovery: 727-785-5563 • info@ajourneofdiscovery.com • www.ajourneofdiscovery.com