

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Please review the enclosed USI Travel Insurance Services brochure and letter. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, to cover certain injuries and illnesses that would not otherwise be covered by the policy 2) Protection for Certain Terrorist Acts if you cancel your trip due to a terrorist incident occurring in any city on your trip itinerary, within 30 days before or after our scheduled departure date, 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it must be through USI Travel Insurance Services.

## RESPONSIBILITY

**THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815/753-1512.**

**To make your reservation visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) and click on travel.**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

**Alumni Association**

**Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center**

**Northern Illinois University**

**DeKalb, IL 60115**

**815-753-1512**



The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association  
& The Office of Alumni Relations

*Present*

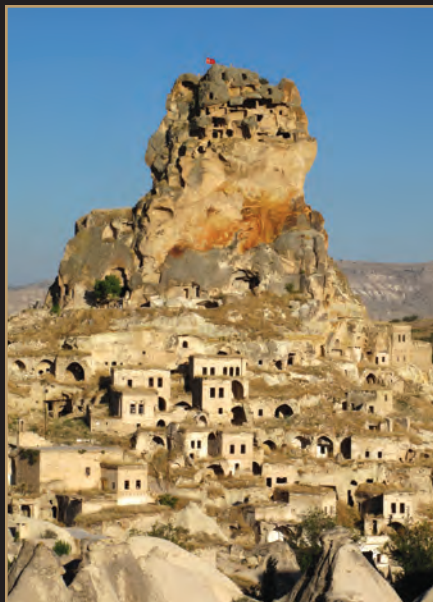
## Ancient Treasures of Turkey

May 20 – 29, 2011

or

June 10 - 19, 2011

\$3,929 per person, double occupancy from Chicago



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the  
Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.*

## Day By Day Itinerary

### Friday, Day 1 – CHICAGO/EN ROUTE (I)

We will depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of Turkish Airways on the overnight transatlantic flight to Istanbul, Turkey.

### Saturday, Day 2 – ISTANBUL (I,D)

Late this afternoon we will arrive in Istanbul where we'll meet our Turkish Tour Escort who will accompany us on vacation. Leaving the airport, a short drive will take us to our downtown hotel where the evening is at leisure. As we'll soon find out, Istanbul is a living museum with a mixture of history, religions and cultures just waiting to be discovered.



### Sunday, Day 3 – ISTANBUL (B)

We will begin our daylong exploration of Istanbul with a visit to the magnificent Topkapi Palace, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans from the 15th to the 19th century. Today, it is a museum with a superb and unrivaled collection of art formerly belonging to the Sultans. Next, we'll visit the Hagia Sophia, among the world's greatest architectural achievements. The "church of the holy wisdom" was at one time the largest church in the Christian world. In the 15th century, the Ottomans converted it into a mosque, and the present day museum is the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul, famous for its immense dome and mosaics. This afternoon, we will visit the famous Blue Mosque, the principal adornment on the skyline of the city. Built in the name of Sultan Ahmet, the mosque's 260 colorful windows enable the sunlight to reach inside and reveal the blue Iznik tiles covering the walls from which the mosque takes its name. Our day of sightseeing will come to an end following a visit to the ancient Byzantine Hippodrome, which was the center of civil activities in Constantinople as well as home to the Obelisk from Egypt and Serpentine Column from Delphi.

### Monday, Day 4 – ISTANBUL (B,L)

This morning we will explore the bustling and aromatic Spice Bazaar where the scent of cinnamon, cloves and thyme permeate from every storefront. Afterward, we'll take to the waters of the legendary Bosphorus, Istanbul's famous waterway dividing Europe and Asia. Sit back, relax and enjoy the perfect vantage point of the city's most impressive sights. Following our cruise, we'll disembark in time for lunch and then visit the Church of St. Savior in Chora. The present day church dates from the 1860s and is home to some of the country's very finest mosaics and frescoes. On our return to the city, we'll explore the Grand Bazaar, famous for its wide selection of carpets, silver and Turkish artifacts. This evening, be sure to enjoy a stroll along Beyoglu's pedestrian Istikal Caddesi, where you'll find shops selling handcrafted jewelry and numerous bars and restaurants.

### Tuesday, Day 5 – ISTANBUL/CANAKKALE (B,D)

Today we depart Istanbul and travel to the Gallipoli Peninsula, the scene of one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War I in which more than 500,000 Allied and Turkish soldiers lost their lives. We'll stop to view Brighton Beach and Anzac Cove, and visit the Kabatepe Information Centre that contains relics from the campaign including original diary extracts and letters. We'll also see the Lone Pine Australian Memorial and Johnston's Jolly where we can see the original Allied and Turkish trenches and tunnels, as well as the New Zealand Memorial and Chunuk Bair, honoring the 28,000 men who died here in August and September 1915. Afterward, we will cross the strategic Dardanelles and land in Asia where we'll spend the evening in the city of Canakkale.

### Wednesday, Day 6 – CANAKKALE/IZMIR (B,D)

Our day begins as we travel south to the legendary city of Troy, where the decade long Trojan War was fought. We'll visit the Castle Kingdom and explore the excavations as well as view a reproduction of the Trojan Horse. Then we're headed to Assos, where Aristotle founded his first school of philosophy, to visit the Temple of Athena from where you can see the Greek Island of Lesbos. Leaving Assos, we'll travel along the coast to modern day Bergama to visit the Pergamum Acropolis, where the ruins of Zeus' Altar can still be seen today. On a walk of the grounds, we'll see the steep hillside theater that could seat up to 10,000 people, the remains of the library and Temple of Trajan. Following our sightseeing of the Acropolis, we'll be on our way to the beautiful seaside city of Izmir, the most western-leaning of Turkish cities.

### Thursday, Day 7 – IZMIR (Ephesus) (B,D)

Today we will travel to Ephesus, among the grandest and best-preserved ancient cities in the world. Founded as early as 3000 BC, Ephesus served as a port city and center of trade and commerce even before the days of the Roman Empire.

Highlights of our visit will include the 25,000-seat amphitheater where, according to the New Testament, St. Paul addressed the Ephesians prior to his famous Letters to the Ephesians. We'll also see the Library of Celsus and the Temple of Hadrian, one of the most beautiful buildings on Curetes Street. Next we'll take in the Terrace Houses, the dwellings of the rich Ephesians, where the walls are covered with marble decorated with frescoes and mosaics. Continuing on, we'll walk pass through the Gate of Hercules and walk along the Colonnaded Street lined with Ionic and Corinthian columns. On our return to Izmir, we'll stop in the village of Meryemania to visit the House of the Virgin Mary where Christ's mother is said to have spent her final years, a pilgrimage site revered by both Christians and Muslims.

#### **Friday, Day 8 – IZMIR/CAPPADOCIA (B,D)**

This morning we will travel to Izmir Airport and take to the skies for Central Anatolia and the region known as Cappadocia. In addition to its unique geological formations, Cappadocia's historical and cultural elements make it one of the most important centers in Turkey.

On arrival, we'll travel to our hotel in the city of Nevsehir. This afternoon, we'll set our sites on the Goreme Valley, which holds the greatest concentration of rock-cut chapels and monasteries in Cappadocia. We'll enjoy a walking tour through the Goreme Open-Air Museum, introducing us to the best-protected cave churches in all of Turkey, decorated with unique frescoes depicting various scenes from the Bible. Following our exploration of the Open-Air Museum, we'll return to our hotel before taking in an evening performance of the Whirling Dervishes.

#### **Saturday, Day 9 – CAPPADOCIA (B,D)**

Today we will enjoy a full-day tour of the Cappadocia region. We'll begin by traveling to the Greek village of Mustafapasa where the houses have a wealth of carved stonework, wall

paintings and reminders of the former inhabitant's lifestyles. Next, we'll explore the Kaymakli Underground City where the persecuted early Christians took refuge in the nearly one hundred tunnels that are still used today as storage areas, stables, and cellars.

This afternoon, we will see some of Cappadocia's most extraordinary rock formations when we travel to the Devrent Valley. We'll see the animal shaped rocks which create a zoo of natural sculpture and the Fairy Chimneys, incredible cone shaped, capped rock formations. Our last stop of the day will take us to the attractive old town of Avanos with cobbled streets and a superb view over the Kizilirmak River, which gets its name from the red clay that it deposits. Since 3000 BC, Avanos has been the center of Turkey's terra cotta work and the town is still dominated by the industry. We'll have an opportunity to watch the artisans at work as they demonstrate the ancient kick-wheel technique, and you'll also have a chance to have a go yourself – it's harder than it looks.



#### **Sunday, Day 10 – CAPPADOCIA /CHICAGO (B,I)**

Early this morning we will travel to Kayseri Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories that will last a lifetime and to celebrate new friendships made along the way!

### **Visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

#### **The Tour Price Includes:**

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Turkish Airlines, including meals and light beverages served in-flight according to airline schedules.
- Turkish Entry VISA.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Turkish Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel in twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower.
- Breakfast daily, one afternoon lunch, and six evening dinners as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, and airline taxes, fees and fuel surcharges of \$380 per person (subject to change).

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; optional tours and excursions; gratuities to the motor coach drivers, Turkish Tour Escort and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.