

## Tentative Itinerary - Subject to change prior to departure.

### ISTANBUL

**DAY 1:** Upon arrival in ISTANBUL, the most beautiful and largest city in Turkey, our guide and driver will meet us at the airport and take us to our dormitory. Dinner at a restaurant. Overnight in Istanbul.

**DAY 2:** The day will start with breakfast at the dormitory. At 9:00 am we will begin our tour of the city's historical sites, including the ancient city walls; the 17<sup>th</sup> century Blue Mosque; Hagia Sophia, dating from Byzantine period; the Roman Hippodrome; and the Underground Cistern. We will also visit Topkapi Palace, the residence of Ottoman sultans from the 16th to 19th centuries. Historically known as both Byzantium and Constantinople, Istanbul, with a population of 12.8 million, is the fifth largest city in the world. The cultural and financial center of Turkey, it is the only city in the world that is situated on two continents, Europe and Asia. In its long history, Istanbul has served as the capital city of the Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, the Latin Empire and the Ottoman Empire. It was chosen as the joint European Capital of Culture for 2010. The historic areas of Istanbul were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. Dinner with a Turkish family. Overnight in Istanbul.

Important information for the day: Wear comfortable shoes! We will do a lot of walking! We will not return to the dormitory until after dinner.

**Day 3:** Breakfast at Fatih University. Fatih University was founded by the Turkish Association of Health and Medical Treatment to create an academically outstanding institution of higher learning for science and technology. Lunch at Today's Zaman, a national newspaper with the largest circulation in Turkey.

After lunch we will visit Miniaturk, the world's largest park of miniatures. It contains 120 models done in 1/25th scale. Without neglecting or excluding any of the historical and cultural values of Turkey, Miniaturk embraces all. While underlying the idea that this geographic part of the world is the cradle of many prominent civilizations, it also proves that diversity means richness.

After Miniaturk, we will enjoy Turkish tea at Pierre Loti Hill with its fantastic views of Istanbul.

Dinner with Turkish students at Fetih High School. Overnight stay in Istanbul.

**DAY 4:** After breakfast we will take a boat tour on the Bosphorus, a river which divides the continents Europe and Asia. Back on land we will have lunch at the Kimse Yok Mu Solidarity and Aid Organization headquarters. Kimse Yok Mu is a charitable organization that works to alleviate the effects of poverty in many countries and specifically provides aid for disasters, health, and education. After Kimse Yok Mu, we will visit FEM Altunizade Learning Centers or Camlica Schools and a national TV station. Dinner with a host family. Overnight in Istanbul.

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### BURSA

**DAY 5:** Breakfast, then a 3-hour drive west to Bursa, where we will have lunch at the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey. After our lunch and a conversation about Turkey's economy, we will tour the city and its famous shopping area.

Dinner with a host family. Overnight in Bursa at the school's dormitory.

**DAY 6:** Breakfast at the school. The Uludag Tramway will take us above Uludağ Mountain, the highest mountain in the Marmara region. A popular center for winter sports, like skiing, it is also a national park rich with flora and fauna. After lunch we will drive five hours south to Izmir, Turkey's third largest city, on the Aegean coast. Overnight in Izmir.

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### IZMIR

**DAY 7:** Breakfast at the school. Today we will spend the entire day at Ephesus, the best preserved classical city in the Eastern Mediterranean and one of the best places in the world to immerse your imagination in Roman life. In addition to visiting the impressive ruins of the ancient city, we will also see the House of the Virgin Mary, the Basilica of St. John and the site's museum. In the Classical Greek world Ephesus was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League. In the Roman period, it was the second largest city in the Roman Empire after Rome.

Famous for the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Ephesus in Christian times was cited as one of the Seven Churches of Asia in the Book of Revelation. The Gospel of John may have been written here, and we know Paul lived in Ephesus.

Drive to Istanbul.

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### ISTANBUL

**DAY 8:** Breakfast at the dormitory. We will be transferred to the airport for the return flight to the United States.