

Travel Bug Tour Connections



Journey to the Mystical Land of

TURKEY

May 16-30, 2020: \$2500
(all inclusive land only)

Dear friends, many warm greetings from Turkey!

The Middle East and Turkey has been the cradle of many wonderful civilizations over the past the thousand years. From Urartus to Hittites, from Lydians to Ottomans, the land of Anatolia has been hosting wonderful treasures and they are waiting to be discovered. This region proves the Middle Eastern folk saying "Sun rises from the East" with its many layers of incredible cultures. In our tours, we try to get a little taste from each culture by visiting monuments, cities or places which once was hosting very elaborate societies. We stroll around the hills of Cappadochia just like the Orthodox monks did 1500 years ago! We visit the 13th Century built Eshrefoglu Mosque in Beysehir and great mystic poet Rumi's tomb in Konya to feel the presence of early Turkish people in Anatolia. We also spend wonderful 3 days in Istanbul to experience the grandeur of the Byzantium and the Ottomans. In two weeks, we make almost 3000 miles of traveling and visiting to cover the Western half of Turkey. Once we finish our trip, you are pleasantly tired and satisfied with the scenery, people, music, shopping and especially the food!

Again, my personal emphasis in this tour will be on the traditional places and life styles of these regions. I am not interested in visiting places where you have to share the experience with literally thousands of others. I personally want to feel the sentiments of the ancient people who live in these places without being disturbed by too many visitors. This particular tour will provide us such an experience and I am sure you'll also enjoy the remoteness from major tourist centers during these journeys. While the trend toward globalization has been changing the

world rapidly, Turkey is still a remarkably traditional country where you can experience centuries-old ways of life. I suggest very strongly that you travel sooner rather than later to catch the last glimpses of the traditional culture, music, cuisine, hospitality and warmth of this fascinating country which has been a meeting place of East and West for millennia.

As you know very well that the best way of understanding other people and appreciate other cultures is going there and getting in touch with these people! I strongly believe that if more people had traveled around the world, more unlikely that they would have bad feelings against each other. Not knowing the 'other' is the main reason for all these troubles in our times. Therefore if the world needs to be a better place for humanity, we need to reach out and shake our neighbor's hands more. This is also the best way to appreciate who we are and what we have in our hand.

The most important question in your mind probably is the "security" during this tour. Although nobody can really prevent very unexpected incidents, I feel that we will be much safer in Turkey during this tour than in our hometowns in America. Turkish people have proven many times that they have a very clear understanding of the difference between the political power and the ordinary population of a country. We'll be just another touring group of very nice people who have great appreciation of Turkey and Turkish things. Therefore I expect that Turkish people will show us the traditional Turkish hospitality regardless of their private opinions about the American government's actions in Iraq or in the Middle East in general.

Latif Bolat

Best of Turkey: From Istanbul to Ephesus, from Cappadocia to the Mediterranean Coast, from Rumi's Konya to the city of Aphrodite; the entire Western and Central Anatolia!

Please tell the tour operator that you
were referred by Travel Bug.

Lbolat@aol.com
www.Latifbolat.com

