

## **Classical Tour (Segment B) 30 Aug – 13 Sep**

Here we just outline the day-to-day explorations here, with links to much more historical detail, pictures, and selections from our journals of previous trips. Besides the listed itinerary whenever possible we have optional, guided evening walks, a great opportunity for night photography without getting lost, or to just observe the local evening culture.

We're [leading 4 small group tours to Turkey](#), Uzbekistan and Bulgaria this year. You can easily combine several segments.

[Contact us](#) for prices or questions

Starting in Istanbul, we drive to Gallipoli and Troy. Then we start our trip south along the Aegean coast visiting Pergamum, Ephesus, Bodrum and smaller, less visited sites. We'll take a day trip on high-speed hydrofoil to visit the Greek island of Rhodes. We then head north stopping in Pamukkale and Konya to end with several days in Cappadocia.

**Day 1** Arrival in Istanbul and transfer to hotel. Group meeting before dinner

### **Overnight in Istanbul**

**Day 2** Morning flight to Cappadocia. Meet the Hittite tour group.

Even with 2 full days in Cappadocia, we can't explore all that Cappadocia offers. We'll decide as a group what we'd like to do. These blog posts describe some of the many possibilities.:

- [Cappadocia – Troglodyte Caves and Fairy Chimneys \(cascoly-images.com\)](#)
- [Natural history of Cappadocia](#)  
[Hiking in Cappadocia](#)  
[Christian art in Cappadocia](#)



**Day 3** Another full day exploring Cappadocia

**Day 4**



Drive to Konya, stopping at the neolithic site of [Catalhoyuk](#) and the medieval caravansary of Sultan Hani. [we visit the old market of Konya](#). Near Mevlana's Tomb, Bedesten Bazaar is the oldest bazaar in Konya. Here, discover the ancient artisan culture displayed in the vibrant cluster of shopping streets, where you can buy traditional products and wares.

[Whirling Dervishes & Camel Hotel – Konya & Sultanhani](#)

Overnight in Konya

**3-Sep**      **Day 5** Drive to Pamukkale/ Hierapolis (390 km). We walk along the travertine terraces, then visit the ancient Roman city of Hierapolis with its colonnaded street of the necropolis. Overnight in Pamukkale



#### [Visit Travertine Terraces of Pamukkale & Hierapolis](#)

**4-Sep**      **Day 6** Drive to Aphrodisias and Laodikeia. We visit 2 well-preserved ancient Greek and Roman cities., then drive to Fethiye ( 290km) for overnight

#### [Aphrodisias & Laodicea – Greek and Roman Cultural Centers](#)

**5-Sep**      **Day 7** Dalyan boat tour and Saklıkent then drive to Marmaris (150 km) for overnight

#### [Along the Lycian Coast – Dalyan, Fethiye and Saklıkent Gorge](#)

**6-Sep**      **Day 8**      Day trip to Rhodes. Visit the Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes followed by an old city walking tour (1 hour ferry ride each way). Return to Marmaris for overnight.

#### [From Turkey to Rhodes by Ferry](#)

**7-Sep**      **Day 9** Bodrum where we visit the sprawling St Peter's Fortress and Museum of Underwater Archaeology. Overnight in Bodrum. and then drive to Marmaris.

[Bodrum – Ancient Wonder and Medieval Fortress](#)



**8-Sep**      **Day 10** Tour Priene and Didyma, two less visited sites. We usually have Priene to ourselves. Then continue our drive Kuşadası for our overnight.

[Greek Temples of Athena and Apollo – exploring Didyma and Priene](#)

**9-Sep**      **11**      **Ephesus & Sirince, Cetin doll museum (45 km)**  
**Kuşadası**

**Day 11** [Ephesus & Temple of Artemis – Ancient Wonder of the World](#)

Like all the other wonders, not much remains of the Artemis Temple, one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, and it takes a lot of imagination to reconstruct the temple from the handful of restored columns. (We've already visited 2 other sites needing imaginative reconstruction -- Colossus of Rhodes and Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (now Bodrum) of which even less remains today).

After the tour of Ephesus, we'll visit Cetin's doll museum and the village of Şirince. Overnight in Kuşadası

**10-Sep**    **Day 12**    **Drive to Pergamum (200km)**    **Pergamum**

We visit Pergamum, then drive to Kuşadası for tomorrow's full day in Ephesus.

[Ancient Site of Pergamum – A Journey through Ancient Splendor](#)

We reach the most dramatic acropolis in Asia then walk thru the Temple of Athena and the agora to the Trajaneum. A series of arches follows the lower sections, leading to the Hellenistic theatre carved into the hillside, the steepest in Turkey.

At the base of the city, we visit the Asclepium, the ancient HMO where patients came for treatment and cures. Vaulted, underground passages connect the various rooms.

Overnight in Pergamum



**11-Sep**    **Day 13** We begin with a drive to explore the ancient site of Troy, including its magnificent new museum. ( It won the 2020 European Museum of the Year Special Appreciation Award, and the 2020 and 2021 European Museum Academy Special Awards.)

[Walking thru history- Dardanelles to Ancient Troy - Cascoly Travel & History Blogs \(cascoly-images.com\)](http://cascoly-images.com)



Assos is an ancient city on the western coast of Turkey. Assos was founded around the 8th century BCE by Aeolian settlers from Greece. It was strategically located on a hill overlooking the Aegean Sea, which allowed it to become an important port and trading hub in antiquity.

Cobble stone streets lead up a short path to the acropolis and the Temple of Athena.

Aristotle lived in Assos for a while and established an Academy there, which was a precursor to the famous Academy of Athens. He married Pythias, the niece of the

city's ruler, Hermias.

Afterwards, we'll drive down to the typical fishing village of Behramkale with some free time to explore the small harbor and marina.



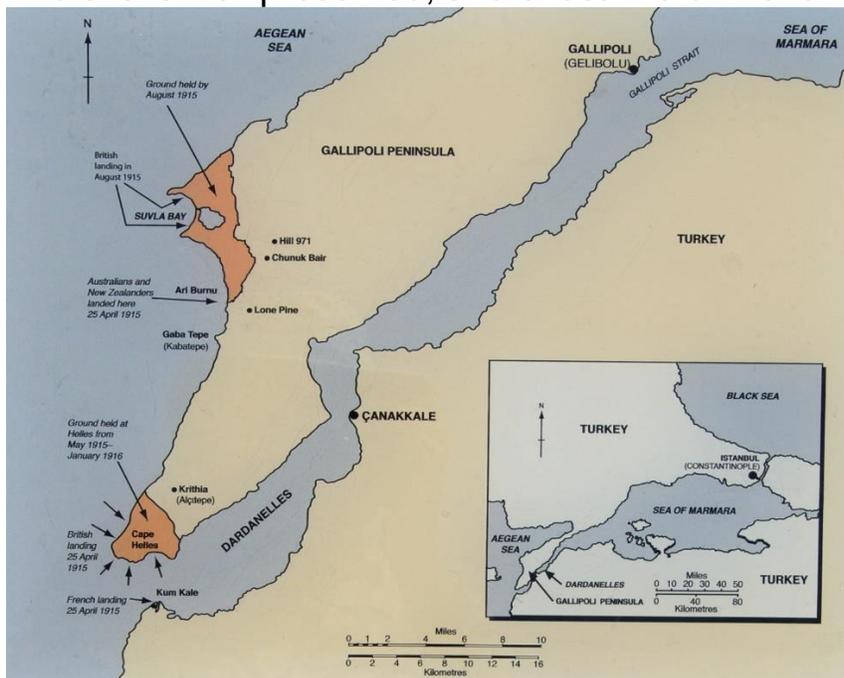
Our day concludes with a drive to nearby **Çanakkale** for overnight. **Çanakkale** has been attacked, defended, and overrun for thousands of years, but today is a pleasant seaside city with a large University and mostly Turkish vacationers. On warm evenings, the passeggiata slowly strolls along the broad curving quay, with many restaurants and tea houses, corn & ice cream stalls, usually with a cooling sea breeze.

**12-Sep 14 To Gallipoli and (320 KM) Istanbul**

**Day 14** We leave Asia either by ferry or the new bridge to the peninsula containing the Gallipoli battlefield

[Visiting the World War I Gallipoli Battlefield](#)

The site is well preserved, and evocative of the futility of war.



Afterwards we end our trip in Istanbul



Day 15 fly home

**Istanbul extra days**

We can arrange independent or guided days in Istanbul pre- or post-trip

For example – 2 full days in Istanbul with a guide:

Day 1 -- Hippodrome Obelisk, Marathon serpents, Blue mosque, Hagia Sophia / Ayasofya, Basilica cistern, Grand Bazaar (Kapali Carsi) walk downhill thru local markets to Spice (Egyptian) market. Boat trip on Bosphorus from Galata Bridge

Day 2 - Topkapi Palace, Rustem Pasa Mosque. Walking tour to Galata Bridge, Tunel funicular to Galata Tower and Taksim Square. Return by metro