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TURKEY
TRAVEL JOURNAL



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Istanbul is a major city in Turkey that straddles Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus Strait. Its Old City reflects cultural influences of the many empires that once ruled here.



Saint Sophia is one of the largest Christian shrines ever built. Adorned with rich mosaic murals and colossal columns, St. Sophia is truly a world heritage that has been home to many faiths throughout history and is currently operating as a museum displaying fabulous Byzantine art and architecture.



The Sultan Ahmed Mosque is famously known as the Blue Mosque thanks to the light that shines through over 2,500 stained glass windows, reflecting onto the dark blue Iznik tiles within. Built during the period 1609-1617, It also homes the tomb of Sultan Ahmed I.



The Hippodrome was once the site for chariot races and a focal point of city life. The remains of some of its wall are still visible to this day, as is an obelisk brought over from Egypt in 290 A.D. by Theodosius I.



The spectacular Topkapi Palace Museum was built in 1472 by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror. The palace is built around four courtyards leading into one another where you can view the many treasures of the Ottoman sultans.



The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops. It attracts between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily.



The Basilica Cistern is the largest of the many underground cisterns built during the Byzantine Empire to supply the city with water. This cistern is fascinating because the Byzantine builders recycled many stone structures that had been used in earlier temples.



The Spice Market dates back to the 17th century and is the most popular bazaar visited by locals. It is famous for its fresh ingredients that are used to spice up the dishes prepared in the kitchens of Istanbul.



Fener and Balat are some of the oldest neighborhoods in Istanbul. Fener holds Greek roots while Balat holds Jewish roots. These communities reflect the harmony of three different major religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



The Bosphorus Strait is a natural strait and an internationally significant waterway located in Istanbul in northwestern Turkey that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. It forms part of the continental boundary between Asia and Europe, and divides Turkey by separating Anatolia from Thrace.



Troy or Ilion was an ancient city located in present-day Hisarlik, Turkey. It is best known as the setting for the Greek myth of the Trojan War. The archaeological site is open to the public as a tourist destination, and has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list as of 1998.



Alexandria Troas is the site of an ancient Greek city situated on the Aegean Sea near the northern tip of Turkey's western coast, the area known historically as Troad, a little south of Tenedos. Throughout Paul's journeys, he visited Alexandria Troas and traveled by land to Assos from there.

Scripture Reference: Acts 16:8, 20:5-6; 2 Corinthians 2:12



Pergamon was a rich and powerful ancient Greek city in Mysia. The Acropolis of Pergamon was the capital of the Hellenistic Attalid dynasty, a major centre of learning in the ancient world.

Scripture Reference: Revelation 2:12-17



Sardis or Sardes was an ancient city best known as the capital of the Lydian Empire. After the fall of the Lydian Empire it became the capital of the Persian satrapy of Lydia, and later a major center of Hellenistic and Byzantine culture.

Scripture Reference: Revelation 3:1-6



Laodicea on the Lycus was a rich ancient city in Asia Minor, now Turkey, on the river Lycus. It was located in the Hellenistic regions of Caria and Lydia, which later became the Roman Province of Phrygia Pacatiana. It is now situated near the modern city of Denizli.

Scripture Reference: Colossians 2:1, 4:13-16



Pamukkale is a town in western Turkey known for the mineral-rich thermal waters flowing down white travertine terraces on a nearby hillside. It neighbors Hierapolis, an ancient Roman spa city founded around 190 B.C.



Colossae was an ancient city of Phrygia in Asia Minor, and one of the most celebrated cities of southern Anatolia. The Epistle to the Colossians, an early Christian text which identifies its author as Paul the Apostle, is addressed to the church in Colossae.

Scripture Reference: Colossians 1:2



Ephesus is an ancient city in Turkey’s Central Aegean region, near modern-day Selçuk. Its excavated remains reflect centuries of history, from classical Greece to the Roman Empire – when it was the Mediterranean’s main commercial center – to the spread of Christianity.

Scripture Reference: Revelation 2:1-7



Miletus was an ancient Greek city on the western coast of Anatolia, near the mouth of the Maeander River in ancient Ionia. Its ruins are located near the modern village of Balat in Aydın Province, Turkey.

Scripture Reference: Acts 20:15,17; 2 Timothy 4:20



Kuşadası is a beach resort town on Turkey's western Aegean coast. A jumping-off point for visiting the classical ruins at nearby Ephesus, it's also a major cruise ship destination. Its seafront promenade, marina, and harbor are lined with hotels and restaurants.



Izmir is a city on Turkey's Aegean coast. Known as Smyrna in antiquity, it was founded by the Greeks, taken over by the Romans, and rebuilt by Alexander the Great before becoming part of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century.

Scripture Reference: 2 Chronicles 20



GEORGIA

BLACK SEA

TURKEY

CYPRUS

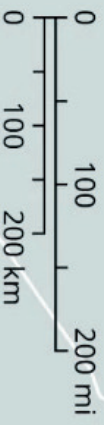
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