

2009 Intercultural Study Tour Information Kit



AIS VIP Intercultural Study Tour to Turkey 2009



An Initiative of the



**AUSTRALIAN
INTERCULTURAL
SOCIETY**

In cooperation with

PASIAD

(Asia-Pacific Social and Economic Solidarity Forum)

Travel Arrangements

1. Tour Program

The **Australian Intercultural Society's Intercultural Tour to Turkey** will take place during the following dates:

ANZAC Spirit Study Tour

20 April – 3 May 2009

Travel to Timeless Cities – Cappadocia, Harran

27 Jun – 10 July 2009

A. The purpose of the study tour

The study tour has been designed and organised to strengthen existing relations with tour participants and build bridges between communities, organisations and cultures.

It is important to note that this trip is not designed for tourism purposes; the AIS is not a travel agency motivated by financial gain. The organisation strives to make this study tour a success, with participants as tour delegates, in cooperation with Turkey's participating cities, community and business representatives, families and NGO's.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to participate in the scheduled program in order to meet and interact with the different sections of Turkish society acting as our hosts: individuals, business people, cultural-religious representatives, educational institutions and officials in the designated cities.

1. Booking and Payments

The two major sponsors of this trip are the AIS and **PASIAD** (Asia-Pacific Social & Economic Solidarity Foundation). PASIAD will subsidise part of the accommodation and dinner expenses during this trip.

The costs for each trip are as follows:

ANZAC Spirit Study Tour

Early Bird: \$3490; Full: \$3990

(This price includes: international economy return flight AUS-Turkey, accommodations, dinners, private mini-bus services, museums entry fees)

Travel to Timeless Cities

Early Bird: \$3790; Full: \$4290

(This price includes: International economy return flight AUS-Turkey, **return domestic flight from Istanbul to Kayseri and Antep to Istanbul**, accommodation, dinner, private mini-bus services and museums entry fees)

Travel will be with economy class and will include accommodation in three to five star hotels with twin share rooms, private mini bus coach services for the whole trip, dinners (lunches may not be provided during these trips). There is also an **early bird discount**, as listed above, for **payments and completed registration received before 28 February, 2009**.

After completing the registration form and confirming your participation on the trip, full payment is required. If you make your booking after the 28th of February then you need to pay the full fee listed above. If your booking is cancelled after payment has been received, 10% will be deducted from your full payment. Payment needs to be received 6 weeks before departure for either study tour.

The proposed flight to Turkey will be arranged according to economy airfares. However, travellers who wish to upgrade their ticket to Business Class should contact us for further information. People wanting to travel from or via other countries should also contact us.



2. Accommodation

Accommodation arrangements for our Guests/Delegates throughout the entire trip are pre-booked. **Guests will be accommodated per person in twin share rooms in three to five star hotels.** If you have alternative accommodation needs, please let us know as additional charges may need to be introduced. **E.g. if you would like a single room**

3. Registration and payment

In order for the completion of all necessary arrangements and bookings, all Delegates/Guests are advised to register early by completing the **Registration Form**. On completion, please forward to:

2009 Intercultural Study Tour to Turkey
Australian Intercultural Society
Level 1, 728 Mt Alexander Rd
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

or alternatively:

Email: info@intercultural.org.au
Phone: 03-9326 2177

Please make your cheque or money order payable to **Australian Intercultural Society**. You will receive an invoice/statement and an acknowledgement letter from the AIS confirming your payment.

4. BIO - Curriculum Vitae

Please include your 2 page Curriculum Vitae with your Registration Form outlining professional background and community related activities.

5. Extended stay, extra visits and attendance at other events

This study tour trip is a group study program and it is for this reason that permission will not be granted for the arrangement of alternative visits, meetings, or for attendance at other gatherings or functions during the entire course of the program. If such arrangements must be made, these must be scheduled at a time after the completion of the Intercultural Study Tour, at the additional expense of the individual guest concerned. If so required, please indicate on the registration form, by placing a tick on the relevant box, and writing the details of your intended destination. During the travel program, organisers reserve the right to refuse or delay the additional program, visit or meeting requests.

6. VISAS to Turkey

Travellers will require a valid entry visa to Turkey. Co-diplomats and Official Passport holders need to contact the local Turkish Consulate in Sydney or Melbourne and obtain an entry visa at least three weeks prior to travel to allow processing of your Visa application. Other passport holders can be issued an instant entry visa at Istanbul airport for a fee of US\$20 to \$25. All passports must be valid for at least 6 months in order for a Visa to be issued.

Contact details of Turkish Consulates are as follows:

Turkish Consulate, Melbourne tel: (03) 9696 6066
Turkish Consulate, Sydney tel: (02) 9328 1155

7. Language

Turkey's official language is Turkish. Although some of the hosts may be able to speak English, assistants and guides will be available for translating and interpreting in cases where communication is in Turkish.

8. Travelling Guest ID card

Shortly upon receipt of the registration form and full payment, delegates/guests will be issued with a Guest ID card. Trip participants are requested to display their ID pass at all times. Lost or damaged ID cards should be reported immediately to the head of the delegation in order for it to be replaced.

9. Dress Code

Attire for most travelling time will be informal and only for official meetings, gatherings and visits will business or semi-formal dress be required. Women would be advised to bring a head scarf to use when entering mosques

10. Medical Assistance

Delegates/guests should inform the trip organisers of any specific medical requirements or health conditions. In case of medical emergency or the need for special medical attention, we strongly advise that guests have a traveller's insurance policy. Turkey's medical system is semi-commercial.



B. General Information

1. Health Regulations

No specific health certificates or immunizations are required. However, you are advised to check and get some advice about your trip from your family doctor.

2. Climate

The seasons are opposite to those in Australia. For detailed information about weather in Turkey please visit:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/country_guides/results.shtml?tt=TT004360

<http://www.turkeyforecast.com/>

3. Electricity

The power supply in Turkey is 220/240 Volt, 50/60 hertz. Two-hole round sockets are in use, as in the case of Europe.

4. Currency

Most internationally recognised currencies and travellers' cheques can be exchanged easily at commercial banks and hotels. **Recommended currencies are EUR and USD – major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and major retail outlets.**

Please check current exchange rates.

<http://www.x-rates.com/>

5. Shopping

Shops in Turkey are generally open from 9:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Thursday, 9:00am to 9:00pm on Fridays, 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays, and are closed on Sundays. Some stores operate with extended trading hours. Shopping information can be obtained from the hotel concierge.

6. Standard Time

Standard time in Turkey in April is **GMT - 7 hours.**

7. Further Information about Turkey

If you need further information about Turkey, please visit:

<http://www.360tr.com/english/>

<http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN>

<http://gototurkey.co.uk/>

<http://www.tourismturkey.org/>

<http://www.mapofturkey.info/>

<http://www.goturkey.com/>

<http://www.turkishclass.com/>