Eastern Turkey and Black Sea

18 Day Conducted Tour

for only $5,985 per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

This great price includes all of the following:

• Return air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Istanbul with Singapore Airlines, plus a flight within Turkey.
• A fascinating 15 day tour of eastern Turkey, the Black Sea coast, the “fertile crescent” where civilization began, and views of Mt. Ararat of Noah’s Ark fame.
• A one day stopover in Singapore.
• Very good accommodation, mainly 3 to 5 star and special class heritage hotels.
• Many meals.
• Entrance fees to many attractions and all transfers and transport.
• Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide and drivers.
• Services of Turkish tour guides, and if there are 15 or more tour participants there will also be an Australian tour escort.

If you do not have a travel partner but still want to travel at twin share rates we will do our best to match you up with someone else, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra charge of $975.

For anyone with an interest in history Turkey is a fascinating place. Eastern Turkey is very much off the usual tourist track, but is quite beautiful with a wonderful history and culture.

Note: There is an optional extension of a 15 day tour of fascinating historical Turkey, including a visit to Anzac Cove & Gallipoli for an additional price of $3,345 per person twin share, or $4,065 single room.

Tour departs Australia 5th October and returns 22nd October 2016

We try harder to find you the best travel deal
Itinerary for Eastern Turkey & Black Sea Tour - October 2016

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

05.10.16  **Australia - Singapore**
Dept Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.30pm.
Dept Melbourne at 11.30am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 4.20pm.
Dept Sydney at 12 noon on SQ 232, arriving in Singapore at 5.35pm.
We are transferred to our hotel in Singapore for an overnight stay.

06.10.16  **Singapore**
Today is at leisure. While in Singapore we will receive all the benefits listed below:
*50% discount on the la carte food menu (food only) at the designated food outlet in our hotel.
*Free unlimited rides on SIA Hop-on tourist bus, which travels through the main tourist belt.
*Singapore Cable-Car.
*Free admission to several attractions; National Orchid Garden, Singapore River Cruise, Jurong Bird Park, The Singapore Zoo, Original Singapore Walking Tour, Singapore Flyer, Malay Heritage Centre, Chinatown Heritage Centre, Universal Studios Singapore.
*Discounts on shopping, dining, sightseeing tours and attractions as listed in SIA Boarding Pass Privileges program.
We will have a 6pm late check-out from the hotel. Later this evening we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Turkey.

07.10.16  **Singapore - Istanbul**
(D)  Dept Singapore at 1.45am on SQ 392, arriving in Istanbul at 7.45am. After passport and visa procedures, we are met and taken to our hotel. There will be time to relax before the guide takes us to dinner at a local restaurant.

08.10.16  **Safranbolu**
(B/D)  This morning we will drive to the historic town of Safranbolu which is one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites of Turkey. The town is graced with many traditional houses and mansions. The friendly people of Safranbolu will welcome our interest in traditional Turkish culture as we wander through the town, admiring its charm and beauty. Our stay will be at an old Ottoman house complex which has been converted into a hotel. The town is full of unusual photo opportunities with many Ottoman houses.

09.10.16  **Amasya**
(B/D)  Today we will drive to the Hittite ruins at Yazilikaya to see the private temple of Hittite kings and then to Hattusas, the capital city of the Hittite Empire which is one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites of Turkey. At this site we will follow the ancient city wall constructed nearly 3,400 years ago and see the ruins of the Great Temple of the Storm God, the Lion Gate, the King Gate (guarded by a relief of the Hittite War God) and the Great Fortress. Afterwards, we will depart Hattusas and continue to Amasya, the one time capital of the Pontic Empire. It is a lovely little town nestled in
a small mountain valley formed by the Green River. Some of the most striking features of Amasya are the tombs of the kings of Pontus carved into the high cliffs surrounding the city. Here, we will explore the old streets of Amasya.

10.10.16 **Trabzon**
(B/D)  
Today is a driving day. We will travel from Amasya to the beautiful wooded coast of the Black Sea, following the coastline to Trabzon. The scenery on this drive is unbelievable. Trabzon is an ancient Silk Road Black Sea port, with its recorded history dating back to 746 BC. With lush, green vegetation throughout the region, this area is a very unique part of Turkey. Hazelnut and tea plantations are the major contributors to this region's agricultural exports.

11.10.16 **Trabzon**
(B/D)  
We will visit the Sumela Monastery in the morning, which is from the Byzantine era, and enjoy a lovely picnic by a rushing stream there. One of the remarkable features of this site is that it is carved into a cliff face!

12.10.16 **Erzurum**
(B/D)  
From Trabzon we will drive to Erzurum. This is a very beautiful drive, which follows various rivers. Erzurum is at an altitude of 2000 metres and although it is somewhat remote, it is one of the largest cities in eastern Turkey. Despite its size, the people maintain quite a conservative outlook. Here, one will frequently encounter more women wearing veils than in other cities. While in Erzurum we will have lunch in a restaurant converted from old Ottoman houses decorated with antiques everywhere. We will visit Ulu Cami (the Great Mosque) and the old Selcuk Medrese (schoolhouse).

13.10.16 **Kars**
(B/D)  
An early morning departure from Erzurum will take us on a beautiful drive to Kars. We will arrive in Kars to visit Ani at the Turkish-Armenian border. A 45 minute drive will take us to the medieval Armenian City of Ani, which lies mostly in ruins. Impressive fortified walls still encircle the ruins of numerous churches, mosques and caravansaries. Walking around the ruins, we will be able to see a beautiful view of Armenia across the Arpa River, which creates the border between Turkey and Armenia. Other attractions in the city of Kars are the immense citadel, its old bridges and an Armenian church (the Church of the Twelve Apostles).

14.10.16 **Van (Mt Ararat)**
(B/D)  
Early in the morning, we will drive along the beautiful yet rugged border between Turkey and Armenia and arrive in Dogubeyazit. On the way, we will stop for photo opportunities. We will also have the opportunity to see Mt Ararat, where Noah's Ark is believed to be, and visit the spectacular Isah Pasa Palace. This complex is a combination of mosque, fortress and 17th century palace. We then have a two and a half hour drive to Van. Upon arrival in Van we visit the 3,000 year old fortress, built by the Urartians, who inhabited the region between the 9th and 6th century BC and called their capital city 'Tushba'.
Mardin

Early in the morning a short ferry ride will take us to Akdamar Island. There is a wonderful 10th century Armenian Church that is called the Church of the Holy Cross. The outside walls of the church are decorated with wall reliefs depicting various well known tales from the Bible and the Old Testament. This church was restored to its former glory and is a true gem. We drive to Batman where we will visit the incredible and ancient city of Hasankeyf nearby. Hasankeyf is on the banks of the Tigris River and is located in an area of the Fertile Crescent where animals were domesticated and grains were cultivated over twelve thousand years ago. After driving ninety minutes, we will arrive in Mardin, capping a long but spectacular day with many stops. Mardin is a very unique and lovely city with many old Arabic style houses. It is a city that played an important role in the early development of Christianity. We will take time to walk in its busy streets and bazaars and take superb photographs. Just outside of town, we will visit the monks in the Monastery of Deyr-az-Zaferan, which was founded in 4th century AD. It was the seat of the Syrian Orthodox Patriarch for almost 800 years. This monastery is built on top of a 4,000 year old temple originally used by sun worshipers.

Urfa

Today we will drive three hours to Urfa, the birthplace of the prophet Abraham. One of the highlights of Urfa is the Gobeklitepe, which is an active archaeological site where we see a 12,000 year old temple complex. We will also visit nearby Harran and see the incredible beehive houses. Harran, according to the Bible, was the site where the prophet Abraham lived with his family for several years before moving to Israel, the Promised Land. We will also visit the holy sites at Ainzelha, a lake with domesticated fish. There are exceptional photo opportunities in this area.

Mt Nemrut

From Urfa we will drive 2 hours to Adiyaman Kahta. On the way we will stop to see Ataturk Dam, the fourth largest dam in the world, built on the Euphrates River. We will drive through the pistachio orchards before checking into our hotel. Soon after, we will board small mini buses to drive up Mt Nemrut. Resting at an elevation of 2150 metres this extraordinary mountain top features a funerary temple complex composed of two flattened areas strewn with huge statues and fallen heads of Greco Roman gods. Each head measures 2 - 3 metres high, belonging to the likes of Zeus, Hercules, Fortuna, Apollo and the King Antiochus, who considered himself a god. There is also a mound of broken gravel that makes a perfect false peak of crushed rock. Antiochus built the entire complex 2,050 years ago as a monument to his 'divine ancestry'.

Please note: The hike to Mt Nemrut consists of 20 to 40 minutes of a 30% uphill hike, mostly with stairs. There is no time limit and most can do the hike. There are also donkeys or mules available for hire.

Gaziantep

Early in the morning we will drive to Gaziantep to visit the mosaic museum and see the famous mosaic of a gypsy girl from the ancient city of Zeugma. This is one of the two best mosaic museums in the world, displaying two thousand year old Roman mosaics. We will explore the old city of Gaziantep to see the incredible Roman Castle, old markets and the traditional lifestyle. Overnight is in Gaziantep.
20.10.16  Istanbul
(B) Today we fly to Istanbul for an overnight stay.

21.10.16  Istanbul - Singapore
(B) This morning we are transferred to Istanbul International Airport, departing at 1.30pm on SQ 391, arriving in Singapore at 5.00am the next morning (22.10.16).

22.10.16  Singapore - Australia
Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 7.05am on SQ 241, arriving in Sydney at 5.45pm.
Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 7.45am on SQ 207, arriving in Melbourne at 6.10pm.
Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.40am on SQ 245, arriving in Brisbane at 7.30pm.
Itinerary for West Turkey Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

21.10.16  **Istanbul**  
(B)  
Today is at leisure.

22.10.16  **Istanbul - Ankara**  
(B/D)  
Morning departure for a five hour drive to Ankara, the capital of Turkey since 1923. We will visit the magnificent Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which is also known as Hittite Museum. This museum presents relics from Catal Hoyuk, one of the earliest known human communities that existed through the Hittite and the Roman Classical period.

23.10.16  **Ankara - Cappadocia**  
(B/D)  
We will visit the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the father of modern Turkey. Then we depart on a four hour drive to Cappadocia. We drive along the Salt Lake. An optional Whirling Dervishes performance is held in a 13th century Caravansary. We have a three night stay in Cappadocia.

**Cappadocia**  
An optional balloon tour can be done in the morning, flying over volcanic valleys and rock formations (fairy chimneys). After breakfast, we visit Goreme, Pasabagi, Uchisar, Kaymakli or Ozkonak underground city. While in Cappadocia, we will enjoy the unique landscapes of wind and rain eroded volcanic formations. Carved directly into stone, Cappadocia's amazing subterranean cities include ancient underground churches and cities hand-hewn from solid rock by early Christians. We will see beautiful hand made carpets and kilims and also visit a local pottery workshop and see traditional Hittite ways of shaping red clay.

24.10.16  **Cappadocia – Konya - Antalya**  
(B/D)  
Today we will drive to Antalya. On the way we will visit the city of Konya, which was a capital of Anatolian Seljuk. We visit Mevlana Mausoleum and Museum.

25.10.16  **Antalya**  
(B/D)  
Antalya is a beautiful and historic city snuggled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Toros Mountains. During our stay in Antalya, we will tour the city as well as visit the ruined sites of Aspendos and Perge. Aspendos dates back to the time of the Hittites, yet the only visible remains are from the Roman period. The restored theatre at Aspendos is said to be the best in all of Turkey. Perge reached its height under the Romans and Alexander the Great. Today, what remains are the ruins of a great theatre, a stadium and the colonnaded main street. We will visit the excellent Antalya Archaeology Museum.

26.10.16  **Aphrodisias - Pamukkale**  
(B/D)  
We will depart Antalya early and drive to Aphrodisias, the city of art dedicated to the Goddess Aphrodite. Octavian once said that "of all the cities in the world, Aphrodisias is my favourite". The marble theatre here is beautiful and the stadium
that seats over 35,000 is immense. It is also the largest in the world and the best preserved. Aphrodisias was a centre to cultivate the finest sculptors, whose works are found all over the Roman Empire. After Aphrodisias we will continue to Pamukkale.

29.10.16
Pamukkale - Kusadasi
This morning we depart for Kusadasi. En route we will visit another Greco-Roman city "Hierapolis". It has an incredible necropolis (city of the dead) and we will see many sarcophagi (burial monuments). We will visit the snow-like travertine of calcium for which Pamukkale is famous. Pamukkale is one of the natural wonders of the world, with beautiful mineral springs clinging to the hillsides that will amaze us. In the afternoon we will arrive in Kusadasi.

30.10.16
Kusadasi – Ephesus - Kusadasi
Today we visit the incredible city of Ephesus and its colossal Greco-Roman Theatre where St. Paul preached. This particular theatre is still used for performances today. The Marble Road, the Celsus Library and the Temple of Diana are just a few of the sites we will visit. We will also visit the house where St. Mary lived her final days. (After the crucifixion of Jesus, St. John brought her to Ephesus). In the afternoon we will have time to shop for leather goods, which are famous in this area.

31.10.16
Kusadasi - Pergamon - Troy - Canakkale
During a scenic three-hour drive up the Aegean Coast, we will stop in Pergamon to see the Asklepion, an ancient hospital complex. Then, we will drive three hours to Canakkale, where we will visit the legendary city of Troy. Here we will have the opportunity to see a replica of the Trojan horse. To date, nine different Troys have been discovered, all built one on top of the other. While in Canakkale we will stay at the hotel which overlooks the Dardanelles and Gallipoli across the Straits.

01.11.16
Dardanelles - Gallipoli - Istanbul
This morning we depart for Gallipoli and cross the Dardanelles to visit Anzac Cove, Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine Cemetery. We will drive to Istanbul in the afternoon for a three night stay. Upon arrival in Istanbul we visit the Grand Bazaar and explore this well known historical market of the city.

02.11.16
Istanbul
Istanbul, once called Byzantium in the 7th century B.C., was named Constantinople in 326 A.D. by Constantine the Great when he moved the capital of the Roman Empire to what is now Istanbul. The city received its current name from Mehmet II in 1453 and is the only city in the world that spans two continents. It was the capital to three major empires (Rome, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires). Here we will visit several of Turkey’s most famous museums and mosques. Topkapi Palace (excluding harem) was first built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453 and was the home of the sultan until the 19th century. The Blue Mosque was commissioned by Sultan Ahmet in 1616 and was constructed with the deliberate intention of rivalling the St. Sophia. In the afternoon we visit St Sophia, which was built by the Roman Emperor Justinian and was completed in 537 A.D. It was the greatest Christian church in the world for more than 1000 years.
03.11.16  Istanbul  
(B/D)  Today we will visit the Rustem Pasha Mosque with its exceptional tiles and the spice market. We will take a Bosphorus cruise on a private boat. In the afternoon, we will visit the Taksim Square and stroll around Istiklal Street (art and fashion centre of Turkey). This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner.

04.11.16  Istanbul - Singapore  
(B)  This morning we transfer to Istanbul International Airport, departing at 1.25pm on SQ 391, arriving in Singapore at 5.45am the next morning (05.11.16).

05.11.16  Singapore - Australia  
Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 7.05am on SQ 241, arriving in Sydney at 5.55pm.  
Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 7.45am on SQ 207, arriving in Melbourne at 6.10pm.  
Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.35am on SQ 245, arriving in Brisbane at 7.35pm.  

Note:  The cost of the optional west Turkey extension is $3,345 per person twin share or $4,065 single room.
Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's East Turkey & Black Sea Tour

**Deposits and Payments** - A non-refundable deposit of $400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 10 weeks prior to departure.

**Refunds and Cancellations** - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

**Insurance** - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

**Passports** - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. An E-VISA is required for Turkey and must be obtained prior to travel at [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr) Current cost is $60 USD per person, but this is subject to change.

**Basic Tour Price and Taxes** - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

**Not Included in the Cost** - All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), travel insurance etc. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

**Breakaway Fee** - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is $55 per person. Please enquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

**Health and Fitness** - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

**Booking through other Agents** - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

**Accreditation** - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

**Twin Share Bookings** – If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

**Limitation of Liability** - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.
MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO
A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour: ____________________________  Departure Date: ____________________________

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) ______________________________________________________
Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.  ___________  Age:  _______________  Date of Birth: _______________

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) ______________________________________________________
Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.  ___________  Age:  _______________  Date of Birth: _______________

Postal Address: ________________________________________________________________________

PostCode  Email  ________________________________________________________________________

Telephone / Fax Number:  ______________________________________________________________
Mobile

Passport Number:  ____________________________  Expiry Date:  ____________________________
Passport Number:  ____________________________  Expiry Date:  ____________________________
Passport Nationality: __________________________________________________________________
Passport Nationality: __________________________________________________________________
(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single Room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: ______________________________________________

Special Dietary Needs: __________________________________________________________________

Optional Extensions: _________________________________________________________________

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify:
Name: ____________________________________________  Relationship: ________________________
Address:  ______________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________________________________________________________

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of $400 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: ____________________________________________  Date: ____________________________

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.