



January 11, 2011

To: Those interested in the SBMA tour
Classical Treasures of Turkey with Nigel McGilchrist
May 15 to 27, 2011

From: Theresa Payne, Manager of Travel and Special Programs—(805) 884-6476

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Barbara Museum of Art tour to Turkey with Nigel McGilchrist. Following the hugely successful Greece tour Nigel planned and led for a group of nineteen SBMA travelers last May, he offered to plan a trip for our members to one of his favorite places—Turkey. After a year of careful research and planning, and much buzz about the program, one trip became two, and we are delighted to offer two very unique experiences in Turkey planned and led by Nigel McGilchrist: Classical Turkey and Eastern Turkey. We have enclosed Nigel's itinerary for the Classical Turkey trip this May. It is unusual for us to send the itinerary in this format. However, we felt that Nigel's eloquently worded letter best describes the truly special Turkish experience he designed.

The Classical Turkey tour is designed for first-time visitors and for those who would like to return to some favorite places and visit a few new destinations under the guidance of a true connoisseur of the region. The Eastern Turkey itinerary is for those who have already explored Turkey's West Coast and would like to delve into some of the country's farthest reaches or for those who prefer to travel well off the tourist track. The dates for the Eastern Turkey tour are September 18 to October 2, 2011 and the itinerary should be available soon.

Regardless of what trip captures your interest, it is important to note that Nigel's plans generally avoid heavily touristed spots especially when charming alternatives are possible, and he times visits to major sites at off hours when crowds have thinned. He prefers to visit hidden gems rather than sites that one finds on most itineraries. He uses local operators, hotels, and restaurants wherever possible. His meticulously crafted itineraries provide a very different face of the country than most travelers will ever have the opportunity to experience.

If you are interested in joining the program, or have a friend who might like to go, we would encourage you to respond immediately to secure your place. Thank you for your support of the museum and please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We hope you will join us!

*PODERE LA PIEVE,
PLAN DEL VANTAGGIO 49/50,
05019 ORVIETO,
ITALY.*

January 10th 2011

Dear Fellow Travelers,

Here is my outline itinerary for our planned tour to Turkey in May of 2011. I am happy that there is such interest for Turkey, and I have done my best to produce a very special introduction to the country for those of you for whom this may be a first visit. The Museum has also asked me to design another Turkey tour for the early Fall of 2011, which visits the much lesser known area of Eastern Turkey: it will be a harder and more adventurous tour and will appeal, I imagine, more to those who are already familiar with the country and want a taste of the real, oriental, outback Turkey...

The May tour is an eleven-night/twelve-day tour with almost a week dedicated to the magnificent cities of Istanbul and nearby Bursa, followed by five days in the romantic world of the ruins of classical antiquity along the beautiful southern Mediterranean coast of Turkey – the areas that were known as *Lycia* and *Pamphylia* in ancient times. In the first week we explore the rich overlay and interweaving of the worlds of Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire in their erstwhile capital of Constantinople/Byzantium/Istanbul – all names for the same city in the several, different Golden Ages which it has seen. Istanbul is a city like none other in the world – not just because it is partly in Asia and partly in Europe, and has been both the Christian and then the Islamic capital of two of the largest Empires of world history – but also because it is a vibrant, optimistic, and hugely diverse modern city today, whose strategic importance is vital to the complex cultural, military and religious realities of the 21st century. Added to that it has wonderful food and – with apologies to the French – the best pastries in the Mediterranean. And then there are the rugs; and – most exquisite of all – the 16th century Iznik tiles which adorn the mosques and palaces of the city, and leave an indelible impression on the discerning visitor. We will see all the great monuments of the city, of course: but I want also to find time in our programme for one the city's best pastry-chefs to share with us some of the secrets of his art, and for a contemporary rug-producer to explain to us something about the production of his artifacts. (I will happily teach any of you some elementary Turkish, too, if you would be interested: it is a beautiful language and fun to experiment with.)

Over the thirty years I have been visiting Istanbul, the city has become hugely more popular as a destination for visitors – at first from Western Europe and America, but now also from Eastern Europe, Russia and Asia, with of course the inevitable cruise-ship crowds weighing in at the same time. The Turks have not always been successful in managing this increase of tourism: visits to the Sultan's palace of Top Kapi, Santa Sophia and the Underground Cisterns can really be spoiled by such crowds who are no longer sensitive either to the beauty or sanctity of the places, or to the need for courtesy towards other visitors. Those of you who have traveled with me before know that I will do everything possible to protect you from the worst excesses of fellow tourists – by choosing times, and methods of visiting which minimise the crowds and maximise your enjoyment and

understanding. But, in Istanbul at least, be prepared for some deft foot-work at times to see these places at their best..

...which is precisely why I have suggested that we add a couple of days in Bursa to the first part of the tour. Who goes to Bursa? That's the point. Bursa was briefly capital of the Ottoman Empire during the decades prior to the Turks' capture of the city of Constantinople. It has a number of the earliest examples of monumental Ottoman architecture in the country. It is a pleasant town with a genuinely workaday Turkish feel to it, and it has a great gastronomic tradition too. After the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, the bazaar in Bursa feels very civilised and tranquil, and there are few visitors or tourists. It is 'real' Turkey. The town is at the foot of Uludağ – one of the highest mountains in the area – from which rise a number of hot springs. One of them rises in the compound of the historic hotel, the 'Çelik Palas', where we will be staying; there is a magnificent circular swimming pool of geothermic water in a domed building in the hotel. I have always felt that you can get closer to the feel of what the Ancient Roman Thermal Baths were like in this marvellous pool than almost anywhere else.

Then, by the time we are tired of the big cities, we can leave and fly to the south coast of Turkey. Here we can split our time between visits to the elegiac, classical ruins of the area, both by land and by boat. These are amongst the loveliest ruins of the Mediterranean, with buildings submerged in sand-dunes in places, or collapsing into the water at others. They may not have been the most famous centres of the Greek and Roman world, but the remains they have left behind are certainly among the most evocative. We will finish our tour by visiting the mountain-top site of *Termessos* where the ancient theatre, built virtually on the edge of a precipice, is often strafed by the clouds. Our last evening will be in Antalya, whose delightful old town and harbour will, I hope, provide an unforgettable setting for our farewell dinner.

On a more fiscal note, I apologise that the single supplement is so high; this is because rooms in the Pera Palace Hotel are hard to obtain, and the hotel makes no concessions at all for single occupancy. We are simply passing on what the hotel asks of us. Our accommodations at the Pera Palace account, in fact, for a large proportion of the overall tour cost. But in a demanding city like Istanbul, it is very important to have comfortable lodgings; and I think that once you have sampled the hotel's comforts you will not regret the extra expense!

Here is the itinerary:

Depart USA **Sunday 15th May**

Monday 16th May:

Arrive late-afternoon at Istanbul Airport, where I will meet you. Private transfer to our lodgings for the next four nights at the Pera Palace Hotel. The **Pera Palace**, which is one of the historic hotels of Istanbul – frequented in the past by King George V, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and Czar Nicholas II, as well as Greta Garbo, Rita Hayworth and many other luminaries – partakes of the quality of a national monument. The rooms in the hotel where Kemal Atatürk stayed and where Agatha Christie, began writing *Murder on the Orient Express*, are preserved as small museums. The hotel has just reopened after a

sixteen-million dollar refurbishment. Well, let's see how they have done it. It will certainly be a comfortable and amusing base for our visit to the city.

Once you have settled in and freshened up, we will dine at *Hamdi* restaurant, with splendid views over the Golden Horn.

Pera Palace (D)

Tuesday 17th May:

A short talk in the hotel about the geography and early history of the city and of the Bosphorus, and then we'll leave for the Golden Horn, where we will take our own boat for the day slowly up the **Bosphorus** and see the city, its monuments and shore-side mansions from the water.

We will disembark at Sariyer – in sight of the northern exit of the Bosphorus into the Black Sea – and visit the **Sadberk Hanım Collection**, which is a small and select, private collection of ancient and Ottoman art and artifacts. Afterwards lunch in a shore-side restaurant by the harbour of Sariyer.

This evening before returning to the hotel we will visit the greatest monument of Byzantine architecture and history, the church of **Santa Sophia** or 'Holy Wisdom'. Built in the 6th century, and still one of the largest domed spaces in the world, this extraordinary building makes visible to us the unbroken link between preceding ancient Roman architecture and the great monuments of Ottoman architecture which were built to adorn the city 1500 years later. I want to visit the building in the last hours, right up until closing time: that way the crowds are mostly gone, and with luck we can enjoy some peace and a lovely evening light in the building. For the first time in 17 years the interior of the church – one of the most impressive interior spaces in the world – will be completely free of scaffolding, since the lengthy conservation works to the dome are now completed.

Pera Palace (B,L)

Wednesday 18th May:

Another short talk about the history of Byzantium and Ottoman Istanbul before we begin our tour. Then we will leave for the **Church of St. Saviour in Chora** (or 'Kariye Camii') – one of the few smaller Byzantine churches in the city to have survived with much of its high-quality **mosaic and fresco** decoration still intact. After this we will return to the city center to visit the eerie world of the **Underground Cisterns** ('Yerabatan Saray') of the city, built by Justinian in the 6th century at much the same time as his great project of Santa Sophia, and then look at the area around the ancient **Roman Hippodrome** of the city.

If you would like, we could go really 'local' for lunch and try a freshly baked Turkish '*pide*' (somewhat like a pizza) in a little 'hole-in-the-wall' eatery– nicely avoiding the tourist places in the process. A walk through the lesser-known part of the old city to the 6th century **church of SS. Sergius and Bacchus** – now converted into a mosque – which was another of Justinian's buildings.

Our transport will pick us up and take us now to the **Grand Bazaar** – Istanbul's celebrated and labyrinthine covered market, first laid out by Mehmet the Conqueror in the 15th century. After an hour or two, return to the hotel to rest and freshen up. Cocktails on a roof top near our hotel with

views all over the city and its waterways, and then dinner at *Imroz* – a small restaurant near the fish and flower market in the heart of **Beyoğlu**, the city's commercial centre.

Pera Palace (B,L,D)

Thursday 19th May:

An early start today, so that we can be at **Top Kapi**, the Sultan's Palace, by 8:30 am when the doors open. This is the only way really to avoid the crowds. The palace is very big, and I propose that we walk through the whole extent of it quite quickly to the very furthest point, which is also the loveliest part – an area of exquisitely tiled pavilions and fountains at the heart of the Sultan's most private quarters. To have these to ourselves is a rare joy. Then as the crowds begin to come in, we can slowly make our way back against the flow, seeing the other important collections and buildings along the way. And when it all gets too much, we can leave, and go and have a peaceful light lunch in the garden of a small, wooden, Ottoman hotel, nearby.

Suitably refreshed, we can visit the tiny **mosque of Sokollu Mehmet Pasha** built in 1571 by the greatest Ottoman architect, Sinan. Return to the **Archaeological Museum** of Istanbul, which is on the edge of the Palace compound, just to look at three or four things in this huge and important collection.

From the Museum we'll take the tram downhill to the **Spice Bazar** (Mısır Çarşısı) and finish our day's visits with the small but spectacular mosque of **Rüstem Pasha**, designed by Sinan, built literally on top of the market area and entirely revetted in blue and red Iznik tiles of the finest period.

I think we deserve by now to try the very best of Turkish *baklava*: so we'll sample the delicate, varied and exquisitely prepared *baklava* at the **Gülüoğlu Patisserie** in Karaköy, together with some Turkish tea. For those who are particularly health-conscious, this delicacy can also be taken with *kaymak* – a fresh, clotted cream made from the milk of the ewe when she just begins nursing. Sigh.

A Turkish bath or a work-out in the gym to gain an appetite for our last dinner in Istanbul at *Develi Restaurant* – who boast among their specialties some of the best *fıstık kebab* (pistachio kebabs) and *çiğ köfte* (a piquant puré of the best quality beef fillet with spices) in Istanbul.

Pera Palace (B,L,D)

Friday 20th May:

After checking out, we will be transferred by coach and a short ferry-ride to the south coast of the Sea of Marmara to Yalova, where there is a further, hour-long journey to **Bursa**. Once checked in at the **Çelik Palas Hotel**, the marvellous geothermic pool is at your disposal. The water is a perfect temperature and the whole building has very much the feel of an ancient Roman bath. One begins to understand why the Romans spent so much time bathing every day....

After that, a dinner in the hotel's quiet and excellent restaurant.

(B,D)

Saturday 21st May:

A day exploring the sites of Bursa and its magnificent early mosques – first the **Ulu Cami** (the ‘Great Mosque’); and then the **Yeşil Cami** (or ‘Green Mosque’) and its neighbouring mausoleum which are both beautifully decorated with tiles. We can also spend some time in the city’s *bazaar*, which seems marvellously tranquil after all the hassle of the ‘Covered Bazaar’ in Istanbul.

From Bursa a cable-car ascends, in several stages, up to the summit of **Uludağ**, (one of the many mountains called ‘Mount Olympus’ by the Greeks): if the weather is good, we might take this gondola-ride and enjoy some of the fresh air and magnificent views from the mountain’s summit.

Dinner in one of the city’s oldest and best-known restaurants.

(B,D)

Sunday 22nd May:

After checking out from the hotel we will take our transport back to Yalova, going this time by a different route however. We will skirt the edge of the lake of Iznik and make a short stop in the town of **Iznik** – **ancient Nicaea**. It was here that the production of the exquisite tiles we have been admiring in Istanbul was based: some of the old kilns can still be seen. But *Nicaea*, the Greek town which was here many centuries before, is also famous for what was the first ‘Ecumenical’ Council of the Christian Church in 325 ad, which gave rise to what is still referred to as the ‘Nicene Creed’. The Council was presided over by Constantine the Great in person and he is said to have participated frequently in the debate, speaking both in Latin and in Greek. We can see the church where this took place, and reflect on the significance of that historic meeting.

We will take the ferry back from Yalova to Bostanci in Istanbul, and transfer directly on arrival to the airport for our scheduled *Turkish Airlines* flight (TK 2560 at 5:50 pm) to **Dalaman** on the country’s south coast. There should still be a little day-light left on our arrival, so that we can still enjoy the beautiful coastal scenery on our brief transfer from Dalaman Airport to the **Hotel Barbarossa** at Kaş, which will be our shore-side home for the next three nights.

(B,D)

Monday 23rd May:

My plan for today is one of real relaxation. We will have a wooden *gulet* at our disposal for the day to go up or down the coast from **Kaş** and visit the many elegiac remains of the ancient towns and ports which dotted this coastline in antiquity. We will encounter some ruins even which spill down

into the crystalline water and continue partially submerged. A common feature of the landscape are the necropolises, cut into the face of the rocks with their elegantly pedimented entrances; at other points decorated Lycian sarcophagi lie scattered on the shore. We may go west to **Kalkan**, or east towards **Kale** and to **Demre**, the home town of one of the Mediterranean's most important saints – Saint Nicholas of Myra (later known as St Nicholas of Bari – the city where he was eventually buried): he is the patron saint of sailors .. and, of course, of unforeseen gifts in his persona as 'Santa [Ni]Claus'.. I hope there will be ample opportunity to swim from the boat in the turquoise water which covers the ruins. A harbour-side dinner of fish and seafood rounds off our day in the evening.

Hotel Barbarossa

(B,D)

Tuesday 24th May:

To the west of Kaş lie two of the most evocative ruined, ancient cities along this stretch of coast: the extensive remains of the former metropolis of *Xanthos*, and its coastal sister-city of *Patara*, whose ruins today have been engulfed by sand-dunes, as the shore-line has slowly retreated. Neither city was a major player on the international stage of ancient history, but they had considerable local importance nonetheless. What is important here is the variety of remains, which can tell us a lot about everyday life in antiquity: but, above all, it is the beauty of their setting which stays in the memory.

Hotel Barbarossa (B)

Wednesday 25th May:

We leave Kaş today and head around the coast into the Gulf of Antalya. In our peregrinations we will visit two or three ancient sites. We will have a picnic lunch among the pine-trees which shade the ruins of *Phaselis*. This was an important commercial colony of the city of Rhodes: Alexander the Great wintered here on his push into Asia Minor during his great campaign against Darius, King of Persia. The other site I would particularly like for us to visit today is ancient *Aspendos*, because it offers something quite unique: its magnificent **theatre** is probably the best preserved Roman theatre in the Eastern Mediterranean, with its towering stage-structure still standing intact. Nearby in the countryside a short distance from Aspendos are the remains of a remarkable **ancient aqueduct**, complete with complex 'hydraulic' pressure towers which helped the course of the aqueduct to go both up and down in elevation, as well as to deliver water to the town with decent force. If there is time we might also visit nearby *Perge*.

In the evening we will return to **Antalya** – the capital of Southern, Mediterranean Turkey, and stay in the modern comfort of the **Divan Talya Hotel**. An evening walk and dinner in the old part of the town with its delightful streets, overhung in places by the upper floors of the wood and plaster Ottoman mansions.

Divan Talya Hotel

(B,L,D)

Thursday 26th May:

This is our last day in Turkey. I propose, for those who still have some stamina for ancient sites – a visit to the mountain top city of ancient *Termessos*. This settlement – one of the few that resisted Alexander thanks to its impregnable position – is quite different in feel from the others we have seen. Perched on a peak in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains, much of its remains are now overgrown with vegetation. The main ruin left from the city is its theater, which has dramatic views as far as the city below. Sometimes it is literally in the clouds: but to sit on the steps of its ruined *cavea* and contemplate the scene around can be a moving experience.

Before lunch, we'll drop back into Antalya to spend the rest of the day there. Antalya is a delightful city in which to shop, or walk, or sit in a café by the harbour. This might be a last opportunity to look for a rug, some antiques, ceramic or any other sort of memento of the trip. It's also a good moment for a last *baklava*....

In the evening we will have a final celebratory dinner in a restaurant on the edge of the harbour.

Divan Talya Hotel

(B,L,D)

Friday 27th May:

Departure this morning from the hotel will be early. Our flight (TK 2405) leaves Antalya at 6:50 am, in order to bring us into Istanbul Airport at 8:10 am. This will make it easy to connect with all outgoing flights to the USA which generally leave mid-morning.

(B)

I very much hope this itinerary appeals. It has an immense variety to it, and constitutes a very full introduction to this part of Turkey. And one thing you can be sure of is that you will eat deliciously throughout...

Nigel McGilchrist



Classical Treasures of Turkey with Nigel McGilchrist

May 15 to 27, 2011

Tour Cost:

\$5,990 per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1980

Museum Donation: \$350 per person

Includes:

- Eleven nights accommodation: four nights at the Pera Palace in Istanbul, two nights at the Çelik Palas Hotel in Bursa, three nights at the Hotel Barbarossa in Kaş, and two nights at the Divan Talya Hotel in Antalya
- Breakfast daily, five lunches, and nine dinners
- Domestic flights: Istanbul to Dalaman (5/22) and Antalya to Istanbul (5/27)
- All domestic land, sea, and air transportation in Turkey as described
- Airport transfers for those on the suggested flights
- Full program of events including excursions and admissions
- The services of Turkish guide, Hakan, and Nigel McGilchrist as guide and lecturer throughout

Not included: international flights to and from Istanbul; cost of personal insurance for health, baggage and trip cancellation; items of a personal nature including laundry, room service and communication charges; deviations from the scheduled tour; airport transfers for those not on suggested group flights; and items not specifically mentioned as included. All arrangements are subject to change. The tour is based on 20 participants. *CST 2090260*

Currency: The land cost of this tour is based on the Euro exchange rate as of January 10, 2011 and therefore subject to change. Although it is unlikely, we reserve the right to revise the tour cost in line with any currency fluctuation. This will not be done unless the difference exceeds \$100. Such a currency surcharge will not apply to those who have already made payment in full.

The travel program is a benefit of membership. Non-members will be invoiced accordingly for an additional \$60 (\$45 seniors) and will receive full membership benefits for a year.

Air Arrangements: Round-trip airfare on Lufthansa is currently \$1530 including tax, subject to change. For those who would like assistance booking flights, we suggest calling Sheree Peterson with the Santa Barbara Travel Bureau at (805) 966-3116 ext 102. Please note that departure from Istanbul at the end of the tour should be scheduled no earlier than 10 am, as the included flight from Antalya to Istanbul is scheduled to arrive at 8:10 am that morning.

Suggested flights with transfers included:

Sun. May 15	Lufthansa #457	Los Angeles/Frankfurt	2:50 pm/10:35 am +I
Mon. May 16	Lufthansa #1300	Frankfurt/Istanbul	1:05 pm/4:55 pm
Fri. May 27	Lufthansa #1771	Istanbul/Munich	1:05 pm/2:40 pm
	Lufthansa #452	Munich/Los Angeles	3:45 pm/7:05 pm

Alternatively, Turkish Air operates a non-stop flight from LAX to Istanbul, with one-stop in Chicago on the return for \$1260 at press time. Turkish Air is a Star Alliance member.

Sun. May 15	Turkish Air #10	Los Angeles/Istanbul	5:55 pm/5:10 pm +I
Fri. May 27	Turkish Air #5	Istanbul/Chicago	11:20 am/3:15pm
	Turkish Air #8629	Chicago/LAX	5:30 pm/8:09 pm

FURTHER INFORMATION: Telephone: 805-884-6436 Fax: 805-966-6840

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Classical Treasures of Turkey with Nigel McGilchrist

May 15 to 27, 2011

Reservation Form

Send to:

Turkey Tour

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

OR

Fax to: (805) 966-6840

1130 State Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Enclosed is my/our deposit check (\$1500 per person, refundable until February 1, less \$350 administrative fee) payable to the SBMA in the amount of \$_____; OR

I/we would like to charge the deposit to a credit card:

Check one: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card number _____ Expires _____

Signature as on the card _____

Credit cards cannot be accepted for final payment.

I will be sharing a room with _____; OR Single Supplement

Please note any special requests such as extra nights: _____

Name (s) as appear on passport _____

Address _____

Tel. (day) _____ (eve) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.