



Mediterranean Cultures
May 20 – June 27, 2007

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May 20, 2007

Departure on an international flight from Washington D.C. to Istanbul.

May 21, 2007

Arrival in Istanbul where you are met by your CSA Turkish On-site Coordinator. Transfer to your hotel. Later a local guide conducts a walking tour of the historic heart of this amazing city. Sights include the **Blue Mosque**, the **Hippodrome**, the **Snake Pillar** and the **Spice Market**. Tonight celebrate the start of your program with a **Welcome Dinner**.

Hotel: Euro Plaza or similar

May 22, 2007

Continue your exploration of Istanbul with a local guide. Highlights today include **Hagia Sophia**, **Topkapi Palace**, and the **Grand Bazaar**. In the afternoon enjoy a cruise on the **Bosphorus**.

May 23, 2007

A morning visit to the EU Office in Istanbul (subject to availability) will allow for a discussion on the politics involved in Turkey's bid for membership. After a visit to the American Chamber of Commerce you have a free day to continue your exploration of Istanbul. This evening you have a special **Turkish Dinner** complete with local belly dancers.

May 24, 2007

This morning depart Istanbul; a stop at the site of **Gallipoli** allows for a discussion of WWI and the involvement of the Australians, British and Turks. Later take a ferry to the Asian side of Turkey and visit the ruins of the legendary city of **Troy**, discovered by Heinrich Schliemann in the 19th century. Continue on to **Bergama**.

Hotel: Bergama Hotel or similar

May 25, 2007

Today visit the archaeological site of **Pergamon**, one of Turkey's greatest classical sites. You will see the **Acropolis**, the **Red Church** and the **Pergamon Museum**. Also visit the **Asclepion**, one of the ancient world's oldest and most important medical centers. In the afternoon drive to **Selcuk** and visit the ruins of **Claros** and the **Archaeological Museum at Izmir**.

Hotel: Selcuk Hotel or similar

May 26, 2007

Incomparable **Ephesus** is one of the most stunning sites in Turkey! You explore this incredible site this morning with a local guide. Later drive to **Pamukkale**.

Hotel: Hierapolis Pamukkale or similar

**May 27, 2007**

A local guide introduces you to the gleaming travertine pools of Pamukkale. Later visit the sites of **Aphrodisias** and **Hierapolis**. Free afternoon.

May 28, 2007

First stop this morning is the ancient town of **Milas**. Later continue on to Bodrum, the ancient Halicarnassus. Free afternoon.

Hotel: Majesty Marina Bodrum or similar

May 29, 2007

Today is free to continue exploring Bodrum.

May 30, 2007

Transfer from your hotel to the port city of **Marmaris**. Ferry journey to the Greek Island of **Rhodes**. Upon arrival you are met by your Cultural Studies Abroad On-site Coordinator who will remain with you for the duration of the program. Transfer to your hotel. You will want to start exploring this fascinating island, once home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the Colossus of Rhodes.

Hotel: Plaza Hotel or similar

May 31, 2007

Today a half-day excursion will discover the **Acropolis of Lindos** and the **Mater Palace**. Entrances are included to the Acropolis, the Palace and Museum.

June 1, 2007

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to **Heraklion**, on the island of **Crete**. Once the center of the splendid Minoan civilization, Crete boasts a long and fascinating history. **Hotel: Hotel Astoria or similar**

June 2, 2007

A full day exploring the wonders of Crete will include the **Ex Aghios Nikos** and the site at **Knossos**, once the center of the Minoan culture. A stop will be made at Matala for swimming.

June 3, 2007

Today discover the Museum of Heraklion, **Ex Elounda**, **Aghios Nikos** and **Spinalonga** where you enjoy a cruise.

June 4, 2007

Full day at leisure in Heraklion.

June 5, 2007

Today board a ferry for the beautiful island of **Santorini**. Discover the small twisted streets with their very picturesque whitewashed houses.

Hotel: Santorini Image or similar

June 6, 2007

This morning journey back in time during a visit to ancient **Thira**. Once an outpost of the Minoan world, Thira was destroyed during a violent volcanic eruption about 3,500 years ago, and perhaps the Minoan civilization along with it.

June 7, 2007

Today explore the island's Caldera by boat.

June 8, 2007

A ferry ride this morning brings you to **Piraeus**, Athens busy port. Transfer to **Athens**, once the center of art, culture and democracy in the ancient world.

Hotel: Esperia Palace Athens

June 9, 2007

Classical Athens comes alive during a morning tour of the **Acropolis** including the famed **Parthenon**. After a free afternoon you have a panoramic tour of Athens by Night followed by a special **Greek Dinner and Folklore Show**.

June 10, 2007

Continue your study of Athens with visits to the incredible **Archaeological Museum**, and the **Benakis Museum**. If possible, a guided visit to the **Greek Parliament** will be included.

June 11, 2007

Today's specialized visits may include the U.S. Embassy and the European Commission. Coach is available for local transfers all day.

June 12, 2007

Today visit the sites of **Mycenae**, **Epidaurus** and **Corinth**. Continue to **Nafplion**.

Hotel: Hotel Amalia or similar

June 13, 2007

Full day at leisure with coach and guide at the group's disposal.

June 14, 2007

Full day at leisure with coach and guide at the group's disposal.

June 15, 2007

Transfer to Patras where you board an overnight ferry (sleeping berths included) to **Bari**, Italy.

June 16, 2007

Today a drive across the southernmost part of Italy brings you to the lovely city of **Taormina**.

Hotel: Hotel Assisos Palace or similar



June 17, 2007

Etna looms menacingly over the island of Sicily and today you discover this active volcano around Etna and **Gole dell'Alcantara**.

June 18, 2007

Today travel to the city of **Siracusa** where a guided tour will introduce you to the city's rich history including the **Greek Theater** and the **Roman Amphitheater**.

Hotel: Hotel Jolly Siracusa or similar

June 19, 2007

Today is free to continue discovering Siracusa.

June 20, 2007

Today journey to **Agrigento** where you visit the famed **Valley of the Temples**.

Hotel: Akrabello or similar

June 21, 2007

A morning drive brings you to one of the most fascinating cities in all of Sicily: **Palermo**. Visits today include the splendid Norman-Byzantine cloister in **Monreale** and the Cappella Palatina in the **Palazzo Dei Normanni**.

Hotel: Astoria Palace Hotel

June 22, 2007

After a free morning in Palermo transfer to the pier and board an overnight ferry with sleeping berths to **Naples**.

Overnight on ferry

June 23, 2007

This morning visit one of the ancient world's most famous and stunning sites- **Pompeii**. Buried by Vesuvius's violent eruption, Pompeii was both destroyed and remarkably preserved by the volcano's ash and lava. Later continue to the *Eternal City, Rome*. In the evening enjoy a guided tour of *Rome By Night*.

Hotel: Regent Hotel Roma or similar

June 24, 2007

Morning transfer to the train station. You have reserved seats on a train to **Florence**. Known as the *Cradle of the Renaissance*, Florence is a living textbook of Italian art and architecture. A local guide will conduct a walking tour of the city's historic center. Entrances to the Cathedral, or **Duomo**, are included. Return to Rome by train in the afternoon.

June 25, 2007

This morning's specialized visit (availability permitting) is to a local Government office. Later a local guide conducts a tour of Rome including entrances to the **Vatican Museum** which includes Michelangelo's **Sistine Chapel**, and **St Peters Basilica**.

June 26, 2007

Continue discovering the riches of Rome with a full day tour including entrances to the **Villa Borghese** and the catacombs, just off the **Appian Way**, outside the city walls.

**June 27, 2007**

Full free day in Rome. This evening toast the success of your program at a farewell Dinner

June 28, 2007

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA.