



Mehmet Ozbalci and Don Lyon

CUE Photo

June 6 Konya: Enroute, we visit an ancient Caravansary along the old Silk Road. All of our drives provide us with endless opportunities to photograph traditional farming practices and shepherds on the move with their flocks. Today is no exception as we drive towards Konya where the great 13th C. Sufi poet Mevlani Rumi is buried. His blue tiled mausoleum is spectacular. We hope to photograph Dervishes in their whirling trance this evening.

Balikcilar Hotel--1 night.

June 7 Kusadasi: A long but scenic drive today with many stops on the Anatolian Plateau for snow covered mountains and fields of red poppies and other wild flowers. Vast fields of purple opium poppies are in bloom at this time of year and make spectacular images. Pammukkale (Cotton Castle) is a picturesque white travertine terrace built by mineral deposits. Hieropolis was the Roman spa town that flourished here until the 3rd C. CE. When we reach Kusadasi, we will have driven straight across Turkey! Kushadasi Hotel--1 night.

June 8 Ephesus to Istanbul: Walk in the footsteps of St. Paul this morning, through one of the great cities of the bible, still spectacular in ruins. In Izmir we catch a flight to Istanbul and return to the perfectly located Arcadia Hotel (2 nights). We'll take the ferry up the Bosphorus and visit the Grand Bazaar in the late afternoon.

June 10 Airport Transfers this morning.

GENERAL INFORMATION and CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS: A \$500US per person deposit and a signed application is required to confirm any reservation. Balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Visa and Mastercard are accepted for deposits.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Minimum cancellation fees, shown below, are in addition to any non-recoverable deposits made to suppliers and are based on the number of days prior to departure that we receive written notice of cancellation. More than 120 days--\$200. 60-120 days--\$500. Less than 60 days--50% of Land Costs or per person fixed operating costs plus non recoverable deposits, whichever is greater. Within 30 days, 100% of Land Costs is forfeited.

CANCELLED EXPEDITIONS: Close-Up Expeditions retains the right to cancel any trip which does not have the stated minimum number of participants. Deposits will be refunded. Deposits collected for Expeditions cancelled due to events beyond our control will be refunded minus unrecoverable expenses.

EXPEDITION COSTS INCLUDE: unless stated otherwise in the brochure, Accommodations based on two people sharing one room. Meals--usually table d'hôte breakfasts and dinners. Lunches as indicated. Land Transportation by vehicles appropriate to group size, expedition goals and local availability. Sightseeing and Admissions--as indicated in the brochure. Baggage and Personal Equipment: Handling of one medium size suitcase, not to exceed 27" X 21" x 9" (or combined dimensions of 57") and 45 lbs is included. Guides may refuse to carry luggage exceeding these limits. Hand-baggage and camera equipment should be of a size convenient to carry and be kept with you in the van without inconvenience to others, and is entirely the responsibility of the client.

SMOKING & CELLPHONES are not permitted in Vehicles and at Meals.

GUIDE SERVICES & PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION: The services of your CUE leader are included from arrival at the Meeting Point on Day One, terminating on the last day as indicated in the brochure. Photographic advice and instruction is included on a group basis and individually as time permits.

EXPEDITIONS COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE: Air transportation, passport, visa and airport fees, inoculations, medical expenses, lunches unless indicated otherwise, and items of a personal nature such as beverages, laundry, tips for special services, excess baggage charges, gratuities to guides and drivers and expenses due to events beyond the control of Close-Up Expeditions.

TURKEY

IN SEARCH OF THE ARK

MAY 25-JUNE 10, 2009



PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURES



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**CLOSE-UP
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with Don Lyon and
Mehmet Ozbalci.

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Meet the people--Adiyaman

CUE



Istanbul's Golden Horn

CUE Photo

TURKEY--IN SEARCH OF THE ARK is a 17 day Travel Adventure for Photographers. We travel in a 23 Seat Van (limited to ten). We take full advantage of the light and serendipity--the days can be long. Hotels are chosen for location, also for charm and comfort. Breakfasts and dinners are table d'hôte, lunches are more creative. Your guides Don Lyon and Mehmet Ozbalci have been perfecting Turkish Photo Adventures together for over 15 years.

17 Day Land Cost* **\$5976.**
Single Supplement **\$725.**

*Includes all surface and air transportation in Turkey, accommodations (twin basis), luggage handling, meals, admissions, guide services and photographic instruction. Price is based on a minimum of seven passengers. International Air Fares are not included.

OUR ITINERARY

May 25 Arrive Istanbul: Afternoon arrivals are transferred to our beautiful hotel overlooking Istanbul's fabled Blue Mosque. Late afternoon orientation tour including Topkapi Palace. Early start next day to watch the city awake from the Golden Horn and bustling Spice Market. Afternoon is 1500 year old Haigia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. Hotel Arcadia--2 nights.

May 27 Fly to Kars: Arrival in ancient Kars, gateway to Armenia and Georgia, is a time travel experience leading back to medieval days--the stone castle and Church of the Holy Apostles remind us that this is truly the crossroads of civilizations. Kars Hotel--1 night.

May 28 From Ani to Dogubeyazit: Abandoned to the winds, Ani is filled with ruined Armenian churches, ancient frescos exposed to the elements. On to Dogubeyazit, in the shadow of Mt. Ararat. We seek the legendary resting place of Noah's Ark. The palace of Ishak Pasha is most impressive. Sim Er Hotel--1 night.

May 29 Lake Van: Continuing south we stop at Nuradiye Waterfalls and to Van Castle built in the 9th C BCE by the Urartians. Next day we visit 18th C. Hosap Castle and 7th C BCE Cavustepe. Lunch near Lake Van then by boat on the great lake to Akdamar Island to photograph the iconic Armenian church with its unique reliefs. Uratu Hotel--2 nights.

May 31 Mardin: Swinging around the SE corner of Turkey we stop at Hasankeyf's ancient cave dwellings and the impressive castle along the Tigris--both sites are fated to be underwater as the reservoir rises. Mardin is almost an open air museum with it's stone buildings, bazaar and lifestyle centered on the shaded courtyard. The Syrian Orthodox Christian Monastery near by has served the Aramaic speaking community since the 4th C. CE Erdoba Hotel--1 night.

June 1 Sanliurfa--City of Prophets: Afternoon drive across the plains planted in lentils and grains. Abraham was born in a cave in Sanliurfa. Job, Jethro and Moses all lived here, too. Still a thriving city, we visit the old bazaar where smiths shape copper and brass ware, pack saddle makers find customers and there is always time for a game of chess or dominos. Nearby is the mostly abandoned city of Harran. The picturesque ruins of the old caravansary and the very practical beehive homes peak of Abraham and his tribe who left from here to go to Canaan as God commanded. Eiruha Hotel--1 night.

June 2 Adiyaman and the Giant Heads of Nemrut Dag: Across the Euphrates River to Adiyaman, gateway to Mt. Nemrut. Very early this morning we drive up the mountain where King Antiochus built, in 1st C BCE, a pantheon for all the gods he favored (including a seat for himself). The 6' heads lie scattered about the mountain top in picturesque array. The journey down, in morning light, is spectacular. Further adventures in the caravansaries around town. Bozdogan Hotel--2 nights.

June 4 Cappadocia: Early Christian communities thrived here for centuries. In times of strife, whole towns moved underground. Huge monoliths are honeycombed with houses carved in the rock. Monasteries were carved out of the soft volcanic rock--each complete with built-in furniture and brilliant frescos. The eroded landscape is spectacularly photogenic and the whole region is culturally interesting. A Hot Air Balloon ride is available. Urgup Evi Hotel--2 nights.