



OzTours News

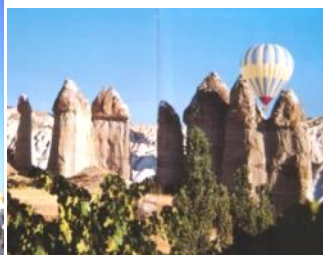
Newsletter of Ozturk Tours and Travel

Issue 23 SPRING 2012

(In association with Timeless Tours and Travel, Licence No. 2TA4343)

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OZTURK TOURS & TRAVEL -home of personalised boutique tours!

FRONT PAGE

NEWS.....

NEW WEBSITE UP & RUNNING..

As foreshadowed a while ago, we have updated our website, but don't be alarmed. You'll still find the same news, features and information about our tours. You'll still see the same tour summaries, client feedback, contact information, etc. As well, you can still download itineraries and booking form.

What WILL be different is the website's practical features, improved navigation, the simplified format and a handy way to communicate with us. At the top right of every page you'll see the 'Booking Enquiry' button - this is where you can request information, tell us your thoughts or ask questions.

The new look website www.ozturk.com.au went live at the beginning of November 2012. We're excited to hear what you think so we can continue to improve our tours and services for you.

REMEMBER OUR PROMISE.....



- ✓ *Boutique tours*
- ✓ *Unique itineraries*
- ✓ *Small groups*
- ✓ *Exceptional value*
- ✓ *Personal attention*

Ozturk Boutique Tours have been running tours for 12 years. During this time we have run 48 tours to 7 countries for over 650 travellers. Because we have delivered on our promise, most of these people have recommended us to their relatives, neighbours and friends. Moreover, some went on their second, third and even fourth and fifth tours with us. Don't take our word for it; see our past clients' comments on pages 9 and 10. You too can enjoy our tours by joining us in 2013, 2014 or later.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

Page:

Front Page New website.....	1
Special Feature- 'Evil Eye Beads'	2
Feature tours – Silk Road & Russia/Ukraine	3
Summary information on tours	4 - 8
Travellers Tales Client feedback.....	9 - 10
Tour schedules for 2013, 2014.....	11 - 12
Information Request Form	13

*We wish all our readers
a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*



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SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED.....

As we wrote in the last issue of the newsletter, the Australian dollar has been riding high with one AUD then buying over **0.85 Euros** and well over **\$1.05 USD**. While it has come down, it is **STILL** riding high with one AUD buying around **0.81 Euros** and **1.03 USD** at the time of writing. Consequently, we have extended our **SPECIAL OFFER** to the end of the year. This means that our tour prices are reduced by the following amounts. You should note that these reductions, which are per couple, are only available if you book and pay 50% of the total tour price before 31 December 2012.

17-Day Grand Sultan*:	\$400
10-Day Best of the Black Sea:	\$300
11-Day Marvels of the East:	\$300
10-Day Best of Russia:	\$350
11-Day Ukraine Discovery:	\$350
13-Day Great Silk Road:	\$300
8-Day Allure of Azerbaijan:	\$200
13-Day Treasures of Persia:	\$300

(*) Our main and most popular tour.

Price reductions above are per couple. Reductions for a single person are half of the above amounts.

Above reductions are available ONLY for bookings made directly through Ozturk Tours and Travel.

SPECIAL FEATURE	EVIL EYE BEAD (NAZAR BONCUGU).
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Nazar Boncugu or Evil Eye Bead Amulets.



This thousands of years old talisman continues to fight against the evil eye all over the world.

In Turkey, wherever you look, you'll meet plenty of eyes looking at you; glass evil eye beads. It is common in the Turkish culture to give a gift of a blue Nazar Boncugu (or nazar boncuk) or the evil eye bead as it is more widely known by visitors to Turkey. People hang a small evil eye amulet from the rear view mirror of their car, keep several small evil eye beads or evil eye charms on hand to give to guests, hang an evil eye near their door in the home or office. Glass evil eyes are worn, in the form of jewellery; evil eye bracelet, evil eye necklace, evil eye anklet, gold or silver evil eye charms and evil

eye pendant, evil eye earring. Here it is a real evil eye bead paradise.

According to common belief, the evil eye bead gives protection and brings luck to all. With its warm blue shine that it derives from the fire and the smiling face that's a feature of the Anatolian people, it gives happiness to family, friends and beloved ones

What is The Evil Eye

At almost every stage of human history, man has looked for the assistance of magic objects called talismans to defy evil forces. Evil eye charms with letters, numbers or abstract signs have survived to this day. Even the modern religions with a single god have their own symbols on talismans. One of these symbols we find in almost every culture and faith for thousands of years... It's the figure of eye...



It was believed that, this eye saw all the wickedness in the world and removed poverty and ignorance. When Horus opened its eyes the world was enlightened, when he closed, it became dark. From Egypt, the eye talisman had spread to the Mediterranean, Middle East and Europe.

The blue evil eye beads of Turkey that have been smiling for thousands of years are eager to meet with the eyes of the new world. It is also known in most languages : In English as "bad eye", "the evil eye", "evil look"- in French "Mauvais Oeil" - in German "böse Blick" - in Arabic "ayin hasad" (eye of envy) - Hungarian "szemmel veres" ("beating with eyes") - Polish "oko proroka" ("the eye of the prophet") - Sicilian "jettatura" ("casting") . Brazilian Portuguese has "olho gordo" ("fat eye") or "quebranto" ("breaker") - in Spanish "mal de ojo" (the eye's curse)- in Irish "droch-shuil" - in Greek "matiasma" or "mati" "someone refers to the act of cursing someone with the evil eye.

Where to buy evil eye beads in Turkey?

The Covered Bazaar of Istanbul is one of the largest shopping centers on the world. Here, there are plenty of evil eye stores selling glass evil eye beads only. The eye bead and the objects with the eye bead figure attract great interest from the tourists. They also believe that it prevents bad luck and brings good luck. That's why they are so interested in glass eye beads and the objects that have this symbol.

The blue evil eye bead amulets are in a creative collaboration with the other decorative arts in Istanbul. To decorate something, the first item you think of is the evil eye beads or their figure. Either the eye beads decorate an object or they are decorated by some other objects.

FEATURED

TOURS.....

In this issue, we are doing a **special feature** on the **Silk Road** and **Russia/Ukraine** tours. We have selected these tours because they are:

- 1) Unique, rewarding and give the traveller the best travel experience for the money,
- 2) Very likely to run as we have taken several bookings already and need only a few more bookings for a guaranteed departure.

THE GREAT SILK ROAD TOUR.....

The **Great Silk Road**, stretching all the way from **China** through **Central and West Asia** to **Europe**, is the greatest land-based trading highway the world has ever seen. From east to west, the main trade routes traversed China, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Persia (Iran) and Turkey. With its numerous caravanserais and bazaars such as the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey was an important distribution point to Europe. Most of the Silk Road routes went through and were controlled by Uzbekistan. This meant that the Silk Road trade brought untold riches and cities like **Bukhara**, **Samarkand** and **Khiva** flourished. Rulers of the time built some of the most opulent and impressive monuments and palaces.



12th Century Madrassa Portal in Bukhara

They included exquisitely decorated **madrassas** (Islamic high education institutions), towering minarets, fascinating castles and colourful markets. Culture and science thrived alongside architecture. The notable names included **Omar Khayyam** (Poet), **Ibn Sina** (scientist) and **Timur** (ruler). The Uzbek cities evoke intrigue and mystery which we experience firsthand during our tour of this fascinating region.

These are **REWARDING** tours!!!
Don't delay.... **BOOK NOW!!!**

RUSSIA/UKRAINE TOUR.....



Highlights of the **Russia** tour included the iconic Moscow sites such as the **Red Square**, **St Basil's Cathedral** and the **Kremlin**. We

also visit **Lenin's Mausoleum** and the impressive **Moscow Metro** system. We travel from Moscow to **St Petersburg** on the fast **Sapsan** train reaching speeds of over 250kms per hour.



Moscow River with the Kremlin in the background

Founded by Peter the Great in 1703, St Petersburg more than deserves the title "**Venice of the North**". With its fabulous architecture, vibrant and life filled streets, ritzy cafes and restaurants and charming canals, St Petersburg is undoubtedly one of the best cities in the world.

Amongst its numerous palaces, the Catherine Palace in Pushkin is probably the most elegant. Designed by the Italian architect Rastrelli, it is a real master piece. With its dazzling fountains, the Peterhof Palace is also a must see in St Peterburg.



Peterhof Palace and its dazzling fountains

In Ukraine, we visit **Odessa**, a cosmopolitan city on the Black Sea coast; **Lviv**, Ukraine's answer to Prague, **Kiev** the capital and the Crimean cities of **Yalta** and **Sevastopol**. All these cities have their unique attractions including the 13-domed **St Sophia Cathedral** in Kiev, the majestic **Opera House** in Odessa, UNESCO Heritage listed architecture in Lviv and sights such as the **Livadia** and **Alupkinsky Palaces** near the Crimean city of **Yalta**.



The magnificent Odessa Opera House

BOUTIQUE TOURS OF TURKEY

GRAND SULTAN (17 Days/16 Nights)

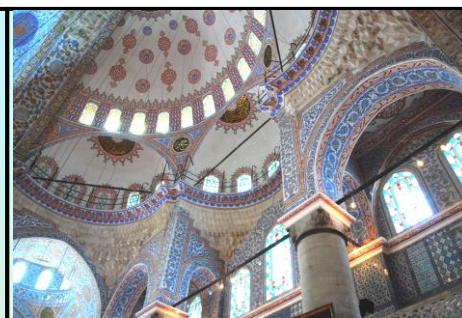
- Our main and most popular tour

Designed for the first time visitor to Turkey, this tour is ideal for people who are normally independent travellers but who feel more comfortable in the company of a small group of like minded travellers. The tour is a journey of discovery of the many historical, cultural and natural sites in Turkey, including.

- o *fascinating and colourful Istanbul*
- o *the beautiful and moving battlefields of Gallipoli*
- o *legendary historical sites such as Troy, Ephesus and Perge*
- o *traditional villages and picturesque coves along the Turquoise Coast*
- o *the surreal landscapes and underground cities of Cappadocia.*

Tour features include:

- **Small groups** of 12 to 24 people with guaranteed personal attention.
- **Boutique hotels** with modern facilities or 4/5 star hotels.
- **Excellent timing** that takes advantage of the glorious climate in May/June and Sept./Oct.
- **Unrivalled inclusions** covering transfers, one domestic flight, two half-day cruises, most meals, special farewell dinner, all entrance fees and all tipping (including the guide and driver).



Interior of the world renowned Blue Mosque in Istanbul

Year	Tour dates:
2013:	10 May and 06 Sep
2014:	09 May and 05 Sep

Year	Tour prices:
2013:	From \$4,550
2014:	From \$4,650

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

BEST OF BLACK SEA

(10 Days / 9 Nights)



A historic bridge over a fast running river near Trabzon

With its rich culture and friendly people, the Black Sea Region of Turkey is a real gem. It is adorned with majestic mountains, lush forests and tea growing hills. It is well off the beaten track and you will be one of few Western visitors in the area.

We set off from Istanbul and visit **Safranbolu** where we see best-preserved examples of Ottoman architecture. We then go to **Amasya**, the charming riverside town that was once the capital of the Pontic Empire. During the Ottoman period, the town became the training ground for Ottoman crown princes. We head to the Black Sea coast that is adorned with charming towns and villages, deep valleys and fast running rivers, old monasteries perched on mountainsides. It is home to people with a sparkle in their eyes and a welcoming smile.

Year	Tour dates:	Tour prices:
2013:	28 May	From \$2,880
2014:	27 May	From \$2,950

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

MARVELS OF THE EAST

(11 Days / 10 Nights)



Stone heads and God statues of Mt Nemrut

On this tour, we see Armenian and Georgian churches with exquisite stone reliefs, the awe inspiring **Mt Ararat**, the medieval site of **Hasankeyf**, the newly uncovered archaeological site of **Gobekli-tepe** and more. On **Mt Nemrut**, we ponder over the stone heads and god statues of the pre-Roman king **Antiochus**. We marvel at centuries old castles, old Roman bridges and pass through the plains of Mesopotamia and the giant **Ataturk Dam** that tames the Euphrates River. Beehive houses of **Harran**, the Old Testament town of **Sanliurfa** and **Gaziantep Museum** housing the exquisite mosaics of **Zeugma** are amongst other fascinating sites of this culture rich region.

Year	Tour dates:	Tour prices:
2013:	05 Jun	From \$3,030
2014:	04 Jun	From \$3,130

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

NOTE: Best of the Black Sea & Marvels of the East tours are run back-to-back and can be combined.

GUIDED TOURS OF TURKEY

ANATOLIAN HIGHLIGHTS (11 Days / 10 Nights)

This is a shortened and more economical version of our popular **Grand Sultan** tour. It is designed to enable travellers with limited time and/or budget to see highlights of Western Turkey. On this tour you will see all the main attractions of Western Turkey, including **Istanbul, Gallipoli, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Antalya** and, of course, **Cappadocia**. A professional English speaking local guide will be with the group during the entire tour.

Main tour features include accommodation in clean and comfortable hotels, small groups of 10 to 30 people and a bi-lingual tour guide.

Year **Tour dates:** **Tour prices:**

2013: **15 Jun** **From \$2,850**

2014: **14 Jun** **From \$2,950**

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).



The Old (15th Century castle) and the New bridge side by side in Istanbul

PARTNER TOURS

Timeless Tours and Travel (Licence Number 2TA4343) are our travel agent partners and have been for the last 8 years. Run by a dedicated team including the ever enthusiastic director Tom Tescher and highly experienced consultant Holly (see photo), Timeless Tours are about to enter their **20th year** of successful operation. They have achieved this largely by offering tailor-made independent and group tours to many Mediterranean countries including **Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Iran, Oman, Dubai, Syria and Jordan** as well as Turkey. Please contact us or visit Timeless Tours website <http://www.timeless.com.au> for information.



As a full-service travel agency, **Timeless** offers a wide range of travel services including flights at competitive rates, cruises, travel insurance, tour bookings, etc. As they are a wholesaler, you can book their programs through your own travel agent, if you prefer.

SHORT TOURS AND CRUISES



Arranged jointly with **Timeless Tours & Travel** (Lic. No. 2TA4343), our short tours and cruises include the following.

ISTANBUL/GALLIPOLI

(5 Days / 4 Nights)

As well as visits to the historical sites in the old city such as St Sophia Museum, the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, this short tour could include a two day excursion to Gallipoli. The tour can be operated with as few as 2 people and tour programme can be varied to suit individual requirements.

CAPPADOCIA

(4 Days / 3 Nights)

This tour is dedicated to discovering the eerie lunar landscape of Cappadocia. During this tour, you visit the Open Air Museum of Goreme, explore the underground city of Kaymakli and see the many unusual rock formations in the region. Whilst in Cappadocia, hot air ballooning over the region's unique terrain is a must and those who have done it testify that it is one of life's rare experiences.

EPHESUS/PAMUKKALE

(4 Days / 3 Nights)

The main sites visited during this tour are the well-known and the best preserved Greco-Roman city of Ephesus and the unique wonder of nature that is Pamukkale. Visits to other sites in the region such as the Virgin Mary's House near Ephesus and the ancient Roman city of **Aphrodisias** near Pamukkale may also be included depending on client wishes.

GULET CRUISES

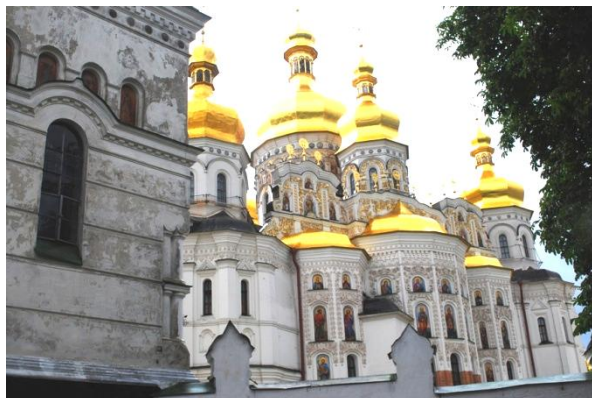
(7 Days / 6 Nights)

Cruising on board a **Gulet** on crystal clear, turquoise waters along lush, green coastline; visiting tranquil bays; you will know you have found paradise. You can enjoy this paradise with all-inclusive Mediterranean cruises. Choose between several cruises along the turquoise coast of Turkey or to the Greek Islands in the Aegean. Generally these cruises are run weekly from May to October.

UKRAINE & RUSSIA TOURS

UKRAINE DISCOVERY (11 Days / 10 Nights)

Ukraine is a country that rewards travellers with heartfelt hospitality, magnificent architecture and prominent historical sites. Main attractions of the capital **Kiev** include the 11th century **St Sophia Cathedral** with the country's greatest mosaics and frescoes, and the **Cave Monastery** complex on the banks of **Dnipro River**. The vibrant **Khreshchatyk** (the Champs Elysees of Kiev) is popular with the locals at weekends. We also visit the major port city of **Odessa** on the Black Sea coast and **Lviv** in Western Ukraine. Odessa's attractions include the famous '**Catacombs**', a series of underground tunnels and living quarters, and its famous Opera House.



Part of the great Lavra Monastery in Kiev

Lviv is a charming, 'poetic' city that is steeped in legends both ancient and relatively new! In spite of its turbulent history and the Soviet era indifference, it retains its Ukrainian spirit and its delicate architecture so much so that it is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.



A delightful street scene in Lviv (or Lvov)

Of course, no tour of Ukraine is complete without a visit to the **Crimean** cities of **Sevastopol**, the historical home of the Soviet Black Sea fleet, and the Black Sea resort town of **Yalta**. The main attraction in Yalta is, of course, the famous **Livadia Palace** where the Yalta Conference between the "**BIG Three**" wartime leaders was held from 4 to 11 February 1945.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tour dates:</u>	<u>Tour prices:</u>
2013:	05 June	From \$3,500
2014:	04 June	From \$3,600

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

NOTE: Ukraine Discovery and Best of Russia tours are run back-to-back and can be combined.



St Basil's Cathedral, the unmistakable symbol of Russia and Russian architecture.



The magnificent Catherine Palace in Pushkin

BEST OF RUSSIA (10 Days / 9 Nights)

Russia has a very colourful and rich history. Its cultural heritage is second to none. So, no serious traveller can afford not to include Russia in their list of 'must see' places. The tour starts in **Moscow** where you can see the fabled sites of the **Red Square**, **St Basil's Cathedral** and the **Kremlin**. We also take a cruise on Moscow River and explore the famous Moscow Metro. Some of the Metro Stations alone make this visit worthwhile.

After Moscow, we travel to **St Petersburg**, the 'Venice of the North'. Built on what was once a swampland, the city defies imagination. St Petersburg is a dynamic, modern city combining its unequalled architectural and cultural heritage with modern business and ritzy restaurant café culture. St Petersburg and the surrounding area are so rich in awe-inspiring sites that a week would not be enough to see them all. During the tour we will see the world famous **Hermitage Museum**, the magnificent **St Isaac's Cathedral** and many other sites. The tour also includes excursions to the dazzling **Peterhof** and **Pushkin** palaces and a canal cruise to marvel the city's unique architecture from a different perspective.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tour dates:</u>	<u>Tour prices:</u>
2013:	15 June	From \$3,750
2014:	14 June	From \$3,850

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

NOTE: Best of Russia and Ukraine Discovery tours are run back-to-back and can be combined.

CENTRAL ASIA TOURS

THE GREAT SILK ROAD (13 Days / 12 Nights)

The **Silk Road**, the greatest land-based trading highway the world has ever seen, stretched all the way from **China**, through **Central Asia** to **Europe**. Countries traversed by this legendary route included Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and as Turkey. Names like **Ashkhabad**, **Bukhara**, **Samarkand** and **Tashkent** evoke intrigue and mystery of this fascinating region.

With fascinating **kales** (castles), exquisitely decorated **madrassas** (Islamic high educational institutions), towering minarets, colourful markets, these cities have a very rich architectural and cultural heritage. During the tour, we see all these intriguing centres. Our tour starts in Istanbul and ends in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from where we fly back to Istanbul or to other ongoing destinations.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tour dates:</u>	<u>Tour prices:</u>
2013:	26 April	From \$3,300
2014:	25 April.....	From \$3,350

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).



Part of the Ragistan complex in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

WESTERN ASIA TOURS

TREASURES OF PERSIA (12 Days / 11 Nights)

NEW

If you can cast away the negative image portrayed by some Western countries and take a trip to Iran (formerly Persia), you will be richly rewarded by your experience. Beyond the stereotypes you'll experience a proud nation wanting to be seen for what it is, rather than what it is perceived to be. Whether you're travelling in cities like Esfahan, the Zagros Mountains of Central Iran or the deserts around Kerman, the real Iran will be revealed. At its core, you will discover a country of warm and fascinating people living within an ancient and sophisticated culture. Embrace Iran, and allow the Iranians to embrace you. You will find that *"it's the most priceless of experiences"*.



Our tour starts in **Tehran**, the dynamic capital where we see many world class sights. We then travel **Yazd**, Iran's oldest inhabited city, via the oasis city of **Kashan** and the charming village of **Abyaneh**. We continue on to **Shiraz**, the cultural capital of Iran to see the ancient site of **Persepolis**, **Naqsh-e-Rostam & Naqsh-e-Rajab**, and city sites such as the **Narenjestan Palace** and **Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque**.

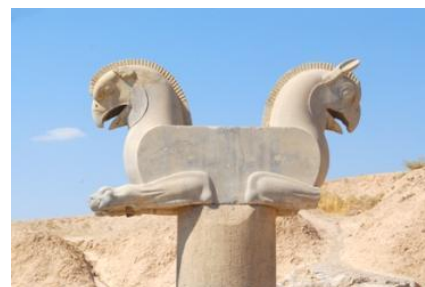
Isfahan with its rich Persian and Islamic architecture is the jewel in Iran's tourism crown. Here we visit the vast, world famous **Naqsh-e Jahan** square complex including the **Imam Mosque**, the **Sheikh Lotfullah Mosque** and **Ali Qapu** Palace. We also visit the **Forty Column Palace** and the magnificent historical bridges over the River Zayandeh.

We also visit cities such as **Yazd**, **Kashan** and **Qom** where we will see how humans not only mastered the harsh conditions but also produced a rich and unique civilization in the middle of the desert.

Photos: Part of the vast Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan (above), the second largest square in the world after Tiananmen Square in Beijing and the lion column capitals from the ancient city of Persepolis (right).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tour dates:</u>	<u>Tour prices:</u>
2013:	08 October.....	From \$3,450
2014:	07 October	From \$3,550

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).



This tour is run back-to-back and can be combined with the **Allure of Azerbaijan** tour

ALLURE OF AZERBAIJAN (7 Days / 6 Nights)

NEW

Azerbaijan is an enigma; it is an incredible tangle of contradictions and contrasts. The nation's cosmopolitan capital **Baku** is a dynamic boomtown where flashy limousines and mushrooming skyscrapers sweep around a picturesque UNESCO-listed old city. Yet only a few hours' drive away lies an entirely different world of timeless villages in the foothills of the soaring high Caucasus mountains.

On this tour, we will see attractions of contrasts in a country of contrasts. In Baku, we visit historic caravanserais, mosques, the palace of the **Shirvanshahs**, a carpet museum and the walled medieval city of "**Icheri Sheher**" with its narrow alleyways. We take an excursion to the **Absheron Peninsula**, visiting the **Zoroastrian Fire Temple** and **Yanardagh** (Burning Mountain) and **Gobustan** with its ancient petroglyphs.



*One of the gates to the medieval city **Icheri Sheher***

In the Caucasus Mountains, where the dry landscape around Baku gives way to a densely forested mountain area, we visit the fascinating towns and villages. Here we see the **Juma Mosque; Yeddi Gumbez**, the oldest church in the Caucasus dating from the first century; the Royal Summer Palace of the **Sheki Khans** with its magnificent frescoes and stained glass and **Sheki Museum and Fortress**. We stay in a beautifully restored Caravansary Hotel.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tour dates:</u>	<u>Tour prices:</u>
2013:	02 October	From \$2,450
2014:	01 October	From \$2,550

(See pages 11 & 12 for more details).

*This tour is run back-to-back and can be combined with the **Treasures of Persia** tour*

SYRIA/JORDAN (14 Days / 13 Nights)

NEW

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the unsettled situation in Syria, this tour has been suspended indefinitely.
Individual or small group tours to Jordan can be arranged on request.

Ozturk Boutique Tours have been running tours to Turkey since 2001 and other countries since 2006. Many people have experienced the magic of touring with us during this time. Because they find our tours truly fascinating, they write cards, emails and letters to express their appreciation. Below is a selection of feedback from some of our recent fellow travellers.

Dear Hamit,
I apologise for not getting in touch with you sooner to say thank you for what was a really great and memorable tour of Turkey. It really was a wonderful trip and a great holiday- so many memories of amazing sights.

You and Damla (tour guide) introduced us to a special country from so many different angles. Coming back and thinking of the long history of human habitation and the archaeological record of this, the landforms and special landscapes and how the many communities responded to this and had to change over time, as well as the recent history of Turkey, its place in modern history, and its good fortune of having a leader such as Ataturk to modernise the society, makes me realise what a truly special place it is.

You have put together a fascinating tour covering so much in a relatively short time. I could easily have had another week. The hotels, meals, places we visited reflected your careful planning. We were lucky to be part of such a pleasant, easy going and adaptable group of friendly people also. Thank you for your help with small things and your attention to all our needs.

Thank you very much.

Janet NSW September 2012



*6th Century Byzantine water cistern in Istanbul.
Photo by Hamit Ozturk*

Dear Hamit
Thank you so much for a terrific trip - really enjoyed it very much. And, will recommend Ozturk Tours to all! I think the trip had great variety - from the archaeological to the geological and lots of interesting cultural and artistic matters in between. A really good balance and I also enjoyed the range

of accommodation. I think we were also lucky in having a really good and friendly group.

Thanks again and will send photos whenever I get organised.

With very best wishes

Ronnie NSW September 2012

Hi Hamit,

It was a wonderful trip thanks to your very personal tour-leadership. For us it felt like we'd been invited by a friend and his lovely wife to join a group on a trip to show us his homeland - of which he was justly proud. We were all lucky to have Olga's companionship and the excellent camaraderie of such a good group of fellow-travellers. We enjoyed the terrific variety of accommodations and, (probably a little too much) the great cuisine in the many interesting restaurants you took us to. For someone like me with a keen interest in history it was also a real treat to travel through that 'cradle of civilisation' with someone like Damla who so expertly provided the historical narrative. Thank you for a store of really good memories and also for the photographs. Regards

Bob and Marlene NSW September 2012

Hi Hamit

Thank you so much for the photos. Was pleased to read you and Olga enjoyed your tour (of Italy) seeing how the other half travel!! I'm absolutely certain Ozturk Tours are MUCH better - it was a great trip Hamit. We saw so much, learnt so much, (ate so much), stayed in some truly picturesque beautiful towns - and we had lovely people to travel with. Damla was a wonderful guide, so knowledgeable. Thanks again Hamit and I would recommend your tour to anyone who wants to see Turkey.
Kind regards

Chris NSW September 2012

Hi Hamit

Thank you so much for the great photos - and I have to admit in many instances are just better!

But then so was the whole tour - better than I imagined it could be even though Lance had raved about it and then went on both the Black Sea and Eastern Turkey trips.

But sorting out my memories and experiences in Turkey, which your photos and mine, and the emails from all the others, is keeping alive and vivid that constant stream of pleasures and surprises your Grand Sultan tour threw our way each and every day.

Playing the videos for us before Gallipoli and Ankara was a perfect way to introduce us to the significance of what we were about to see. The discussion of the

contemporary scene in Turkey that you and Damla had was fascinating too.

All in all I can't imagine how those 17 days in Turkey could have been better spent.

So once again thank you for putting on such a fine, I was going to write "holiday", which it was, but the word doesn't do justice to such a whole rounded experience.

Warmest regards to you both

Peter NSW September 2012

Dear Hamit and Olga

Thanks for your email. Glad you both enjoyed Italy. Of course there is no way it could compete with an Ozturk Tour!

It was a wonderful trip and David and I know that no other organised tour of Turkey would have delivered anywhere near such an excellent experience. As my brother would say "Civility, Flexibility and Serendipity" make for a perfect holiday. As do such good travelling companions. Everyone was so considerate and friendly. Special thanks to the Bunnis for being so inclusive and good team leaders!

Warm regards

David and Sharman NSW September 2012

Hi Hamit,

Thank you so much for the photos. I have taken a lot of scenery but not very many of people so was great to have your photos to add to mine.

We enjoyed the rest of our holiday very much and arrived home safely last week.

We will certainly be looking at your tours for the future and recommending the tour we did to others.

Cheers

Dawn Bridges NSW May 2012

Many thanks, Hamit, for an excellent tour, which I'm sure we all enjoyed and would recommend to anyone considering a trip to Turkey. Janet and I travelled on to Croatia and Slovenia for a nine day bus tour which was much larger (47 people), but was also well organised with a good guide and met our expectations. Hopefully we can meet up again. We wish you every success.

David and Janet NSW May 2012

Hi Hamit

Thanks for two great tours which lived up to my expectations entirely. Several unexpected bonuses added to my list of enjoyable memories. The large numbers of beautiful Russian ladies were a delight to the eye. The opening night at the opera in Odessa was nothing less than fantastic and will never fade from my memory.

The Ukraine was special in its independence but close connection to Russia. My special Ukraine

memory (apart from the opera) was to see the Light Brigade's 'Valley of Death' at Balaclava.

Barry NSW July 2011.

Hi Hamit

We absolutely loved the tour and Turkey. We have told everyone about it and they have been fascinated at the diversity of things we did and the places we stayed. I think a few will put Turkey on their must visit list. Like us initially not many people realize the famous sites of the Roman and Greek empires are actually in Turkey.

Your tour was exceptionally well organized with the right attention to detail without being tied down to every minute of the day.

We look forward to still receiving your newsletters on up and coming tours about that part of the world. I am keen to see the 'Stans' at some point before too long.

Look forward to keeping in touch and if you are up in Queensland do let us know. You are very welcome to visit and stay in our cottage. Take care

Lissie QLD June 2011



One of the amazing formations in Cappadocia

Dear Hamit

Many thanks for emailing the group photos and those of me weaving, potting - or at least pretending to! We thoroughly enjoyed the itinerary and organisation of the trip and really appreciate the extras you provided such as the fabulous places to eat and places off the usual tourist routes.

We both certainly learnt a lot during our travels in Turkey and Jordan. thank you for making our trip through Turkey such a fantastic experience. We both agree that we could not have enjoyed it in the same way with another group or doing it on our own.

Margaret & Richard, NSW Sept 2010

Hi Hamit,

I cannot thank you enough for providing us with such a wonderful well planned, interesting and highly organized trip around Turkey. I felt you had thought of everything --not only finding the great places we visited but for all the little details-- whether it was fitting in with people, or providing stamps --you had thought of everything and I certainly will be recommending it to my friends.

Libby NSW May 2010

TOUR SCHEDULE for 2013 and 2014

GRAND SULTAN (17 Days/16 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	10 May 06 Sept	GS130510	21 – 24	\$4,350	\$800	OPEN for bookings
		GS130906	15 – 20	\$4,500 #		
			10 – 14	\$4,650		
2014	09 May 05 Sept	GS140509	21 – 24	\$4,550	\$850	OPEN for expressions of interest
		GS140905	15 – 20	\$4,700 #		
			10 – 14	\$4,850		

BEST OF THE BLACK SEA (10 Days/9 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	28 May	BS130528	15 – 20	\$2,735	\$450	OPEN for bookings
			10 – 14	\$2,810 #		
			8 – 9	\$2,890		
2014	27 May	BS140527	15 – 20	\$2,850	\$475	OPEN for expressions of interest
			10 – 14	\$2,920 #		
			8 – 9	\$2,995		

MARVELS OF THE EAST (11 Days/10 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	05 June	ME130605	15 – 20	\$2,880	\$450	OPEN for bookings
			10 – 14	\$2,980 #		
			8 – 9	\$3,040		
2014	04 June	ME140604	15 – 20	\$3,030	\$475	OPEN for expressions of interest
			10 – 14	\$3,130 #		
			8 – 9	\$3,195		

ANATOLIAN HIGHLIGHTS (11 Days/10 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	15 June	AH130615	21 – 30	\$2,750	\$450	OPEN for bookings
			10 – 20	\$2,850 #		
2014	14 June	AH140614	21 – 30	\$2,950	\$475	OPEN for expressions of interest
			10 – 20	\$3,050 #		

THE GREAT SILK ROAD (13 Days/12 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	26 April	SR130426	15 – 20	\$3,150	\$475	OPEN for bookings Mary optional excursion \$295
			10 – 14	\$3,300 #		
			8 – 9	\$3,450		
2014	25 April	SR 140425	15 – 20	\$3,250	\$495	OPEN for expressions of interest
			10 – 14	\$3,400 #		
			8 – 9	\$3,550		

UKRAINE DISCOVERY (11 Days/10 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	05 June	UD130605	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,375 \$3,525 # \$3,675	\$950	OPEN for bookings
2014	04 June	UD140604	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,500 \$3,650 # \$3,800	\$995	OPEN for expressions of interest

BEST OF RUSSIA (10 Days/ 9 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	15 June	BR130615	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,575 \$3,725 # \$3,875	\$1050	OPEN for bookings
2014	14 June	BR140614	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,750 \$3,895 # \$4,050	\$1100	OPEN for expressions of interest

ALLURE OF AZERBAIJAN (7 Days/ 6 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	02 Oct	AA131002	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$2,350 \$2,450 # \$2,550	\$425	OPEN for bookings
2014	1 Oct	AA141001	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$2,550 \$2,650 # \$2,750	\$450	OPEN for expressions of interest

TREASURES OF PERSIA (12 Days/ 11 Nights)

Year	Date (Start date)	Code	Group size	Price (AUD) (See Note 2)	Single Supp	Notes
2013	08 Oct	TP 131008	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,300 \$3,450 # \$3,600	\$750	OPEN for bookings
2014	07 Oct	TP 141007	15 – 20 10 – 14 8 – 9	\$3,550 \$3,700 # \$3,850	\$795	OPEN for expressions of interest

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Prices vary depending on group size. Tour deposit is 10% of the tour price marked #. Please see the full tour itineraries or contact us for more information.
- The above tour prices are discounted prices; that is the discounts listed on page 1 are already built into the above prices. These discounted prices are **guaranteed until 31 October (now extended to 31 December 2012)** and on payment of 50% of the tour prices marked with (#). They will revert to full prices after the above date unless extended.
- The tour pairs **BS/ME**, **BR/UD** and **AA/TP** (first two letters of the tour code) are available as one combined tour as they are run back-to-back. Please see the tour itineraries or contact us for full details including prices.
- The Syria/Jordan tour is being organised and promoted jointly with Timeless Tours and Travel, (Licence Number 2TA4343), our travel agent partner in Sydney. This tour has been **suspended indefinitely**.

INFORMATION FORM

You receive this newsletter as you have either been on, or expressed an interest in, one or more of our tours. You may use this form to:

- A) Request information** about our tours, including full tour itineraries (Complete **PART 1** only).
- B) Change the way** you receive the newsletter. For example, if you would like to receive it **by email** instead of by postal mail or vice versa; or if you wish to **start** or **stop** receiving it (Complete **PART 2** only)

***NOTE:** Please complete the form and post, fax or email it to us. Or you may simply call us. Our contact details are at the bottom of the page.*

PART 1 – INFORMATION REQUEST (Please circle your selection, including year).

I am interested in the following tour(s) for **2013** / **2014** and would like to receive full details.

Grand Sultan (Turkey) - 17 Days/16 Nights

Best of the Black Sea (Turkey)
- 10 Days/9 Nights

Marvels of the East (Turkey)
- 11 Days/10 Nights

Anatolian Highlights tour (Turkey)
- 13 Days/12 Nights

Short Tours of Turkey
- Usually 3 to 5 days.

Great Silk Road tour (Central Asia)
- 13 Days/12 Nights

Best of Russia - 10 Days/9 Nights

Ukraine Discovery - 11 Days/10 Nights

Syria/Jordan - 14 Days/13 Nights ***SUSPENDED***

Allure of Azerbaijan - 7 Days/6 Nights ***NEW***

Treasures of Persia - 12 Days/11 Nights ***NEW***

PART 2 - NEWSLETTER REQUEST (Complete this part **ONLY** if you have not done so before **OR** if you have changed your email/postal address in the last 12 months. Please tick **ONE** box only).

- ☐ I receive PRINT version of the newsletter but would like to receive the EMAIL version in the future. (Please provide your email address below).
- ☐ Please send me the PRINT version (I **don't have** an email address / I **prefer** the print version).
- ☐ I do not receive the newsletter now but would like to receive the **PRINT** version / the **EMAIL** version in the future. (Please provide your postal/email address below, as appropriate)
- ☐ I do not wish to receive future issues of 'OzTours News' newsletter. Please remove my name from your mailing list (*We will miss you!!*).

MY CONTACT DETAILS

Please provide your contact details below to ensure that you receive the information you have requested.

Title:..... Given Name(s): Surname:

Phone No: Fax No: Mobile:

Address:

City/Suburb: State: Postcode:

Email address: Date:

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