

# ANATOLIAN ARTISANS



## **TURKISH CULTURE, CRAFTS AND CUISINE**

### **OF ISTANBUL AND BURSA**

**June 4 - 13, 2012**

Dear Friends of Anatolian Artisans (AnArt):

As part of its mission to raise awareness about the arts and culture of Turkey, Anatolian Artisans organizes annual cultural tours to different regions in Turkey. Our next tour will be to magical Istanbul in early June. Nearby Iznik and Bursa will also be included.

Istanbul, the only city in the world to spread over two continents, was successively the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, and the Ottoman Empire and has been associated with major events in political history, religious history and art history for more than 2,000 years. Architectural masterpieces of Istanbul and its incomparable skyline formed by the creative genius of Byzantine and Ottoman architects reflect the meeting of Europe and Asia over many centuries.

Bursa became the first capital city of the Ottoman Empire following its capture from the Byzantine Empire in 1326. Its history dates back to 200 BC and is home to many important monuments.

Iznik, a small town in northwestern Turkey on the eastern shore of Lake Iznik, is remarkable for the monuments belonging to the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Age. It is the modern successor to the important Byzantine city of Nicaea, where the famous Council of Nicaea was held in 325 AD and the Second Council of Nicaea in 787 AD. Iznik subsequently became famous for its magnificently beautiful "Iznik tiles".

What makes this trip unique is that our artisans will open their home studios and workshops to our group to share with us their creative process. You will see artisans at work making jewelry, textile arts, block printing, marbling, ceramics, stone carving and more. In addition we will experience the culinary delights of Turkey at selected restaurants that offer the best of traditional Turkish cuisine.

I hope you will join me on this exciting trip.

Yildiz Yagci

President

Attachment: Tour itinerary



## TURKISH CULTURE, CRAFTS AND CUISINE OF ISTANBUL AND BURSA

June 4 - 13, 2012 (10 days, 9 nights)

### Itinerary

B = Breakfast    L = Lunch    D = Dinner (meals provided)

#### **4 June 2012, Monday**

Tour participants travel on their own, arriving in Istanbul on or before this date, and checking into their hotels. We are happy to help with hotel arrangements (see *Important Information*, below). We will convene in the afternoon of June 4 at a central location in the historic Sultanahmet district, for transportation to a wine and Turkish *meze* reception at the lovely home of AnART board members Mehmet and Deniz Betil, on the Asian side of the Bosphorus at Cengelkoy. Transportation back to the Sultanahmet district will be provided after the reception.

#### **5 June 2012, Tuesday (a full day walking tour)**

We will meet our Fest Travel Agency guide at 9:00 am for a full day walking tour of the historic Sultanahmet district. Visits will include the Roman Hippodrome, the Aya Sofya museum (the sixth century Byzantine basilica of Saint Sophia), the Sultan Ahmet (or "Blue") Mosque, The Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (formerly the palace of grand vizier Ibrahim Pasha), and the Byzantine Basilica Cistern. We will continue walking to Beyazit Square, site of the gates of Istanbul University and the Beyazit Mosque, then through the Old Book Bazaar for a leisurely exploration of the Grand (or "Covered") Bazaar. Lunch will be available for purchase in the bazaar. We will visit the historic Zincirlihan to see jewelers at work before returning to our hotels in the late afternoon. In the early evening, we will meet for transportation to dinner at the Nar Restaurant.        D

#### **6 June 2012, Wednesday (a full day walking tour)**

We will again meet the Fest Travel guide at 9:00 am and walk to the nearby Topkapi Palace Museum, the former home of the Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. Within the museum area, we will visit the Imperial Treasury, the Harem, and the Archeological Museum. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Topkapi Museum. In the afternoon, we will return to Sultanahmet for a presentation about a kilim weaving project in eastern Turkey that is supported by AnART. We will reconvene to walk to the Armada Hotel for dinner on its rooftop terrace, before returning to our hotels.        D

### **7 June 2012, Thursday (a full day tour by bus and walking)**

We will meet the Fest Travel guide at 9:00 am for transportation to the Kariye Museum (the Church of St. Saviour in Chora) with its marvelous mosaics and frescoes. A short bus ride takes us to Eyup, with its famous mosques and tomb that attract many pilgrims. We will stop briefly at the Pierre Loti café before traveling by bus to Istiklal Caddesi (the historic “Rue de Paris”) in the “new” city section of Beyoglu. Lunch will be available for purchase at a number of places along Istiklal Caddesi. After lunch we will have a chance to see a 360° panoramic view of the city from the top of the Galata Tower. We will also visit the atelier of a textile artist in the Sisli district. Then we will be taken to the Taksim Square area where dinner will be served at Haci Abdullah Restaurant. Transportation back to the Sultanahmet district will follow dinner. D

### **8 June 2012, Friday (a full day tour by bus and boat and on foot)**

We will meet the Fest Travel guide at 9:00 am and travel to the Eminonu district, south of the Galata Bridge. We will visit the Rustem Pasha Mosque, famous for its elaborate tile work, and the Egyptian (also referred to as the “Spice”) Bazaar, and then the Sirkeci railway station, formerly the terminus of the Orient Express. Lunch will be available for purchase in the Eminonu district. After lunch we will board a private boat for a two-hour excursion up the Bosphorus to the town of Sariyer, where we will visit the Sadberk Hanim Museum. We will also see the Sabanci Museum in Emirgan and then visit the atelier of a meerscham master in Kurucesme. Dinner will follow at the unique Maiden’s Tower restaurant on a small island. After dinner we will be returned to our hotels. D

### **9 June 2012, Saturday (a full day tour on the Asian side)**

We will meet the Fest Travel guide at 9:00 am and cross to the Asian side of the Bosphorus. We will first see an AnArt-sponsored knitting project in Sultanbeyli. Then we will visit a private residence in Caddebostan for presentations relating to tea and to hand-block printing. We will continue to Uskudar to visit the marbling workshop at the “Ebristan” studio of artist Hikmet Barutcugil. Later we will visit Kadikoy and its local market, before enjoying dinner at the Ciya Restaurant in Kadikoy. Return to Sultanahmet hotels thereafter. D

### **10 June, 2012, Sunday (departure for Iznik)**

We depart early (7:30 am!) from Sultanahmet and travel by bus (3.75 hours drive) to Iznik, the ancient Nicea, where the First and Seventh ecumenical councils convened in St. Sophia Cathedral. We will visit the Iznik Museum, the Green Mosque, ruins of the imperial Church of Koimesis, which was built for Byzantine emperor Theodore I, and the Suleyman Pasa Medresse, the first theological school in the Ottoman Empire. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant in Iznik. In the late afternoon we will visit the Iznik Foundation for a presentation on Iznik tiles. After touring Iznik, we will continue by bus [another 45 minutes] to the city of Bursa. Dinner and overnight at the Holiday Inn in Bursa. L, D

### **11 June 2012, Monday (full day tour in Bursa)**

Breakfast in the hotel. We will travel to several famous historic sites: the Green Mausoleum, the Green Mosque, the Grand Mosque and the Muradiye Mosque Complex. Lunch will be provided at the Yuce Hunkar restaurant. Ceramic artist Meliha Coskun will welcome us to her studio in Yesilyurt, and the group will then visit a textile workshop at Koza Han(Cocoon Market). Dinner will be served in the hotel. B, L, D

**12 June 2012, Tuesday (full day tour in Bursa)**

Breakfast in the hotel. We will visit Bursa museums, art galleries, the Ulumay Museum of Ottoman Folk Costumes and Jewelry. We will also visit Ulucami and later see a traditional “Karagoz” shadow puppet play. Lunch will be provided at the Iskenderoglu restaurant, and dinner will be served at the hotel. B, L, D

**13 June, 2012, Wednesday (visit to a village, then return to Istanbul)**

Breakfast in the hotel. We will depart for a visit to the small Ottoman village of Cumalikizlik before returning by bus to Istanbul’s Sultanahmet district. Lunch will be at a local restaurant in the village. B, L

## **Costs**

The cost of the trip is \$1,995, USD based on double occupancy for the three nights in the Bursa hotel. This includes a \$200 voluntary contribution to AnART, which will normally be deductible under U.S. federal tax law. An additional \$125 USD will be charged for a single room in the Bursa hotel.

## **Rates include:**

- ❖ Services of the Fest Travel guide throughout the tour
- ❖ Air-conditioned deluxe bus for the entire tour, including transfers and sightseeing
- ❖ Private boat cruise on the Bosphorus on June 8
- ❖ Three nights' accommodation (with breakfasts) in the Bursa hotel, based on double occupancy
- ❖ Four lunches and eight dinners, as indicated on the itinerary (including gratuities)
- ❖ All entrance fees to sites indicated in the itinerary
- ❖ Donations to the religious organizations visited on the itinerary
- ❖ Baggage handling at the Bursa hotel
- ❖ Gratuities for the guide and the driver
- ❖ All applicable local taxes

## **Rates exclude:**

- ❖ International flights to and from Turkey (including visa fees)
- ❖ International arrival and departure transfers to and from Istanbul airports
- ❖ Hotel accommodations in Istanbul (and elsewhere in Turkey before or after the tour)
- ❖ Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- ❖ Beverages (including non-alcoholic) consumed with meals (or otherwise)
- ❖ Travel insurance
- ❖ Personal expenses

### Important notes

1. **Travelers will make their own arrangements for flights to and from Turkey, and for their hotel accommodations in Istanbul**, including the first six days of the tour (i.e., the nights of June 4 through June 9) and the final day of the tour (i.e., June 13).
2. Travelers are strongly urged to stay in hotels in the Sultanahmet district (i.e., the “old city”). There are many hotels, in all price ranges, in this area. Travelers may make reservations on their own (e.g., on the internet), or use their own travel agents, or Fest Travel in Istanbul. Feel free to contact Fest directly at [fest@festtravel.com](mailto:fest@festtravel.com) for assistance. Note that most (but not all) Turkish hotels include the cost of breakfast in their rates. Also, Turkish hotels typically state their rates in Euros (rather than in Turkish lira or dollars). As of December 2011, the Euro is worth approximately \$1.30.
3. Although lunches in Istanbul are not included, AnArt will provide a list of good restaurants and cafes in the vicinity.
4. All travelers should wear comfortable shoes. Women travelers should bring a head scarf for visiting mosques.
5. The cultural tour will be limited to 25 travelers (plus the guide and representatives from AnArt).
6. **The tour is contingent upon obtaining deposits from at least 20 travelers by February 15, 2012, and full payments from at least 20 travelers by March 15, 2012.** If the tour is undersubscribed on these dates, we will promptly inform all travelers who have made reservation deposits. In case the tour is oversubscribed, we will maintain a waiting list based on the order in which deposits are received.
7. Anatolian Artisans and Fest Travel reserve the right to change the itinerary and related travel arrangements if necessary to assure the safety and comfort of the travelers. Anatolian Artisans cannot assume responsibility for accident or injury or illness that may occur in the course of the tour. Travelers should check their own existing insurance coverage, and **we strongly recommend that travelers consider the purchase of supplemental travel insurance.**
8. Important information relating to the tour will be sent periodically by e-mail. **All travelers must have a working e-mail address that you check regularly.** This is how we will communicate with you prior to the trip.
9. In order to reserve your place on this AnArt cultural tour, please fill out the last page of this brochure and send it with a check for \$200 per person (no credit cards please), **for receipt no later than February 15, 2012**, to Anatolian Artisans, 11325 Empire Lane, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. **Final payment to Anatolian Artisans must be received by March 15, 2012.**
10. Refund policy: Cancellation on or before February 15, 2012: full refund. Cancellation after February 15, 2012, but on or before March 15, 2012: full refund less \$150 per person. Cancellation after March 15, 2012: no refund.
11. If you have questions about the tour, please contact Yildiz Yagci at (301) 231-6677, or e-mail [yyagci@anatolianartisans.org](mailto:yyagci@anatolianartisans.org)
12. Anatolian Artisans is a non-profit tax-exempt Section 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing sustainable economic benefits to low-income artisans through product development, marketing and training, and to raising awareness about the arts and culture of Turkey. For more information about Anatolian Artisans, see our website at [www.anatolianartisans.org](http://www.anatolianartisans.org)

Anatolian Artisans, Inc.

TURKISH CULTURE, CRAFTS AND CUISINE OF ISTANBUL AND BURSA – A CULTURAL TOUR

June 4 – 13, 2012 In cooperation with Fest Travel, Istanbul

I/we want to join this cultural tour. I have read the description of the tour and agree to the terms stated.

Name of traveler \_\_\_\_\_

Traveler's address \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Office telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

I will be sharing a room in the Bursa hotel with \_\_\_\_\_

We prefer \_\_\_\_\_ separate twin beds or \_\_\_\_\_ one double bed.

I would like a single room in the Bursa hotel at an additional cost of \$125. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Please tell us (if you know) where you will be staying in Istanbul:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$200 per person payable to Anatolian Artisans, Inc.) to reserve my/our places on the tour. **I understand that full payment is due by March 15, 2012.**

I also understand that this deposit is fully refundable if I cancel these reservations by February 15, 2012, that the deposit less \$150 per person is refundable if I cancel these reservations by March 15, 2012, and that the deposit is **not** refundable if I cancel these reservations after March 15, 2012.

Mail this application with your check to Yildiz Yagci Anatolian Artisans, Inc. 11325 Empire Lane, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852 as early as possible, but no later than February 15, 2012.