

# **Ancient Kingdoms of Anatolia, Turkey**

## **with Cicely Taylor**

### **1st – 5th October 2009**

This fascinating tour visits Antalya in southern Turkey, as well as the ancient kingdoms of Lycia, which lay on and around the beautiful Teke Peninsula, and neighbouring Pamphylia to the east. Over the centuries both came under Greek, Persian, Roman and Byzantine influence, which has left a remarkable legacy today.

Based in the attractive resort of Antalya, with its historic Kale Ici (Inner Bailey) and fascinating museum, we explore the beautiful mountains, forests and valleys of the surrounding countryside, and some of the most significant archaeological sites – what remains of the region's greatest ancient cities.

From the ancient Psidian city of Termessos in its wild and natural mountain setting, to the Hellenistic and Roman remains at Perge, Aspendos with its astonishing 20,000-seat classical theatre and aqueduct, the beautifully situated terraced city of Arykanda, and the famous rock tombs of Myra, this will be an illuminating and memorable journey of discovery.



#### **Day 1: Thursday, 1st October**

#### **London / Istanbul / Antalya**

Depart London Heathrow on a Turkish Airlines flight to Istanbul and onward to Antalya. Transfer to the Tayla Hotel where three nights are spent. (D)\*

#### **Day 2: Friday, 2nd October**

#### **Antalya & Termessos**

Morning visit to the ruins of Termessos, an ancient Psidian city in the Taurus Mountains. Accessed on foot, the site lies in the Termessos National Park and rare plants and wildlife exist alongside archaeological remains. These include city walls, Hadrian's triumphal arch, water cisterns, a theatre, a gymnasium, an agora, an Odeon and numerous decorated rock tombs.

After lunch, return to Antalya to visit the Antalya Museum, accompanied by the curator. The museum houses remarkable treasures from prehistoric to Ottoman times, including pottery, ceramic tiles, statuary, icons, a rare bible, textiles and a reconstructed 18/19th century house. (B, L, D)

### **Day 3: Saturday, 3rd October**

### **Antalya, Perge & Aspendos**

Morning visit to the magnificent classical site of Perge, a Hellenistic and Roman city, where St Paul preached on his first missionary journey. Passing through massive Gate Towers, see the fascinating remains of the stadium, theatre and baths. Continue to Aspendos for lunch before visiting what is probably the best-preserved Classical theatre in the world. Seating 20,000 spectators, it is still used today. Nearby are the remains of a basilica, an agora and one of the largest aqueducts in Anatolia.

Return to Antalya to explore the Old City, or *Inner Bailey*. Stretching up from the old harbour, the narrow streets and jumble of old houses were once surrounded by walls and towers, the remains of which can be seen in the 2nd century Hadrian's Gate and the imposing Hidirlik Tower. We also see the pretty Iskele Mosque, the Byzantine/Seljuk Truncated Minaret Mosque, and the Seljuk buildings of the Kalekapisi district, including the 13th century Giyaseddin Keyhusrev, the 14th century Yivli Mosque, the 16th century Nigar Hatun Mausoleum and the 18th century Seljuk Fluted (Yivli) Minaret. (B, L)

### **Day 4: Sunday, 4th October**

### **Antalya / Arykanda / Myra / Finike**

Drive to the remains of the ancient Lycian city of Arykanda, which is built on a series of hillside terraces with wonderful views over a beautiful valley, making it one of the most spectacular sites in Lycia. Highlights of this magnificent city include the largest bath complex in Lycia, an Agora where some shops can still be seen, a well preserved 2nd century theatre, a triple-portalled Odeon, a small Hellenistic Stadium, two fascinating Necropolises and, at the end of a 137-metre stoa, a Hellenistic Bouleuterion, or council chamber, set into the hillside with seats carved from the rock.

After lunch, continue to the Demre Valley and the ruins of Myra, an important city that became capital of Lycia in the early Byzantine period. Highlights of the site are the well-preserved Greco-Roman theatre – the largest in Lycia, and the famous 4th century rock-cut tombs, many with fascinating carved reliefs. Nearby lies the 9th/10th century Church of St. Nicholas, which is under ongoing restoration. It has fine marble mosaic floor tiling, some wall paintings and the saint's sarcophagus, although his remains actually lie in Bari, Italy.

Late afternoon we reach the seaside resort of Finike where the night is spent at the Corendon Hotel. (B, L, D)

### **Day 5: Monday 5th October**

### **Finike / Antalya / Istanbul / London**

After breakfast, transfer to Antalya Airport for a Turkish Airlines flight to Istanbul and onward to London, arriving Heathrow Airport mid-afternoon. (B)

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**For further information on the tour of the Ancient Kingdoms of Anatolia, Turkey in association with The Ultimate Travel Company please see overleaf.**

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**Tour Price:**  
**£1,198 per person**

**Single Supplement:**  
**£165**

**Your extension tour cost includes:**

Economy class scheduled flights; accommodation throughout as detailed in the itinerary; breakfast daily; lunch on 2nd, 3rd & 4th October; dinner on 1st\*, 2nd, & 4th October; all visits and excursions as per the itinerary; all transportation as detailed in the itinerary; all entrance fees; local English-speaking guide/s; gratuities in restaurants; gratuities to driver/s; portorage; the services of your tour leader throughout.

\*(light meal waiting on arrival in the hotel room)

**Your extension tour cost does NOT include:**

Air Passenger Duty, Passenger Service Charge, Airline Security Charges, Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges where applicable (approx. £113); travel insurance; visa; dinner on 3rd October, items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.); gratuities to guide/s; Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme 10/03/09.

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