Turkey and Greece are situated where Europe meets Asia and has for millennia been a junction for cultures from north, south, east and west.

Beginning in the spectacular city of Istanbul located on the Bosphorus, we will then visit the battlefields of Gallipoli, see legendary Troy, walk the streets of Ephesus, traverse some of the ancient cities along the south coast before crossing the Aegean, visiting some of the Cycladean islands en route. The tour will combine expert guidance through the archaeological sites, both well known and obscure, with chances to indulge in the natural beauty, rich contemporary culture and legendary cuisine of Turkey and Greece.

**Highlights:**

- Experience the Byzantine and Ottoman splendour of Istanbul, including the bazaars, mosques, ancient palaces and the seraglio of the sultans;
- Tour the battlefields of Gallipoli, birthplace of modern Turkey and an Australian legend;
- Explore legendary cities of the Aegean coast, from Pergamon to Ephesus & Troy;
- Spend three nights cruising the Aegean on a private chartered yacht;
- The spectacular Cyclades – Santorini, Naxos and Mykonos;
- Ancient Athens;
- Experience local cuisine from the simple home-cooked meals to the finest restaurants.
This tour is planned to culminate in the ASAL conference ‘Half the Perfect World: Post-war literary expatriation and sociability’ on the Greek island of Hydra, 27-28 September 2016. In the late 1950s and early 1960s Australian artists, including George Johnston and Charmian Clift, Cedric and Pat Flower, and Sidney and Cynthia Nolan, as well as artists from America and Europe, most notably Allen Ginsberg and Leonard Cohen, spent time together on the island of Hydra creating art and enjoying each other's company. The conference will discuss the influence on their work of their time together in Greece. Before the conference begins we will take the opportunity to explore parts of Turkey and the Greek islands, enjoying literary sociability without expatriation.

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Itinerary

9 Sept
Depart Australia for flights to Istanbul.

10 Sept
Morning arrival in Istanbul and transfer to our hotel located inside the walls of Sultan Ahmet - the Old City. Day free to rest and recuperate or take a short walk through this fascinating part of the old city. Welcome dinner.

Overnight: Istanbul (D)

11 Sept
After breakfast, a walking visit to the “old city” of Istanbul, Constantinople. The Byzantine Emperor Constantine elected to move the capital of the Roman Empire to the small trading colony of Byzantium, which straddled the divide between Europe and Asia. He was crowned here in 330 AD. The Empire was to last over 1100 years. We shall visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, and the Agia Sofia, the Church of Holy Wisdom. Also visit the Blue Mosque and the Topkapi Palace and Museum where the treasures of the Ottoman Empire are on display.

Late afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus.

Overnight: Istanbul (B)

12 Sept
Check out of our hotel and then visit the City Walls of Theodosius, the Aqueduct and the Church of the Chora with its beautiful mosaics.

After lunch we will drive out of Istanbul en route to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

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1 Based on current schedules – will differ between airlines.
13 Sept
The Dardanelles, as they are now known, was the scene of the Gallipoli Campaign in the First World War. Early morning departure for the battlefields of Gallipoli including Anzac Cove, Beach Cemetery, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Johnston Jolly, the Nek Cemetery and Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial.

After lunch in Eceabat we will cross the straits by ferry to Cannakkale and drive on to visit the remains of ancient Troy, scene of the epics of Homer. The site was originally excavated by Schliemann over one hundred years ago.

We will drive on to Ayvalik later in the afternoon.

14 Sept
Morning visit to the acropolis of Pergamon, an ancient Hellenistic city dating back to the Attalids who ruled during the height of artistic and scientific discoveries in the third and second centuries BC.

After lunch we will drive on to Selcuk where we will spend the night.

15 Sept
Morning visit to Ephesus with its vast theatre, commercial and State agora, Celsus library, bath houses, temples and colonnaded streets. Parts of the city have been well reconstructed which gives a good impression of Ephesus in the Roman period. This will be followed by a short visit to the House of Mary where, it is believed by some, Mary spent her last days.

After lunch we will drive on to Didim where we will board our gullet.

16 Sept
We will board our bus for our visit to the ancient city of Miletus and the gigantic oracular temple to Apollo at Didyma, one of the largest temples ever constructed and still substantially intact.

We will return to the boat for a late lunch and
begin our cruise south.

Overnight: on board (B, L, D)

17 Sept
Cruising. We will spend some of the time relaxing on board or in a quiet cove where you can swim or go ashore for a walk.

Overnight: on board (B, L, D)

18 Sept
In the morning we will cruise into Bodrum harbour and visit the Bodrum Museum. Housed in the 14th Century Crusader castle of St Peter, the museum is famous for its underwater collections excavated from wrecks around the coast of Asia Minor.

In the early afternoon we will cruise to the Greek Island of Kos to connect with a late afternoon ferry to Santorini.

Overnight: Santorini (B, L)

19 Sept
The complex that makes up the Santorini Islands is located on top of an active volcano. Fira is the capital and located high up on the rim of the Caldera. The whole island is actually a huge natural geological/volcanological museum. We will spend some time travelling around the island but there will be ample time to relax and explore at your own pace.

Overnight Santorini (B)

20 Sept
Morning ferry to Naxos, the largest of the Cyclades Islands. It has high mountains, fertile valleys, lush green gorges, stunning seascapes and traditional villages perched on mountain tops. It also has a selection of beautiful old churches, monasteries and Venetian castles.

Afternoon tour of the old town and its castle.

Overnight: Naxos (B, L)
21 Sept
We will spend the day visiting some of the traditional villages spread around the island. Àpérathos is a colourful mountainous village with fine museums, stone-built houses, beautiful squares and narrow alleys paved with marble and Panayia Drosiani, a beautiful church of the Early Christian Period. Filoti is a picturesque mountainous village built on the top of a rock and surrounded by lush vegetation with cubic shaped houses and narrow stone-paved alleys. The 9th century church of Panayia Protothroni is the biggest Byzantine church on Nàxos and is decorated with beautiful murals.

Overnight: Naxos (B, D)

22 Sept
Late morning ferry across to Mykonos. The main town, Hóra, contains some of the best Cycladic architecture and we will walk its narrow streets and amidst whitewashed houses, bougainvilles and churches. We will visit the Panayia Paraportiani, Town hall and the castle situated above the harbour.

Overnight: Mykonos (B)

23 Sept
Morning visit to Delos, a World Heritage listed archaeological site. The site is unique, in that it is located on a narrow, barren island 5 km long and 1.3 km wide. The highest elevation on the island (112 m) is Kynthos, beneath which spreads the sanctuary dedicated to Apollo and his sister Artemis, with the Hellenistic city below it.

Late afternoon ferry to Athens.

Overnight: Athens (B)

24 Sept
Morning walking tour of Athens – this includes a tasting tour with visits to the markets and delicatessens. After a Greek lunch we will continue walking the older suburbs of Athens through the streets surrounding the Acropolis.

Overnight: Athens (B, L)

25 Sept
Free day. We can offer a walking tour of the Acropolis, Museum and the Temple of Zeus (not included).

Overnight Athens (B)
26 Sept
Morning ferry to Hydra. We will check into our hotel and have some time to relax before dinner.

Overnight: Hydra (B, D)

27 Sept
Hydra – ASAL conference activities.

Overnight Hydra (B)

28 Sept
Hydra – ASAL conference activities.

We have a farewell dinner on our last night in Greece.

Overnight Hydra (B).

29 Sept Oct
We will farewell the tour at breakfast before taking a late morning ferry back to Athens and transfer to airport for flights homeward.
Cost: $5945.00 - (twin share)

This price is based on a minimum of 10 people (max. 16). Currency fluctuations above 3% will affect the final fare (based on 0.65 Euros).

Inclusions:
- Tour leader and English speaking guides for the duration of the tour;
- Accommodation (twin-share) in 3-4 star hotels with private facilities.
  Single supplement - additional $1130.00 but not available during cruise;
- All breakfasts, eight lunches, eight dinners as noted, drinking water on coaches;
- Land transport on private, chartered midi-coach;
- Three nights/four days cruising;
- Ferries in Greece – economy class;
- Comprehensive tour booklet;
- Entries to sites listed in itinerary;
- Group tips (bus drivers, local guides).

Exclusions:
- Airfares (Australia-Istanbul/Athens-Australia);
  - We can arrange all flights;
- Travel insurance (compulsory – policy details to be provided prior to departure);
  - We can arrange travel insurance;
- Laundry and telephone;
- Normal personal expenses;
- Visas;
- Individual tips (for exceptional or individual services beyond that covered by the group tip).

Note:
Accommodation for the conference is included in the tour, but information about the conference (conference fees, call for papers, program information) will be available from Tanya Dalziell (tanya.dalziell@uwa.edu.au) and Paul Genoni (p.genoni@curtin.edu.au).
Reservation and bookings
The maximum group size is 16 people, so it will be a matter of securing a place with a deposit of $750.00 per person on a first come basis. To secure a booking, forward the deposit to Travelmakers together with a completed booking form (attached).

Balance of international airfares (if required) must be paid as required by the airline. Payments via credit cards will attract a transaction fee (Visa 1.5%, Diners or Amex 3%).

Balance of payment for land content is required 60 days prior to departure

Cancellation and refunds
Flight cancellation refunds subject to airline policy.
Cancellation received more than 3 months before departure – $400 per person;
Cancellation received less than 2 months prior to departure - $750.00 per person;
Cancellation received less than 1 month prior to departure - 50% of fare.
Cancellation received less than 2 weeks prior to departure – full fare.

Travel insurance is recommended to be taken out at time of payment to cover cancellation fees due to unforeseen circumstances (check insurance policy re cancellations).

Further information
For flight information or to make a booking contact Janelle Woodham Janelle@travelmakers.com.au or Phil Dalley phil@travelmakers.com.au at Travelmakers on 02 62474444.

For information relating to the tour details please contact Chris Carter on 0412001586 or email info@ruins.com.au

For information relating to ASAL activities during the tour please contact Susan Lever via email susan.plever@bigpond.com
CLIENT BOOKING FORM

TOUR: ASAL Turkey & Greece

Room Type:  
- Twin (sharing with - )
- Double
- Single

First Name (as per passport):
Surname (as per passport):

Passport Number:  Expiry Date:

Date of Birth:  Nationality:

Home address:

Home Telephone:
Mobile:
Email:

Dietary requirements:
Frequent Flyer Number:

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency

Name:
Telephone:
Address:

Please Note: Your reservation is only secured once a deposit of $750.00 has been paid. Payment can be made via Direct Debit as per the account details below or credit card (1% surcharge):

Account: Travelmakers Pty Ltd
BSB: 012950  Account No: 497038097
Please include ‘ASAL’ and your surname as payment reference.